

UNITED STATES COURT INTERPRETER
COMPENSATION DATABASE:

Chapter 6,
City-Municipal Courts

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ARIZONA, CHANDLER CITY COURT¹
(Chandler)

Staff Interpreters
(City Employee)

Titles ²	Minimum	Maximum
Court Interpreter ³	\$41,662.40	\$56,284.80

Fringe: 35.00%
Work week: 40 hours

Independent Contractor Court Interpreters

The court pays based on the rate sheet provided by each vendor, which varies from vendor to vendor.

¹ Questionnaire returned by Carla Boatner, Court Administrator (December 10, 2013).

² The position description is posted at <http://www.chandleraz.gov/hr/salaryplan/description.aspx?id=C037>.

³ The salary range is posted at <http://www.chandleraz.gov/hr/salaryplan/>.

ARIZONA, GLENDALE CITY COURT⁴
(Glendale)

Staff Interpreters
(City Employee)

Titles ⁵	Minimum	Maximum
Court Interpreter	\$33,900	\$54,240

Fringe: Not provided
Work week: 40 hours

Independent Contractor Court Interpreters

No information provided.

⁴ Questionnaire submitted by Christopher Phelps, Court Administrator (December 21, 2013).

⁵ The position description and salary range are posted at
<http://agency.governmentjobs.com/glendaleaz/default.cfm?action=agencyspecs&agencyID=2466>.

ARIZONA, MESA MUNICIPAL COURT⁶
(Mesa)

Staff Interpreters
(City Employees)

Titles ⁷	Minimum	Maximum
Court Interpreter	\$45,758.40	\$62,940.80
Court Interpreter Supervisor	\$54,121.60	\$72,862.40

Fringe: Court Interpreter: Average of \$16,911

Court Interpreter Supervisor: \$26,795

Work week: 40 hours

Contract Interpreters

"Compensation of Freelance Court Interpreters may vary depending on the language, the freelance interpreter or agency providing the interpreter. The rates vary anywhere from \$50 to \$110 p/hr. Our court guarantees a 2 hr. minimum per assignment. We give at least 24 hr. prior notice for cancellations. Otherwise, we must pay for the entire amount of hours the interpreter had been retained. We do not reimburse for mileage."

⁶ Questionnaire completed by Xiomara M. Tenreiro, Court Interpreter Supervisor (January 14, 2014); e-mails from Ms. Tenreiro (January 20 and 22, 2014).

⁷ Job descriptions are available at <http://apps.mesaaz.gov/jobdescriptions/JobDescriptions.aspx>.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX MUNICIPAL COURT⁸
(Phoenix)

Staff Interpreters
(City Employees)

Titles ⁹	Minimum	Maximum
Court Interpreter	\$40,664	\$59,634
Court Supervisor, Assign: Interpreter	\$46,758	\$69,950

Fringe: 34.00%
Work week: 40 hours

Contract Interpreters¹⁰

Category of Interpreter	Hourly Rate
Spanish	\$70/First two hours
	\$20/hour each additional hour or portion of an hour of the same day
Other languages	\$60/First hour
	\$20/hour or portion of an hour for each consecutive hour

Cancellation policy for Spanish: "Any cancellation by the Court of a request for services given no more than 24 hours from the time for the requested services will be compensated at the amount provided for the first two hours of service as if it had been provided." §1.4 at p. 2

Cancellation policy for other languages: "Any cancellation by the Court of a request for services given no more than 24 hours from the time for the requested services will be compensated at the amount provided for the first hour of service as if it had been provided." §1.4 at p. 3

⁸ E-mail from Loren J. Braud, Court Staff Attorney and Public Information Officer (October 7, 2013).

⁹ Job descriptions and salary ranges are available at <http://phoenix.gov/employment/descrip/title/index.html#C>.

¹⁰ City of Phoenix, "Request for Qualifications, Interpreter & Translation Services," <http://phoenix.gov/business/contract/opportunities/rfq/rfqinter.html>.

ARIZONA, SCOTTSDALE CITY COURT¹¹
(Scottsdale)

Staff Interpreters
(City Employee)

Titles ¹²	Minimum	Maximum
Court Interpreter	\$39,041.60	\$56,617.60

Fringe: \$15,994
Work week: 40 hours

Contract Interpreters

Information not provided.

¹¹ Questionnaire returned by Julie Dybas, Court Administrator (December 16, 2013).

¹² The position description and salary range are posted at <http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/HR/JDescriptions>.

ARIZONA, TEMPE MUNICIPAL COURT¹³
(Tempe)

Staff Interpreters
(City Employee)

Titles ¹⁴	Minimum	Maximum
Court Interpreter ¹⁵	\$43,025	\$58,081

Fringe: Not available
Work week: 40 hours

Independent Contractor Court Interpreters

Spanish: \$40/hour with a 1-hour minimum
Lesser-used languages: \$70/hour

¹³ Questionnaire completed by Alfred González, Court Interpreter (December 23, 2013).

¹⁴ Salary ranges are posted under "Pay Plans" at <http://www.tempe.gov/index.aspx?page=619>.

¹⁵ The position description and salary range are posted at <http://www.tempe.gov/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=5032>.

ARIZONA, TUCSON CITY COURT¹⁶
(Tucson)

Staff Interpreters
(City Employees)

Titles ¹⁷	Minimum	Maximum
Court Interpreter – Spanish	\$29,328.00	\$45,593.60
Court Interpreter Supervisor	\$34,923.20	\$54,267.20

Fringe: Not provided
Work week: 40 hours

Contract Interpreters

\$50/hour with a two-hour minimum for the first two hours.
\$250 maximum for a full day (8 hours).
\$125 for a half day (4 hours).
\$25/hour beyond two hours except as otherwise provided above.

¹⁶ E-mail from Alma L. Dausinger, Court Interpreter Supervisor (October 3, 2013).

¹⁷ Job descriptions and salary ranges are posted at <http://www.tucsonaz.gov/sigma/InfoListings.aspx>.

NEVADA, NORTH LAS VEGAS MUNICIPAL COURT¹⁸
(North Las Vegas)

Staff Interpreters
(Municipal Employees)

This court has two staff interpreters but no response was received.

¹⁸ E-mail from Timothy Andrews, Assistant Court Administrator, Clark County Courts (September 30, 2013).

NEW JERSEY, ATLANTIC CITY MUNICIPAL COURT¹⁹
(Atlantic City)

Staff Interpreters
(City Employees)

Title	Minimum	Maximum
Court Interpreter Spanish/English ²⁰	\$22,000	\$30,000

Fringe: Not available
Work week: 35 hours

Contract Interpreters

No standard rates.

¹⁹ E-mail from Tanya M. Fonville [court employee who provided information at the request of Brian W. Jetter, Municipal Court Director, but who did not indicate her title] (January 7, 2014).

²⁰ The job specification is posted at <http://info.csc.state.nj.us/jobspec/07959.htm>.

NEW JERSEY, CAMDEN MUNICIPAL COURT
(Camden)

Staff Interpreters
(Municipal Employee)

This court has a staff court interpreter, but no response was received.

NEW JERSEY, JERSEY CITY MUNICIPAL COURT²¹
(Jersey City)

Staff Interpreters
(Municipal Employees)

Title	Minimum ²²	Maximum
Court Interpreter Spanish and English ²³	\$8,850	\$39,219

Fringe: Not provided
Work week: 37.5 hours

Contract Interpreters

Not provided.

²¹ Telephone interview with Jennifer Mejías, Supervising Data Control Clerk (January 24, 2014).

²² The salary range was obtained per telephone interview with the Jersey City Division of Personnel, Department of Business Administration (January 24, 2014).

²³ The job description is posted at <http://info.csc.state.nj.us/jobspec/07959.htm>.

NEW JERSEY, NEWARK MUNICIPAL COURT²⁴
(Newark)

Staff Interpreters
(Municipal Employee)

Title	Minimum	Maximum
Court Interpreter in Spanish & English/Municipal Court Attendant Bilingual in Spanish & English [Dual title] ²⁵	\$30,717	\$39,722

Fringe: Not requested
Work week: 35 hours

Contract Interpreters

Not requested.

²⁴ Telephone interview with Eunice Lewis, Court Director (February 11, 2014).

²⁵ The job description is posted at <http://info.csc.state.nj.us/jobspec/07978.htm>.

NEW JERSEY, PLAINFIELD MUNICIPAL COURT
(Plainfield)

Staff Interpreters
(City Employee)²⁶

Title	Minimum	Maximum
Clerk 1 (Bilingual) [Main duties are to interpret in court, on the phone, and at the Violations Window] ²⁷	\$28,542 ²⁸	\$38,246

Fringe: Not requested

Work week: 35 hours

Contract Interpreters

Not requested.

²⁶ Telephone interview with Jasmine Bradley, Deputy Court Administrator (March 20, 2014).

²⁷ E-mail from Susan Sánchez, Court Administrator, Linden Municipal Court (former Court Administrator at Plainfield) (November 18, 2013).

²⁸ The salary information was obtained via telephone interview with staff of the Personnel Division, City of Plainfield (March 28, 2014).

OHIO, CLEVELAND MUNICIPAL COURT²⁹
(Cleveland)

Staff Interpreters
(City Employees)

Title	Minimum	Maximum
Court Interpreter I	\$45,493.00	\$54,590.00
Court Interpreter II	\$54,590.00	\$60,493.00
Interpreter Coordinator	\$60,493.00	\$73,590.00

Fringe: 36.00%
Work week: 40 hours

Contract Interpreters

This court sets up a Memorandum of Understanding with each contract interpreter and the fees are based on educational background, certification and experience. On average contract interpreters are paid \$40.00-\$65.00/hour with a two-hour minimum.

²⁹ E-mails from Catherine Piña-Arrieta, Interpreter Coordinator (February 9, 2015). Editor's note: This court was found a year after the conclusion of the study, but did its best to report data close to what was in place in July-December 2013.

OHIO, FRANKLIN COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT³⁰
(Columbus)

Staff Interpreters
(City Employees)³¹

Title	Minimum	Maximum
Spanish Interpreter [entry level; certification preferred but not required]	\$35,464.00	\$48,755.20
Lead Interpreter [supervisory position]	\$36,483.20	\$50,169.60

Fringe: 18.95%

Work week: 40 hours

Contract Interpreters

This court selects contractors, including both agencies and individuals, pursuant to a bidding process and pays whatever rates are agreed to in those contracts.³²

³⁰ E-mails from Abbie Armitage, Human Resources Manager (April 2 and 3, 2015). Editor’s note: The fact that this court had a staff court interpreter in 2013 was discovered a year after the conclusion of the data collection phase of this study, but the court did its best to report data close to what was in effect July-December 2013.

³¹ This court has county-wide jurisdiction, unlike most municipal courts. In addition, its employees are not technically employees of the city, although the city provides funding for the court’s operating expenses. Here’s the policy statement from the Franklin County Municipal Court Employee Handbook on “Definition of the Relationship between Court Employees and the City of Columbus,” Policy No. 01.03, adopted February 19, 2013: “Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Chapter 1901, the Columbus City Council is the legislative authority for the Franklin County Municipal Court. As such, the City is required to pay a portion of the Court’s operating expenses and provide certain benefits, as determined by the Court, for the Court and its employees. The City processes the Court’s payroll and other Court employee benefits as an administrative convenience for the Court and the City. The City has no authority to hire, fire, or discipline, affect compensation or benefits, or direct or supervise performance of Court Employees.” This database lists them as “city employees” meaning to indicate they are more employees of the city than of Franklin County or the State of Ohio.

³² “Invitation to Bid for Foreign Language Court Interpreters” (n.d.; bids for the last cycle were due September 30, 2013 and the contracts are for a period of three years; “with approval of both parties and sufficient appropriations,” contracts “may be extended for one additional year” [Section II. Contract Term]).

OHIO, HAMILTON COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT³³
(Cincinnati)

Staff Interpreters

This court has at least one staff interpreter but no response was received.

³³ Telephone interview with Catherine Piña-Arrieta, Interpreter Coordinator, Cleveland Municipal Court (February 9, 2015); telephone interview with Adriana Fonseca, Lead Interpreter Franklin County Municipal Court (May 14, 2015).

TEXAS, FORT WORTH MUNICIPAL COURT³⁴
(Fort Worth)

Staff Interpreters
(City Employee)

Title	Minimum	Maximum
Court Interpreter	\$33,122	\$47,840

Fringe: \$17,160
Work week: 40 hours

Contract Interpreters

Not provided.

³⁴ Telephone Interview with Elba Escamilla, Court Interpreter (December 2, 2013).

TEXAS, HOUSTON MUNICIPAL COURT³⁵
(Houston)

Staff Interpreters
(City Employees)

Title	Minimum	Maximum
Court Interpreter	\$29,756	\$60,398

Fringe: 38.00%
Work week: 40 hours

Contract Interpreters

The amount paid varies according to the length of the assignment and language. The range is \$125-350/day (depending on number of hours and/or if it is a weekend/holiday assignment).

³⁵ E-mail from Lilly Warden, Assistant Director, Municipal Courts Department (November 1, 2013).

TEXAS, LAREDO MUNICIPAL COURT
(Laredo)

Staff Interpreters
(City Employee)³⁶

Title	Minimum ³⁷	Maximum
Assistant Court Clerk	\$20,654	\$27,331

Fringe: Not requested
Work week: 40 hours

Contract Interpreters

This court has not established any standard or uniform rates.

³⁶ The Assistant Court Clerk is a licensed court interpreter. Questionnaire completed by Andrea Sánchez, Deputy Court Clerk (December 11, 2013).

³⁷ Salary range provided in a telephone interview with Carolina Thurkettle, Acting Human Resources Officer, Human Resources Department, City of Laredo (March 14, 2014).

WASHINGTON, SEATTLE MUNICIPAL COURT³⁸
(Seattle)

Staff Interpreters
(Municipal Employee)³⁹

Title	Minimum	Maximum
Court Interpreter Coordinator ⁴⁰	\$70,344.72	\$81,849.60

Fringe: Not available
Work week: 40 hours

Contract Interpreters⁴¹

Category of Interpreter	Rates
Certified and Registered Interpreters	\$315/day (8:30-12:30 and 1:30-4:30)
	\$144/half day (9-12 or 1:30-4:30)
	\$50/hour with 2-hour minimum
	\$50/hour in 15-minute increments for overtime
Non-credentialed Interpreters	\$240/day (8:30-12:30 and 1:30-4:30)
	\$111/half day (9-12 or 1:30-4:30)
	\$40/hour with 2-hour minimum
	\$40/hour in 15-minute increments for overtime

- Telephone interpreting
 - 1-hour minimum (see above)
 - Time beyond minimum: paid in 15-minute increments
- Saturday/Sunday pay differential: additional \$10/hour
- Holiday pay differential: additional \$15/hour
- Mileage reimbursement is at the Federal rate (\$0.565 in 2013) as follows:
 - Miles driven one way between home and the court;
 - Miles driven round trip between home and the court (maximum of one per day)
"if an assignment in SMC is the **only** interpreting assignment for the day."
- Cancellation policy: "If the assignment is cancelled less than 24 hours prior to the start of the assignment, an interpreter shall be paid a cancellation fee equal to the payment for the scheduled assignment."

³⁸ E-mails from Emma Garkavi, Court Interpreter Coordinator (November 18, 2013).

³⁹ Salary range was obtained from http://www.seattle.gov/personnel/employment/default_ClassSpecs.asp.

⁴⁰ The coordinator is also a certified Russian court interpreter and does interpret in court on the infrequent occasions when there is a need for a Russian interpreter.

⁴¹ "Interpreter Payment Structure."