

## **Syllabus**

**Title:** Ethics and Protocol for Court Interpreters

**Credits:** 5.3 CIEs

**Fee:** \$79

**Location:** Students can complete the course online, anywhere they wish.

**Description:** This course includes 2 online learning modules. Each module contains a video and a quiz. The students participate in a live question-answer session with the instructor. This Q&A session is carried out through a live conference call. The instructor is available for questions during the entire course.

### **Lesson Plan:**

1. **Live session with the instructor:** Introduction and initial instructions. **Duration:** 10 minutes.
2. Video 1: **Protocol and Code of Ethics for Court Interpreters.** **Duration:** 1 hour and 10 minutes. The video covers:
  - A) What is interpretation?
  - B) The difference between translation and interpretation.
  - C) Source language and target language.
  - D) The five modes of interpretation: consecutive, simultaneous, sight, relay, and summarization.
  - E) How to properly apply the modes in court (or, in the case of summarization, why it is not advisable for court interpreting).
3. **Quiz 1.** **Duration:** 15 minutes.
4. Video 2: **“PROTOCOL & ETHICS FOR COURT INTERPRETERS”** **Duration:** 125 minutes.
  - The detrimental effects of practicing court interpretation while ignoring the proper court protocol.
  - NAJIT’s Code of Ethics and concrete examples of each canon.

- How to handle attorney objections.
- Specific impediments for the interpreter to comply with the interpretation and step-by-step suggestions to address them.
- Practical tips to behave professionally, unobtrusively, and yet assertively in court.

5. **Quiz 2. Duration:** 15 minutes.

**General Objectives:**

- Clearly distinguish the modes of interpretation, their uses, and proper protocol to implement them in court.
- Identify proper protocol to:
  - a) Behave in front of the judge during a court proceeding.
  - b) Address impediments to comply with the interpretation.
  - c) Handle objections posed by attorneys.

**History:**

To enhance their professional performance, court interpreters must develop a clear understanding of proper court protocol. This 4-hour package offers 2 interactive educational videos to provide interpreters practical tools to behave professionally in court.

**Instructor:**

This training sessions are offered by Virginia Valencia, who:

- Is a professional psychologist (Universidad del Valle, Colombia, 2001)
- Has more than 14 years' teaching experience.
- Has worked in the fields of legal, medical, educational, and conference (interpretation since 2003.
- Holds a Combined Certificate In Translation and Interpretation Studies ((Hunter College, New York, NY, 2004)
- Is Certified/Approved by the:
  - ( \* Administrative Office of the US Courts (Federal Certification,

2008)

- \* New York State Unified Court System (2006)
- \* New Jersey Administrative Office of the Courts (2005)
- \* Judicial Council of California (2012)

□ Has been teaching/training interpreters since 2007

### **Methodology:** (

Both modules include a pre-recorded video with interactive questions. The videos can be watched repeatedly until passing the quiz.

Students participate in a live session with the instructor through a conference call. The call is left open during course hours from beginning to end for students to reach out any time they have questions or need any help.

There are two quizzes, each one containing multiple-choice questions. Students get a certificate of completion only when passing the two quizzes with a minimum grade of 80%.

### **Bibliographical References:**

- Berk-Seligson, Susan. *The Bilingual Courtroom. Court Interpreters in the Judicial Process*. The University of Chicago Press, 1990.
- González, Roseann Dueñas. Vásquez, Victoria F. Mickelson, Holly. *Fundamentals of Court Interpretation. Theory, Policy and Practice*. Carolina Academic Press, 1991.
- Herbert, Jean. *The Interpreter's Handbook. How to Become a Conference Interpreter*. Librairie de l'Université Georg Genève, 1952.
- Mathers, Carla M. *Sign Language Interpreters in Court: Understanding Best Practices*. Author House, 2007.
- *NAJIT Code of Ethics*,  
<http://www.najit.org/about/NAJITCodeofEthicsFINAL.pdf>
- Palma, Janis. *The ATA Chronicle*, "The Pitfalls of the Long Consecutive Mode in Court: Learning When to Use It", November/December 2009, Volume XXXVIII, Number 11.