

UNITED STATES COURT INTERPRETER  
COMPENSATION DATABASE:

Chapter 2:  
Administrative Office of the United States Courts  
and  
United States District Courts

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All salary figures were taken from the appropriate table of pay rates (by city and by JSP level) posted at <http://www.uscourts.gov/Careers/Compensation/JudiciarySalaryPlanPayRates.aspx>.

October 6, 2014  
Errata Corrected March 10, 2016 and November 11, 2016

# ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES COURTS

## Staff Court Interpreters

There are no staff court interpreters at the AOUSC. All staff court interpreters are employees of the United States District Courts (USDCs) around the country (see following pages), twenty of which have one or more staff court interpreters.

## Independent Contractor Court Interpreters<sup>1</sup>

Category of Interpreter	Full Day	Half Day	Overtime
Certified and Professionally Qualified	\$388	\$210	\$55/hour or part thereof
Language Skilled (Non-Certified)	\$187	\$103	\$32/hour or part thereof

When travel is authorized from a distance on the day prior to and/or on the day after delivery of services, compensation for travel time equal to the applicable half or full-day rate, plus reimbursement for authorized travel expenses and “subsistence” costs (e.g., lodging, meals, tips, baggage) are available for travel required.<sup>2</sup> Cancellation fees are awarded under several different specific circumstances (see §7.3 of the Blank Purchase Agreement).

When mileage is reimbursed, the rate is \$0.565/mile.<sup>3</sup> Ordinarily mileage and parking are reimbursed for travel beyond "local travel" or the "local commuting area" as defined by each court. For example, the Southern District of California defines "local travel" as when "the court interpreter's residence is less than 15 miles from the court location."<sup>4</sup> For the Southern District of New York, the distance is 25 miles.<sup>5</sup> For the District of Oregon it's 30 miles.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> These rates are still current. Telephone interview with Javier A. Soler, Court Interpreter Program Specialist, District Court Administration Division (September 5, 2013).

<http://www.uscourts.gov/FederalCourts/UnderstandingtheFederalCourts/DistrictCourts/CourtInterpreters/ContractInterpretersFees.aspx>.

<sup>2</sup> Part I: Blanket Purchase Agreement for Court Interpreter Services—Terms and Conditions; and Part II: Rate and Information Sheet (n.d.). Version in effect in 2014 provided by Mr. Soler via e-mail (July 13, 2016). The AOUSC posts updated versions of this policy document at <http://www.uscourts.gov/services-forms/federal-court-interpreters>.

<sup>3</sup> Memorandum to Circuit Executives et al. from Charles S. Glenn, Controller, Accounting and Financial Systems Division, Office of Finance and Budget (March 5, 2013); posted at <http://www.ilnd.uscourts.gov/home/assets/news/newMileage.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> "Rate and Information Sheet," p. 2, posted at <http://www.casd.uscourts.gov/uploads/Interpreters/Rate%20and%20Information%20Sheet%20Contract.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> "Rate and Information Sheet," [http://www.nysd.uscourts.gov/file/forms/rate\\_and\\_information](http://www.nysd.uscourts.gov/file/forms/rate_and_information).

<sup>6</sup> "Instructions" for the "Interpreter's Report of Services and Claim for Compensation and Expenses," posted at <http://www.ord.uscourts.gov/index.php/public/employment/information-for-interpreters>.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, ARIZONA<sup>7</sup>

Staff Interpreters: Phoenix  
(Federal Employees)

Titles	Minimum	Maximum
JSP-11, Court Interpreter	\$59,302	\$77,093
JSP-12, Court Interpreter	\$71,080	\$92,402
JSP-13, Court Interpreter	\$84,524	\$109,881
JSP-14, Court Interpreter	\$99,881	\$129,841

Staff Interpreters: Tucson and Yuma  
(Federal Employees)

Titles	Minimum	Maximum
JSP-11, Court Interpreter	\$57,982	\$75,376
JSP-12, Court Interpreter	\$69,497	\$90,344
JSP-13, Court Interpreter	\$82,642	\$107,434
JSP-14, Court Interpreter	\$97,657	\$126,949

Fringe: 36.25%<sup>8</sup>

Work week: 40 hours

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<sup>7</sup> E-mail from Marcia Resler, Staff Interpreter (January 17, 2014).

<sup>8</sup> This percentage is based on the rate used by the Office of Management and Budget and may or may not be close to the actual rate for this particular jurisdiction. This figure is used to arrive at an estimated total cost recognizing that it may not be precise. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/fy2008/m08-13.pdf>.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CALIFORNIA  
CENTRAL DISTRICT  
(Los Angeles)<sup>9</sup>

Staff Interpreters  
(Federal Employees)

Titles	Minimum	Maximum
JSP 14-Staff Interpreter/Interpreter Services Manager	\$107,701	\$140,008
JSP 14-Staff Interpreter	\$107,701	\$140,008

Fringe: 36.25%<sup>10</sup>

Work week: 40 hours

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<sup>9</sup> Telephone interview with Virginia Wilson, Staff Interpreter/Interpreter Services Manager (December 11, 2013).

<sup>10</sup> This percentage is based on the rate used by the Office of Management and Budget and may or may not be close to the actual rate for this particular jurisdiction. This figure is used to arrive at an estimated total cost recognizing that it may not be precise. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/fy2008/m08-13.pdf>.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CALIFORNIA  
EASTERN DISTRICT

Staff Interpreters: Fresno  
(Federal Employee)

Titles	Minimum	Maximum
JSP14-Staff Interpreter [Supervisor]	\$96,690	\$125,695

Staff Interpreters: Sacramento  
(Federal Employee)

Titles	Minimum	Maximum
JSP 14-Staff Interpreter	\$103,500	\$134,547

Fringe: 36.25%<sup>11</sup>

Work week: 40 hours

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<sup>11</sup> This percentage is based on the rate used by the Office of Management and Budget and may or may not be close to the actual rate for this particular jurisdiction. This figure is used to arrive at an estimated total cost recognizing that it may not be precise. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/fy2008/m08-13.pdf>.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CALIFORNIA  
NORTHERN DISTRICT  
(Eureka, Oakland, San Francisco, and San Jose)<sup>12</sup>

Staff Interpreters  
(Federal Employees)

This court declined to participate in the study.

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<sup>12</sup> This court's website shows there to be one or more staff court interpreters in each of the following locations. One of the interpreters in San Francisco is also listed as serving a court location in Eureka.  
<http://www.cand.uscourts.gov/interpreters>.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CALIFORNIA  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT<sup>13</sup>

Staff Interpreters--El Centro  
(Federal Employees)

Titles	Minimum	Maximum
JSP-, <sup>14</sup> Official Court Interpreter <sup>15</sup>	\$	\$

Staff Interpreters--San Diego  
(Federal Employees)

Titles	Minimum	Maximum
JSP-, <sup>16</sup> Manager of Interpreter Services	\$	\$
JSP-, Official Court Interpreter <sup>17</sup>	\$	\$

Fringe: Not available  
Work week: 40 hours

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<sup>13</sup> Telephone interview with Rebeca Calderón, Manager of Interpreter Services (January 22, 2014).

<sup>14</sup> Ms. Calderón did not feel she could disclose the JSP levels in view of a transition in management in the Clerk's office.

<sup>15</sup> The position description may be found on pp. 15-20 in "Orientation Manual for Aspiring Interpreters," posted at <http://www.casd.uscourts.gov/uploads/Interpreters/USDCSD%20Orientation%20Manual%20for%20Aspiring%20Interpreters.pdf>.

<sup>16</sup> Ms. Calderón did not feel she could disclose the JSP levels in view of a transition in management in the Clerk's office.

<sup>17</sup> The position description may be found on pp. 15-20 in "Orientation Manual for Aspiring Interpreters" (see note 18 above for link).

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
(Washington, D.C.)<sup>18</sup>

Staff Interpreters  
(Federal Employee)

Titles	Minimum	Maximum
JSP-14, Director of Interpreting Services	\$106,283	\$138,136

Fringe: 36.25%<sup>19</sup>  
Work week: 40 hours

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<sup>18</sup> Telephone interview with Teresa Salazar, Director of Interpreting Services (January 22, 2014).

<sup>19</sup> This percentage is based on the rate used by the Office of Management and Budget and may or may not be close to the actual rate for this particular jurisdiction. This figure is used to arrive at an estimated total cost recognizing that it may not be precise. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/fy2008/m08-13.pdf>.



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, FLORIDA  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT<sup>20</sup>  
(Miami)

Staff Interpreters  
(Federal Employees)

Titles	Minimum	Maximum
JSP-14, Staff Court Interpreter	\$102,306	\$132,995
JSP-15, Supervisory Interpreter	\$120,341	\$155,500

Fringe: 36.25%<sup>21</sup>

Work week: 40 hours

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<sup>20</sup> E-mails from Irene B. Tomassini, Supervisory Interpreter (December 5, 2013).

<sup>21</sup> This percentage is based on the rate used by the Office of Management and Budget and may or may not be close to the actual rate for this particular jurisdiction. This figure is used to arrive at an estimated total cost recognizing that it may not be precise. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/fy2008/m08-13.pdf>.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, GEORGIA  
NORTHERN DISTRICT<sup>22</sup>  
(Atlanta)

Staff Interpreters  
(Federal Employees)

Titles	Minimum	Maximum
JSP-14, Court Interpreter	\$101,035	\$131,343

Fringe: 36.25%<sup>23</sup>

Work week: 40 hours

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<sup>22</sup> E-mail from David Hoover, Court Interpreter (January 3, 2014).

<sup>23</sup> This percentage is based on the rate used by the Office of Management and Budget and may or may not be close to the actual rate for this particular jurisdiction. This figure is used to arrive at an estimated total cost recognizing that it may not be precise. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/fy2008/m08-13.pdf>.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, ILLINOIS  
NORTHERN DISTRICT  
(Chicago)<sup>24</sup>

Staff Interpreters  
(Federal Employees)

Titles	Minimum	Maximum
JSP-14, Official Staff Interpreter	\$105,596	\$137,740

Fringe: 36.25%<sup>25</sup>

Work week: 40 hours

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<sup>24</sup> Telephone interview with Victoria Funes, Official Staff Interpreter (January 16, 2014).

<sup>25</sup> This percentage is based on the rate used by the Office of Management and Budget and may or may not be close to the actual rate for this particular jurisdiction. This figure is used to arrive at an estimated total cost recognizing that it may not be precise. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/fy2008/m08-13.pdf>.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, NEBRASKA<sup>26</sup>  
(Omaha)

Staff Interpreters  
(Federal Employees)

Titles	Minimum	Maximum
JSP-14, Court Interpreter	\$96,690	\$125,695

Fringe: 36.25%<sup>27</sup>  
Work week: 40 hours

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<sup>26</sup> E-mail from Laura García-Hein, Staff Interpreter (December 30, 2013).

<sup>27</sup> This percentage is based on the rate used by the Office of Management and Budget and may or may not be close to the actual rate for this particular jurisdiction. This figure is used to arrive at an estimated total cost recognizing that it may not be precise. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/fy2008/m08-13.pdf>.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, NEVADA

Staff Interpreters  
(Federal Employees)

This court declined to participate in the study.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, NEW JERSEY<sup>28</sup>  
(Newark)

Staff Interpreters  
(Federal Employees)

Titles	Minimum	Maximum
JSP-14, Official Court Interpreter	\$109,022	\$141,726

Fringe: 36.25%<sup>29</sup>  
Work week: 40 hours

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<sup>28</sup> E-mails from Irene Gosnear, Official Court Interpreter (December 5, 2013).

<sup>29</sup> This percentage is based on the rate used by the Office of Management and Budget and may or may not be close to the actual rate for this particular jurisdiction. This figure is used to arrive at an estimated total cost recognizing that it may not be precise. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/fy2008/m08-13.pdf>.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, NEW MEXICO<sup>30</sup>  
(One or more staff court interpreters in Albuquerque and Las Cruces)

Staff Interpreters  
(Federal Employees)

Titles	Minimum	Maximum
JSP-12, Court Interpreter <sup>31</sup>	\$69,497	\$90,344
JSP-13, Court Interpreter	\$82,642	\$107,434
JSP-14, Court Interpreter	\$97,657	\$126,949
JSP-15, Court Interpreter Supervisor	\$114,872	\$149,333

Fringe: 36.25%<sup>32</sup>

Work week: 40 hours

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<sup>30</sup> E-mail from Rafael Carrillo, Supervisory Court Interpreter (January 16, 2014).

<sup>31</sup> Mr. Carrillo also indicated that an interpreter can get hired starting at the JSP-11 level, whose range is \$57,982-\$75,376.

<sup>32</sup> This percentage is based on the rate used by the Office of Management and Budget and may or may not be close to the actual rate for this particular jurisdiction. This figure is used to arrive at an estimated total cost recognizing that it may not be precise. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/fy2008/m08-13.pdf>.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, NEW YORK  
EASTERN DISTRICT  
(Brooklyn)<sup>33</sup>

Staff Interpreters  
(Federal Employees)

Titles	Minimum	Maximum
JSP-14, Staff Interpreter	\$109,022	\$141,726
JSP-15, Chief Interpreter	\$128,241	\$155,500

Fringe: 36.25%<sup>34</sup>

Work week: 40 hours

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<sup>33</sup> Telephone interview with Rosa Olivera, Chief Interpreter (January 16, 2014).

<sup>34</sup> This percentage is based on the rate used by the Office of Management and Budget and may or may not be close to the actual rate for this particular jurisdiction. This figure is used to arrive at an estimated total cost recognizing that it may not be precise. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/fy2008/m08-13.pdf>.



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, NEW YORK  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT<sup>35</sup>  
(Manhattan and White Plains)

Staff Interpreters  
(Federal Employees)

Titles	Minimum	Maximum
JSP-14, Court Interpreter	\$109,022	\$141,726
JSP-14, Administrative Court Interpreter	\$109,022	\$141,726
JSP-15, Supervisory Court Interpreter	\$132,516	\$155,500

Fringe: 36.25%<sup>36</sup>

Work week: 40 hours

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<sup>35</sup> Memo from Paula Gold, Supervisory Court Interpreter (December 27, 2013).

<sup>36</sup> This percentage is based on the rate used by the Office of Management and Budget and may or may not be close to the actual rate for this particular jurisdiction. This figure is used to arrive at an estimated total cost recognizing that it may not be precise. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/fy2008/m08-13.pdf>.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, OREGON  
(Portland)<sup>37</sup>

Staff Interpreters  
(Federal Employees)

Titles	Minimum	Maximum
JSP-?, Staff Interpreter and Interpreter Coordinator [JSP level not provided]	\$	\$

Fringe: 36.25%<sup>38</sup>

Work week: 40 hours

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<sup>37</sup> Telephone interview with Tina Machuca, Staff Interpreter and Interpreter Coordinator (January 17, 2014).

<sup>38</sup> This percentage is based on the rate used by the Office of Management and Budget and may or may not be close to the actual rate for this particular jurisdiction. This figure is used to arrive at an estimated total cost recognizing that it may not be precise. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/fy2008/m08-13.pdf>.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, PUERTO RICO  
(San Juan)<sup>39</sup>

Staff Interpreters  
(Federal Employees)

Titles	Minimum	Maximum
JSP 12-Court Interpreter	\$68,809	\$89,450
JSP 13-Court Interpreter	\$81,823	\$103,369
JSP 14-Court Interpreter	\$96,690	\$125,695
JSP 15-Supervisory Court Interpreter	\$113,735	\$147,857

Fringe: 36.25%<sup>40</sup>

Work week: 40 hours

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<sup>39</sup> E-mail from Janis Palma, Supervisory Court Interpreter (December 9, 2013).

<sup>40</sup> This percentage is based on the rate used by the Office of Management and Budget and may or may not be close to the actual rate for this particular jurisdiction. This figure is used to arrive at an estimated total cost recognizing that it may not be precise. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/fy2008/m08-13.pdf>.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, RHODE ISLAND  
(Providence)<sup>41</sup>

Staff Interpreters  
(Federal Employee)

Titles	Minimum	Maximum
JSP-?, Staff Interpreter [JSP level not provided]	\$	\$

Fringe: 36.25%<sup>42</sup>  
Work week: 40 hours

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<sup>41</sup> Telephone interview with José Kleinberg, Staff Interpreter (January 17, 2014); e-mail from Mr. Kleinberg (February 10, 2014).

<sup>42</sup> This percentage is based on the rate used by the Office of Management and Budget and may or may not be close to the actual rate for this particular jurisdiction. This figure is used to arrive at an estimated total cost recognizing that it may not be precise. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/fy2008/m08-13.pdf>.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, TEXAS  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT<sup>43</sup>

Staff Interpreters--Houston  
(Federal Employee)

Titles	Minimum	Maximum
JSP-14, Court Interpreter	\$110,154	\$143,129

Fringe: 36.25%<sup>44</sup>  
Work week: 40 hours

Staff Interpreters: Brownsville, Corpus Christi, Laredo and McAllen  
(Federal Employees)

Titles	Minimum	Maximum
JSP-14, Court Interpreter	\$97,657	\$126,949
JSP-15, Supervisory Court Interpreter	\$114,872	\$149,333

Fringe: 36.25%<sup>45</sup>  
Work week: 40 hours

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<sup>43</sup> E-mail from Cynthia de Peña, Chief Interpreter (February 6, 2014).

<sup>44</sup> This percentage is based on the rate used by the Office of Management and Budget and may or may not be close to the actual rate for this particular jurisdiction. This figure is used to arrive at an estimated total cost recognizing that it may not be precise. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/fy2008/m08-13.pdf>.

<sup>45</sup> This percentage is based on the rate used by the Office of Management and Budget and may or may not be close to the actual rate for this particular jurisdiction. This figure is used to arrive at an estimated total cost recognizing that it may not be precise. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/fy2008/m08-13.pdf>.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, TEXAS  
WESTERN DISTRICT<sup>46</sup>

(One or more staff court interpreters in each of the following locations:  
Alpine, Austin, Del Rio, El Paso, Midland, and San Antonio)

Staff Interpreters  
(Federal Employees)

Titles	Minimum	Maximum
JSP-13, Official Court Interpreter	\$81,823	\$108,369

Fringe: 26.00%

Work week: 40 hours

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<sup>46</sup> E-mails from Michael J. Simon, Chief Deputy Clerk (December 16 and 18, 2013).