

## Legal Interpretation Certificate: Spanish Certificado de Interpretación Jurídica

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Court interpreters ensure language barriers do not morph into legal barriers for people whose primary language is not English. The Nevada Court Interpreter Program was established in 2002 to provide consistent guidelines for access to court interpreters in the state. As the population of Nevada grows and diversifies, and as the economy becomes increasingly global, the demand for legal interpreters is expected to grow.

Nevada courts use interpreters during court proceedings where a witness, defendant, or litigant has Limited English Proficiency (LEP). The role of the court interpreter is to provide written translation of documents or oral interpretation related to a case. Interpreters must not provide legal advice or deviate from direct translation.

Legal interpreters must be highly skilled in multiple areas. A robust knowledge of legal processes and terminology is essential. Interpreters must be fully aware of all laws and ethical considerations governing legal interpretation in Nevada. An ability and willingness to research topic areas relevant to a case to become familiar with terms that may come up in legal proceedings is also valuable. Legal interpreters must be able to complete sight translation (written translation) work with extreme accuracy. They also must be able to perform both simultaneous interpretation (speaking at the same time as the client) and consecutive interpretation (speaking after the client) services both from English to Spanish and Spanish to English. The UNLV Legal Interpreter Certificate curriculum offers opportunities to learn and practice all these skills in preparation for state certification exams.



*The 8th Judicial District Court received 50,114 requests for Spanish interpretation services at the Regional Justice Center and 17,172 requests for family court Spanish interpreters during FY 2010. Job openings for interpreters in NV are expected to increase 44 percent in the next ten years.*

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In an effort to ensure consistent legal interpreter services, Nevada courts utilize state credentialed interpreters whenever feasible. Earning a NV court interpreter credential is a multi-step process:

- Attend an orientation workshop
- Score 80% or above on written multiple choice exam
- Score 70% or above on oral performance exam
- Pass a criminal background check
- Complete 40 hours of Nevada courtroom observation
- Pay processing fee

## Earn your UNLV Legal Interpreter Certificate

Students must be bilingual in English and Spanish, and proficient enough in both speaking and writing to be cleared for enrollment by the instructor. A pre-program language assessment will be conducted to ensure candidates can fluidly move information from English into Spanish and vice versa, both orally and in writing.

To obtain the UNLV Legal Interpreter Certificate, students must successfully complete six courses.

- Introduction to Legal Interpreting
- Sight Translation
- Consecutive Interpreting I
- Simultaneous Interpreting I
- Consecutive Interpreting II
- Simultaneous Interpreting II

## Meet the Instructors

**Elena Gandia Garcia** received her PhD in Translation and Interpreting (Estudios Avanzados de Traducción e Interpretación) at Universitat Jaume I, Castellón, Spain. She was appointed Sworn Interpreter and Translator by the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2003 (#4098). Her research interest is focused on Legal Translation and Interpreting. She is on the faculty of the Department of World Languages and Cultures at UNLV, and is Vice President of the Nevada Interpreters and Translators Association (NITA).

**Judy Jenner** is the owner of Twin Translations. She is a federally certified Spanish court interpreter, master-level court interpreter for Spanish (Nevada), court-registered interpreter for German (Nevada), and court-certified Spanish interpreter (California). She co-authored one of the leading business books in the translation and interpreting industry and is a frequent keynote speaker at industry conferences. Jenner is an alumna of UNLV and serves on the advisory board of UNLV's Honors College. She is past president of NITA. Jenner was raised in Mexico City.

**Cristina Sanchez** is a native Spanish speaker born in Mexico. She studied French at Alianza Francesa de Mexico and English at the Instituto Superior de Interpretes y Traductores. She is a translation and interpretation independent contractor and has certifications in California and Nevada. She achieved Federal Court Interpreter certification in 2009. She is president of NITA. Sanchez has presented in seminars for interpreters, attorneys at the State Bar of Nevada, and judges as faculty at the National Judicial College.



*What is the difference between interpretation and translation? Interpreters work orally, converting one spoken language to another. They may be asked to listen and speak at the same time (simultaneous) or listen to a complete statement before interpreting (consecutive). Translators work with written materials. Translation goes beyond word-for-word replacement. A good translator will be able to convert a document into the target language while retaining both meaning and style.*



## Enroll in an upcoming session

View course descriptions and schedules online at [continuingeducation.unlv.edu/certificate-programs](http://continuingeducation.unlv.edu/certificate-programs). Courses may also be taken individually to expand your skill set.

## Contact Us

We are happy to answer your questions about any of our programs. Reach UNLV Continuing Education by phone at **702-895-3394** or via email at [continuing.education@unlv.edu](mailto:continuing.education@unlv.edu).



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