

# JOB TITLES FOR STAFF INTERPRETERS

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## Introduction

The article arising out of this study of court interpreter compensation did not include information about related data such as position titles. Since the data were collected, the authors want to make them available here. This file provides a summary of the findings, together with some aggregated tables of data, followed by tables that list all the position titles that were documented during the research project.

## Summary of Findings

There is widespread diversity in how courts denominate the job title levels for staff interpreters. With respect to the trainee titles, every one of the eight jurisdictions using this level of interpreter has a different title, as do the master titles in the three jurisdictions with that level. The designations of entry-level titles vary almost universally among state courts and in a great majority of county courts. Manager titles are extremely diverse in all types of courts and even within some court systems (notably USDCs and California). To some degree this is a function of the different kinds of positions that are included in this category. For example, many of the positions included here are courts with a single employee who interprets and also coordinates the court’s interpreting services. Even if these positions were separated out, though, the basic finding of widespread diversity would still hold given the scarcity of identical titles among this level of interpreters.

As Table A shows, the greatest level of consistency in nomenclature of job titles appears in the entry titles for the USDCs, the California courts, and city-municipal courts—but even in those systems there is some variation.

Table A

Ratio of Job Titles (by Level of Court) to Number of Courts Per Type of Court

Type of Court	Ratio of Titles to Courts by Level of Position			
	Trainee	Entry	Master	Manager
U.S.D.C.	Not applicable	4:11	Not applicable	12:16
State Court	4:4	15:17	2:2	13:13
Superior Court of CA	Not applicable	7:26	Not applicable	5:5
County Court	4:4	23:35	1:1	13:16
City/Municipal Court	Not applicable	4:14	Not applicable	3:4
Note: Totals are not appropriate for this table as the same title is often used by different types of court as well as for different levels. For example, Court Interpreter I is a trainee title in one state court, an entry title in another state court, and a trainee title in a county court.				

The most frequently used title for the entry level position is “Court Interpreter,” which is used in 36 different courts. Furthermore, there are about twenty-five additional courts that use

some variant of that title such as “Certified Court Interpreter,” “Court Interpreter-Certified,” “Court Interpreter I,” “Official Court Interpreter,” “Staff Court Interpreter,” “Court Interpreter-Spanish.” The second most frequently used title is “Interpreter” and its many variations that did not include the term “Court”: “Foreign Language Interpreter-Spanish,” “Interpreter I,” “Interpreter II,” “Lead Interpreter,” “Senior Interpreter,” “Spanish Interpreter,” “Spanish Staff Interpreter,” and “Staff Interpreter.” There are some thirty instances of titles using “Interpreter” without the additional word “Court.” Only one title has neither “Court” nor “Interpreter” in it: “Certified State/County Funded.”

With respect to the other three levels of staff interpreters, the nomenclature is so diverse that there are no titles that are used in common in more than a handful of jurisdictions. This is true both across all types of court as well as within many of the same types of court (e.g., there are 12 different titles for managers out of 16 USDC’s that report such titles).

As to dual titles, there are ten different titles in use. One appears at a state level (and that one, while it is a dual title officially, is not functioning as one) and another in a municipal court. Eight titles are used in five county courts. None appear in the USDCs or California courts. One is at the manager level and the rest are entry-level titles.

Only a handful of titles exist for persons working essentially as staff interpreters that are not explicitly interpreter titles. One such managerial title is at the state level (New Jersey) and another in a Superior Court of California (Santa Ana County). In addition, there is one such title in a county court (7<sup>th</sup> Illinois Judicial Circuit Court) and two in city/municipal courts (Laredo, Texas, and Plainfield, New Jersey).

## LIST OF TABLES

- Table 1: Job Titles for Interpreter Management Positions  
 Table 2: Job Titles for Master Interpreter Positions  
 Table 3: Job Titles for Journeyman Interpreter Positions  
 Table 4: Job Titles for Trainee Interpreter Positions  
 Table 5: Job Titles for Interpreter Positions with Dual Titles  
 Table 6: Job Titles for Positions That Interpret with No Reference to Interpreting in Title

Table 1  
 Job Titles for Interpreter Management Positions

Title	Jurisdiction
Administrative Court Interpreter	USDC, New York Southern District
Assistant Supervising Court Interpreter	Florida
Chief Court Interpreter	23 <sup>rd</sup> Judicial District, Pennsylvania (Berks County)
Chief Interpreter	USDC, New York Eastern District; Cochise County, Arizona (Bisbee)
Coordinator, Court Interpreting Services and Language Access Program	District of Columbia Superior Court
Coordinator, Office of Court Interpreting	Rhode Island
County Interpreter Coordinator	3 <sup>rd</sup> Judicial District, Idaho
Court Interpreter	USDC, Georgia Northern District (Atlanta) and USDC, Nebraska (Omaha)
Court Interpreter II	Massachusetts
Court Interpreter Coordinator	3 <sup>rd</sup> Judicial District, Idaho (Caldwell); Seattle Municipal Court, Washington
Court Interpreter/Coordinator	Pierce County Superior Court, Washington (Tacoma)
Court Interpreter Manager	Maricopa County, Arizona (Phoenix)
Court Interpreter Supervisor	USDC, New Mexico; Maricopa County (Phoenix), Mesa Municipal Court, Tucson City Court, and Yuma County, Arizona (Yuma); New Mexico; 19 <sup>th</sup> Judicial District, Pennsylvania (York County)
Court Supervisor, Assign: Interpreter	Phoenix Municipal Court, Arizona
Director, Interpreter Services	Pima County Superior Court, Arizona (Tucson)
Director of Interpreting Services	USDC, District of Columbia
Interpreter II	Minnesota
Interpreter Coordinator	Superior Court of California, County of Kern (Bakersfield); 4 <sup>th</sup> Judicial District, Idaho (Boise); Nebraska; Cleveland Municipal Court, Ohio
Interpreter Services Manager	Superior Court of California, County of Alameda
Interpreter Supervisor	1 <sup>st</sup> Judicial District, Pennsylvania (Philadelphia)

Title	Jurisdiction
Interpreting Services Assistant Manager-KCSC	King County Superior Court, Washington (Seattle)
Lead Court Interpreter	Connecticut
Lead Interpreter	Franklin County Municipal Court, Ohio (Columbus)
Manager, Interpreter Services	King County Superior Court, Washington (Seattle)
Manager-Interpreter Services	Superior Court of California, County of Ventura
Manager of Interpreter Services	USDC, California Southern District (San Diego)
Managing Court Interpreter	Colorado
Managing Court Interpreter II	Colorado
Official Court Interpreter	USDC, New Jersey (Newark)
Official Staff Interpreter	USDC, Illinois Northern District (Chicago)
Principal Court Interpreter	New York
Senior Court Interpreter	New York
Senior Interpreter Supervisor	Superior Court of California, County of Solano
Spanish Interpreter Coordinator	19 <sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court, Illinois (Lake County)
Staff Interpreter	USDC, California Eastern District (Fresno) and USDC, Rhode Island (Providence)
Staff Interpreter and Interpreter Coordinator	USDC, Oregon (Portland)
Staff Interpreter/Interpreter Services Manager	USDC, California Central District (Los Angeles)
Supervising Court Interpreter	Florida
Supervisor, Court Interpreting	Pima County Juvenile Court, Arizona (Tucson)
Supervisory Court Interpreter	USDC, Southern District (New York); USDC, Puerto Rico (San Juan); USDC, Southern District (Laredo)
Supervisory Interpreter	USDC, Southern Florida District (Miami)

Table 2  
Job Titles for Master Interpreter Positions

Title	Jurisdiction
Court Interpreter II-Master	New Jersey
Interpreter II	Oregon
Senior Interpreter	El Paso County, Texas

Table 3  
Job Titles for Journeyman Interpreter Positions

Title	Jurisdiction
Certified Court Interpreter	Cameron County District Courts, Texas; Yakima County Superior Court, Washington
Certified Court Interpreter-Spanish	Superior Court of California, County of Monterey
Certified Interpreter Bilingual Spanish	Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, Wisconsin
Certified Staff Interpreter I	Kentucky
Certified Staff Interpreter II	Kentucky
Certified State/County Funded	11 <sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Florida (Miami)
Court Interpreter	USDC, Arizona; New Mexico; New York; Puerto Rico; Texas Southern District; Chandler City Court, Glendale City Court, Maricopa County (Phoenix), Pima County (Tucson), Mesa Municipal Court, Phoenix Municipal Court, Scottsdale City Court, Tempe Municipal Court, Yuma County, Arizona; Superior Court of California: Counties of Contra Costa, Imperial, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Mendocino, Napa, Orange, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Stanislaus, Sutter, and Tulare; Denver County Court, Colorado; Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois (Chicago); 21 <sup>st</sup> Judicial Circuit Court (Kankakee County) and 22 <sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit Court (McHenry County), Illinois; New Mexico; Fort Worth Municipal Court and Houston Municipal Court, Texas
Court Interpreter I	Massachusetts
Court Interpreter 1-Journey	New Jersey
Court Interpreter II	Pinal County, Arizona (Florence); Colorado; Connecticut; Cleveland Municipal Court, Ohio
Court Interpreter, Certified	Pierce County Superior Court, Washington (Tacoma)
Court Interpreter-Certified	Florida
Court Interpreter-Full Time	Superior Court of California, County of El Dorado
Court Interpreter-Represented	Superior Court of California, County of Sonoma
Court Interpreter Services Specialist	8 <sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court, Nevada (Clark County)
Court Interpreter-Spanish	Tucson City Court, Arizona
Court Interpreter (Spanish)	Superior Court of California, County of Madera; New York
Court Interpreter Spanish and English	Jersey City Municipal Court, New Jersey
Court Interpreter Spanish/English	Atlantic City Municipal Court, New Jersey
Foreign Language Interpreter (Spanish)	District of Columbia Superior Court
Full-time Permanent Court Interpreter	Superior Court of California, County of Fresno

Title	Jurisdiction
Interpreter	Cochise County, Arizona (Bisbee); Superior Court of California: Counties of Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Solano; Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit Superior Court, DeKalb County, Georgia (Decatur); Pennsylvania: 1th Judicial District (Luzerne County) and 23 <sup>rd</sup> Judicial District (Berks County); Texas: Bexar County (San Antonio) and El Paso County
Interpreter I	Oregon, Texas
Interpreter I-Foreign Language	Minnesota
Interpreter II	1 <sup>st</sup> Judicial District, Pennsylvania (Philadelphia)
Interpreter Language/Court Sr	Travis County Juvenile Court, Texas (Austin)
Interpreter (Spanish)	Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento
Lead Interpreter	31 <sup>st</sup> Judicial District, Pennsylvania (Lehigh County)
Official Court Interpreter	USDC: California Southern District and Texas Western District; Val Verde County, Texas (Del Rio)
Senior Interpreter	Superior Court of California, County of Ventura
Spanish Interpreter	19 <sup>th</sup> (Lake County) and 23 <sup>rd</sup> (DeKalb County) Judicial Districts, Illinois; 6 <sup>th</sup> Judicial District, Pennsylvania (Bucks County)
Spanish Language Court Interpreter	Virginia
Spanish Staff Interpreter	Arkansas
Staff Court Interpreter	USDC, Florida Southern District; North Carolina
Staff Interpreter	USDCs: California Central District, California Eastern District, and New York Eastern District; Washington: King County District Court and King County Superior Court (Seattle)
Staff Interpreter-Spanish	Utah

Table 4  
Job Titles for Trainee Interpreter Positions

Title	Jurisdiction
Court Interpreter	Florida
Court Interpreter I	Pinal County, Arizona (Florence); Connecticut; Cleveland Municipal Court, Ohio
Court Interpreter 1-Conditionally Approved-Trainee	New Jersey
Court Interpreter Trainee	Pima County, Arizona (Tucson)
Duly Qualified/County Funded	11 <sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Florida (Dade County)
Interpreter Trainee	1 <sup>st</sup> Judicial District, Pennsylvania (Philadelphia)
Interpreter I	1 <sup>st</sup> Judicial District, Pennsylvania (Philadelphia)
Spanish Interpreter	Franklin County Municipal Court, Ohio (Columbus)
Staff Interpreter	Kentucky

Table 5  
Job Titles for Interpreter Positions with Dual Titles

Title	Jurisdiction
Manager/Supervisor	
Senior Court Interpreter/Law Librarian	Pinal County, Arizona (Florence)
Entry Level	
Assistant Court Clerk/Court Interpreter	341 <sup>st</sup> District Court, Webb County, Texas (Laredo)
Court Interpreter/Grand Jury Bailiff	406 <sup>th</sup> District Court, Webb County, Texas (Laredo)
Assistant Court Clerk/Interpreter	111 <sup>th</sup> District Court, Webb County, Texas (Laredo)
Court Interpreter in Spanish & English/Municipal Court Attendant Bilingual in Spanish & English	Newark Municipal Court, New Jersey
Court Officer/Interpreter	3 <sup>rd</sup> Judicial District, Pennsylvania (Northampton County)
Deputy Clerk/Interpreter	Rhode Island
Interpreter/Court Administrative Assistant	49 <sup>th</sup> District Court, Webb County, Texas (Laredo)
Interpreter/Jury Clerk	5 <sup>th</sup> Judicial District, Idaho (Twin Falls)
Interpreter/Social Worker	12 <sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court, Illinois (Will County)

Table 6  
 Job Titles for Positions That Interpret with No Reference to Interpreting in Title

Title	Jurisdiction
Manager/Supervisor	
Court Coordinator I	Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois (Chicago)
Court Operations Manager II	Superior Court of California, County of Orange
Court Services Supervisor 2	New Jersey
Judicial Assistant	Davidson County, Tennessee (Nashville)
Entry Level	
Assistant Court Clerk	Laredo Municipal Court, Texas
Clerk 1 (Bilingual)	Plainfield Municipal Court, New Jersey
Deputy Clerk	7 <sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court, Illinois (Morgan County)