

Washington State Supreme Court Interpreter and Language Access Commission

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Honorable Steven González, Co-Chair
WA Supreme Court

Honorable J. Michael Díaz, Co-Chair
WA Court of Appeals, Division One

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Honorable Lloyd Oaks
District and Municipal Court
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Florence Adeyemi
Public Member Representative

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Public Defender Representative

Anita Ahumada
Community Member Representative

Naoko Inoue Shatz
Ethnic Organization Representative

John Plecher
Certified Deaf Interpreter Representative

Luisa Gracia
Translation Services Representative

David Poland
Deaf Community Representative

July 28, 2025

RE: Seeking New Members for the Washington Court Interpreter Commission

Dear Community Partners,

The Washington State Supreme Court Interpreter and Language Access Commission (ILAC) is seeking new members to serve in two positions that will be open this fall: 1. **Public Member Representative**; and 2. **Ethnic Organization Representative**.

ILAC is looking for new members who will work to support access to justice for people who rely on interpretation and translation when involved with our state judiciary and its related programs and services.

Members of the public use the Washington State Courts in a wide variety of circumstances. They may be brought into legal actions initiated by the State or other parties, or they may use courts to protect themselves and their rights. While legal procedure and terminology is difficult and intimidating to most people, it is exponentially more complicated for people with limited English proficiency or people who are Deaf or hard of hearing. Therefore, language access is a fundamental component of access to justice.

ILAC supports the courts in providing equal access to justice and access to court services and programs for all regardless of ability to communicate in the English language. The Commission operates in an advisory and policy making capacity under Supreme Court rule. More details can be found at the webpage below.

Each member is expected to share current information with the constituent groups in which they hold membership or communicate with, as well as bring current issues to the ILAC for consideration. It is crucial that the ILAC includes the input and insight of all stakeholders as we seek to improve language access in Washington Courts. Members attend quarterly

meetings of the full Commission and participate in at least one committee.

Parties interested in joining ILAC should submit a letter of interest and resume to the email or mailing address below no later than **September 12, 2025**. Submitting a letter of interest does not guarantee appointment. When considering appointments, the ILAC may seek to maintain a certain balance in representation. ILAC may consider many factors such as diversity, geography, experience, expertise and education.

Interpreter and Language Access Commission
c/o James Wells
P.O. Box 41170
Olympia, WA 98504-1170
Email: James.Wells@courts.wa.gov

A detailed description of the ILAC can be found at:
<https://www.courts.wa.gov/InterpreterCommission>

For questions about the work of ILAC, please contact James Wells via email at
James.Wells@courts.wa.gov

Sincerely,



Justice Steven González
Co-Chair, Interpreter &
Language Access Commission
Washington Supreme Court



Judge Michael Díaz
Co-Chair, Interpreter &
Language Access Commission
Washington Court of Appeals, Division I