



Judicial Council of California · Administrative Office of the Courts

455 Golden Gate Avenue · San Francisco, California 94102-3688

www.courts.ca.gov

REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

For business meeting on: February 20, 2014

Title	Agenda Item Type
Judicial Council Report to the Legislature: Trial Court Interpreters Program Expenditure Report for Fiscal Year 2012–2013	Action Required
Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected	Effective Date
None	February 20, 2014
Recommended by	Date of Report
Administrative Office of the Courts Donna Hershkowitz, Director Court Operations Special Services Office	January 17, 2014
	Contact
	Catharine Price, 415-865-7783 catharine.price@jud.ca.gov

Executive Summary

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) recommends that the Judicial Council approve the annual report on trial court interpreter expenditures for submission to the Legislature. This report to the Legislature is required by the Budget Act of 2012 (Stats. 2012, ch. 21).

Recommendation

The AOC recommends that the Judicial Council:

1. Approve the report to the Legislature summarizing the fiscal year (FY) 2012–2013 trial court interpreter expenditures in conformance with the requirements of the Budget Act of 2012 (Stats. 2012, ch. 21); and
2. Direct the AOC to submit the report to the Legislature.

Previous Council Action

At the Judicial Council business meeting held on February 26, 2013, the Judicial Council approved the *Trial Court Interpreters Program Expenditure Report for Fiscal Year 2011–2012* for submission to the Legislature, summarizing the FY 2011–2012 trial court interpreter expenditures in conformance with the requirements of the Budget Act of 2011 (Stats. 2011, ch. 33) and directed the AOC to submit the report to the Legislature. The Judicial Council also approved previous reports submitted in prior years. Copies of previous reports can be found at www.courts.ca.gov/2686.htm.

Rationale for Recommendation

The Budget Act of 2012 (Stats. 2012, ch. 21), item 0250-101-0932, Schedule 4, provides appropriation from the Trial Court Trust Fund for the services of court interpreters. Provision 3 states that “[t]he Judicial Council shall report to the Legislature and the Director of Finance annually regarding expenditures from Schedule (4).” In fulfillment of that provision, this report details trial court expenditures for court interpreters.

Comments, Alternatives Considered, and Policy Implications

This report was not circulated for comment. Preparation and submission of this report is mandated by the annual budget act, and thus no alternatives were considered.

Implementation Requirements, Costs, and Operational Impacts

No costs or operational impacts are associated with the approval of this report.

Attachments

1. *Trial Court Interpreters Program Expenditure Report for Fiscal Year 2012–2013*



Judicial Council of California
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

455 Golden Gate Avenue • San Francisco, California 94102-3688
Telephone 415-865-4200 • Fax 415-865-4205 • TDD 415-865-4272

TANI G. CANTIL-SAKAUYE
Chief Justice of California
Chair of the Judicial Council

STEVEN JAHR
Administrative Director of the Courts

February 28, 2014

Ms. Diane F. Boyer-Vine
Legislative Counsel
State of California
State Capitol, Suite 3021
Sacramento, California 95814

Mr. Gregory P. Schmidt
Secretary of the Senate
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 400
Sacramento, California 95814

Mr. E. Dotson Wilson
Chief Clerk of the Assembly
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 3196
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: *Trial Court Interpreters Program Expenditure Report for Fiscal Year 2012–2013*, as required by the Budget Act of 2012 (Stats. 2012, ch. 21)

Dear Ms. Boyer-Vine, Mr. Schmidt, and Mr. Wilson:

Attached is the Judicial Council report required under the Budget Act of 2012 (Stats. 2012, ch. 21), Item 0250-101-0932, *Trial Court Interpreters Program Expenditure Report for Fiscal Year 2012–2013*.

Ms. Diane F. Boyer-Vine
Mr. Gregory P. Schmidt
Mr. E. Dotson Wilson
February 28, 2014
Page 2

Summary of the report:

- The appropriation for court interpreters (Program 45.45) in fiscal year (FY) 2012–2013 was \$92,794,000. The appropriation amount has remained unchanged since FY 2009–2010.
- The total statewide expenditures for allowable court interpreter costs incurred in FY 2012–2013 totaled \$87,808,520.
- Reimbursable court interpreter expenditures decreased from prior year FY 2011–2012 (\$89,187,485) by \$1,378,965; a decrease of 1.5 percent. This reduction is primarily attributed to the change in the Budget Act of 2012 (Schedule 4, provision 3), requiring interpreter coordinators to now be certified or registered court interpreters in order to be funded from Program 45.45.
- Despite the overall reduction in reimbursable expenditures, employee-related costs increased by \$1,036,268 from FY 2011–2012. Fiscal year 2012–2013 reimbursable expenditures for employee-related costs accounted for 84.13 percent of total reimbursements, as compared to 74.53 percent in FY 2008–2009.
- Conversely, the percentage of reimbursable expenditures for contract court interpreters continues to trend downward. Fiscal year 2012–2013 reimbursable expenditures for contract interpreters represented 15.87 percent of total reimbursements, as compared to 25.47 percent in FY 2008–2009.
- Reimbursable expenditures for noncertified and nonregistered interpreters also continue to decrease. Reimbursements for noncertified and nonregistered interpreters represent 2.3 percent of statewide interpreter costs and 14.49 percent of overall contractor costs for FY 2012–2013.

If you have any questions related to this report, please contact Ms. Donna Hershkowitz, Director, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), Court Operations Special Services Office, at 818-558-3068 or donna.hershkowitz@jud.ca.gov.

Very truly yours,

Steven Jahr
Administrative Director of the Courts

Ms. Diane F. Boyer-Vine
Mr. Gregory P. Schmidt
Mr. E. Dotson Wilson
February 28, 2014
Page 3

SJ/DH/sw
Attachment

cc: Hon. Kevin de León, Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
Hon. Mimi Walters, Vice-Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
Hon. Mike Gatto, Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Hon. Frank Bigelow, Vice Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Hon. Mark Leno, Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
Hon. Nancy Skinner, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
Hon. Jeff Gorrell, Vice-Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
Hon. Loni Hancock, Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee #5
Hon. Reginald Jones-Sawyer, Sr., Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #5
Ms. Peggy Collins, Principal Consultant, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
Ms. Margie Estrada, Chief of Staff, Office of Senate President pro Tempore,
Darrell Steinberg
Ms. Fredericka McGee, Legal Counsel, Office of Assembly Speaker John A. Pérez
Mr. Matt Osterli, Consultant, Senate Republican Fiscal Office
Ms. Jolie Onodera, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
Mr. Joseph Stephenshaw, Consultant, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Mr. Marvin Deon, Consultant, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #5
Mr. Allan Cooper, Consultant, Assembly Republican Fiscal Office
Mr. Chuck Nicol, Principal Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Ms. Tina McGee, Executive Secretary, Legislative Analyst's Office
Mr. Jay Sturges, Principal Program Budget Analyst, California Department of Finance
Ms. Madelyn McClain, Program Budget Analyst, California Department of Finance
Mr. Peter Allen, Senior Manager, AOC Office of Communications
Mr. Cory Jasperson, Director, AOC Office of Governmental Affairs
Ms. Yvette Casillas-Sarcos, Administrative Coordinator, AOC Office of Governmental
Affairs



Judicial Council of California
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

455 Golden Gate Avenue • San Francisco, California 94102-3688
Telephone 415-865-4200 • Fax 415-865-4205 • TDD 415-865-4272

TANI G. CANTIL-SAKAUYE
Chief Justice of California
Chair of the Judicial Council

STEVEN JAHR
Administrative Director of the Courts

February 28, 2014

Mr. Michael Cohen
Director of Finance
California Department of Finance
915 L Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: *Trial Court Interpreters Program Expenditure Report for Fiscal Year 2012–2013*, as required by the Budget Act of 2012 (Stats. 2012, ch. 21)

Dear Mr. Cohen:

Attached is the Judicial Council report required under the Budget Act of 2012 (Stats. 2012, ch. 21), Item 0250-101-0932, *Trial Court Interpreters Program Expenditure Report for Fiscal Year 2012–2013*.

Summary of the report:

- The appropriation for court interpreters (Program 45.45) in fiscal year (FY) 2012–2013 was \$92,794,000. The appropriation amount has remained unchanged since FY 2009–2010.
- The total statewide expenditures for allowable court interpreter costs incurred in FY 2012–2013 totaled \$87,808,520.
- Reimbursable court interpreter expenditures decreased from prior year FY 2011–2012 (\$89,187,485) by \$1,378,965; a decrease of 1.5 percent. This reduction is primarily attributed to the change in the Budget Act of 2012 (Schedule 4, provision 3), requiring

interpreter coordinators to now be certified or registered court interpreters in order to be funded from Program 45.45.

- Despite the overall reduction in reimbursable expenditures, employee-related costs increased by \$1,036,268 from FY 2011–2012. Fiscal year 2012–2013 reimbursable expenditures for employee-related costs accounted for 84.13 percent of total reimbursements, as compared to 74.53 percent in FY 2008–2009.
- Conversely, the percentage of reimbursable expenditures for contract court interpreters continues to trend downward. Fiscal year 2012–2013 reimbursable expenditures for contract interpreters represented 15.87 percent of total reimbursements, as compared to 25.47 percent in FY 2008–2009.
- Reimbursable expenditures for noncertified and nonregistered interpreters also continue to decrease. Reimbursements for noncertified and nonregistered interpreters represent 2.3 percent of statewide interpreter costs and 14.49 percent of overall contractor costs for FY 2012–2013.

If you have any questions related to this report, please contact Ms. Donna Hershkowitz, Director, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), Court Operations Special Services Office, at 818-558-3068 or donna.hershkowitz@jud.ca.gov.

Very truly yours,

Steven Jahr
Administrative Director of the Courts

SJ/DH/sw
Attachment

cc: Hon. Kevin de León, Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
Hon. Mimi Walters, Vice-Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
Hon. Mike Gatto, Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Hon. Frank Bigelow, Vice Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Hon. Mark Leno, Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
Hon. Nancy Skinner, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
Hon. Jeff Gorrell, Vice-Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
Hon. Loni Hancock, Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee #5
Hon. Reginald Jones-Sawyer, Sr., Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #5
Ms. Peggy Collins, Principal Consultant, Joint Legislative Budget Committee

Ms. Margie Estrada, Chief of Staff, Office of Senate President pro Tempore,
Darrell Steinberg

Ms. Fredericka McGee, Legal Counsel, Office of Assembly Speaker John A. Pérez

Mr. Matt Osterli, Consultant, Senate Republican Fiscal Office

Ms. Jolie Onodera, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee

Mr. Joseph Stephenshaw, Consultant, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee

Mr. Marvin Deon, Consultant, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #5

Mr. Allan Cooper, Consultant, Assembly Republican Fiscal Office

Mr. Chuck Nicol, Principal Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee

Ms. Tina McGee, Executive Secretary, Legislative Analyst's Office

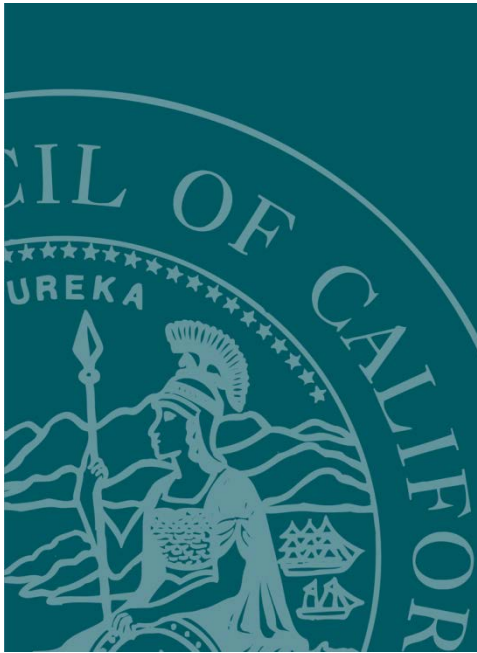
Mr. Jay Sturges, Principal Program Budget Analyst, California Department of Finance

Ms. Madelyn McClain, Program Budget Analyst, California Department of Finance

Mr. Peter Allen, Senior Manager, AOC Office of Communications

Mr. Cory Jaspersen, Director, AOC Office of Governmental Affairs

Ms. Yvette Casillas-Sarcos, Administrative Coordinator, AOC Office of Governmental
Affairs



Trial Court Interpreters Program Expenditure Report for Fiscal Year 2012–2013

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

FEBRUARY 2014



JUDICIAL COUNCIL
OF CALIFORNIA

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS



Judicial Council of California
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

455 Golden Gate Avenue • San Francisco, California 94102-3688
Telephone 415-865-4200 • Fax 415-865-4205 • TDD 415-865-4272

TANI G. CANTIL-SAKAUYE
Chief Justice of California
Chair of the Judicial Council

STEVEN JAHR
Administrative Director of the Courts

Report Summary

Report title: *Trial Court Interpreters Program Expenditure Report for Fiscal Year 2012–2013*

Statutory citation: Budget Act of 2012 (Stats. 2012, ch. 21)

Date of report: January 17, 2014

The Judicial Council has submitted a report to the Legislature in accordance with Provision 3, item 0250-101-0932 of the Budget Act of 2012 (Stats. 2012, ch. 21).

The following summary of the report is provided under the requirements of Government Code section 9795.

The appropriation for court interpreters (Program 45.45) in fiscal year (FY) 2012–2013 was \$92,794,000. The total statewide expenditures for allowable court interpreter costs incurred in FY 2012–2013 were \$87,808,520. Reimbursed court interpreter costs decreased from FY 2011–2012 by \$1,378,965; a decrease of 1.5 percent. This reduction is primarily attributed to the change in the Budget Act of 2012 (Schedule 4, provision 3), which requires interpreter coordinators to be certified or registered court interpreters to be funded from Program 45.45. Despite the overall reduction in reimbursable expenditures, employee-related costs increased by \$1,036,268 from prior FY 2011–2012. Conversely, the percentage of reimbursable expenditures for contract court interpreters continues to trend downward. The FY 2012–2013 reimbursable expenditures for contract interpreters represented 15.87 percent of total reimbursements, as compared to 25.47 percent in FY 2008–2009. Reimbursable expenditures for noncertified and nonregistered interpreters also continue to decrease, representing 2.3 percent of statewide interpreter costs and 14.49 percent of overall contractor costs for FY 2012–2013.

The full report may be found at: www.courts.ca.gov/7466.htm. A printed copy of the report may be obtained by calling 415-865-4288.

Judicial Council Members

As of January 2, 2014

Hon. Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye
Chief Justice of California and
Chair of the Judicial Council

Hon. Sherrill A. Ellsworth
Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of Riverside

Hon. Judith Ashmann-Gerst
Associate Justice of the Court of Appeal
Second Appellate District, Division Two

Hon. Noreen Evans
Member of the California State Senate

Hon. Stephen H. Baker
Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of Shasta

Mr. James P. Fox
Attorney at Law (Retired)
California State Bar Association

Hon. Marvin R. Baxter
Associate Justice of the Supreme Court

Hon. Harry E. Hull, Jr.
Associate Justice of the Court of Appeal
Third Appellate District

Hon. Richard Bloom
Member of the California State Assembly

Hon. Teri L. Jackson
Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of San Francisco

Mr. Mark G. Bonino
Hayes, Scott, Bonino, Ellingson & McLay, LLP

Hon. Douglas P. Miller
Associate Justice of the Court of Appeal
Fourth Appellate District, Division Two

Hon. James R. Brandlin
Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of Los Angeles

Hon. Mary Ann O'Malley
Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of Contra Costa

Ms. Angela J. Davis
Assistant United States Attorney
for the Central District of California

Mr. Mark P. Robinson, Jr.
Attorney at Law
Robinson Calcagnie Robinson
Shapiro Davis, Inc.

Hon. David De Alba
Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of Sacramento

Hon. David Rosenberg
Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of Yolo

Hon. Emilie H. Elias
Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of Los Angeles

Judicial Council Members

As of January 2, 2014

Hon. David M. Rubin
Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of San Diego

Mr. Frank A. McGuire
Clerk of the California Supreme Court

Hon. Dean T. Stout
Assistant Presiding Judge of the
Superior Court of California,
County of Inyo

Hon. Kenneth K. So
Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of San Diego

Ms. Mary Beth Todd
Court Executive Officer
Superior Court of California,
County of Sutter

ADVISORY MEMBERS

Hon. Sue Alexander
Commissioner of the
Superior Court of California,
County of Alameda

Hon. Charles D. Wachob
Assistant Presiding Judge of the
Superior Court of California,
County of Placer

Hon. Robert A. Glusman
Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of Butte

Hon. Brian Walsh
Presiding Judge of the
Superior Court of California,
County of Santa Clara

Hon. James E. Herman
Assistant Presiding Judge of the
Superior Court of California,
County of Santa Barbara

Mr. David H. Yamasaki
Court Executive Officer
Superior Court of California,
County of Santa Clara

Hon. Morris D. Jacobson
Assistant Presiding Judge of the
Superior Court of California,
County of Alameda

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

Hon. Brian L. McCabe
Presiding Judge of the
Superior Court of California,
County of Merced

Hon. Steven Jahr
Administrative Director of the Courts
and Secretary of the Judicial Council

**JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS**

Hon. Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye
*Chief Justice of California and
Chair of the Judicial Council*

Hon. Steven Jahr
Administrative Director of the Courts

**JUDICIAL AND COURT OPERATIONS
SERVICES DIVISION**

Mr. Curtis L. Child
Chief Operating Officer

**COURT OPERATIONS
SPECIAL SERVICES OFFICE**

Ms. Donna Hershkowitz
Director

Ms. Catharine Price
Manager

Ms. Sonia Sierra Wolf
Primary Author of Report

I. Background

Mandates to Provide Court Interpreting Services

Article I, section 14, of the California Constitution was amended in 1974 to provide that “[a] person unable to understand English who is charged with a crime has a right to an interpreter throughout the proceedings.” This provision establishes a mandate for the courts to provide interpreters to all defendants in criminal matters who have limited ability to understand or speak English. Further state court rulings subsequent to the constitutional amendment have established the right to a court interpreter in delinquency and some family law matters for individuals with limited English proficiency. In addition to the constitutional mandate and state court rulings, under federal law, individuals with hearing disabilities who require sign language interpreters must receive court interpreter services at no cost in all court proceedings.

Statutory Requirement to Report on Expenditures

The Budget Act of 2012 (Stats. 2012, ch. 21), Item 0250-101-0932, Schedule 4, provides appropriation from the Trial Court Trust Fund for the services of court interpreters. Provision 3 states that “[t]he Judicial Council shall report to the Legislature and the Director of Finance annually regarding expenditures from Schedule (4).” In fulfillment of that provision, this report details trial court expenditures for court interpreters.

Program Funding

- Funding appropriated in the Trial Court Trust Fund line item for court interpreters (Program 45.45) in fiscal year (FY) 2012–2013 was \$92,794,000. The appropriation amount has remained unchanged since FY 2009–2010.
- Court reimbursements for allowable court interpreter expenditures incurred in FY 2012–2013 totaled \$87,808,520, representing a reduction over the prior year FY 2011–2012 of \$1,378,965; a decrease of 1.5 percent.
- Program 45.45 appropriation savings are limited by the Judicial Council to be used for court interpreter costs.¹
- Effective with the Budget Act of 2012; Schedule 4, provision 3 provides that reimbursements for employee interpreter coordinators may only be applied if court interpreter coordinators are certified or registered court interpreters.

Certified Court Interpreters vs. Registered Court Interpreters

Interpreters who pass the Written Exam and the Bilingual Interpreting Exam² or the required exam for American Sign Language and fulfill the corresponding Judicial Council requirements are referred to as certified court interpreters. Currently, California recognizes 15 certified languages: American Sign Language (ASL), Arabic, Eastern

¹ On October 29, 2010, the Judicial Council approved the savings from FY 2009–2010 and any future expenditure savings to be set aside to address future reimbursable court interpreter costs. This excludes the \$3,000,000 redirected by the Judicial Council at its July 22, 2011, meeting to offset trial court budget reductions.

² Previously known as the Oral Exam or Oral Interpreting Exam; this is a change in name only.

Armenian, Western Armenian, Cantonese, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Mandarin, Portuguese, Punjabi, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

An interpreter of a spoken language which is not a certified language is required to pass the Written Exam and, effective March 1, 2013, a two-part Oral Proficiency Exam (OPE); one in English and one in the non-English (foreign) language. Currently, the OPE is offered in 70 languages. Registered interpreter candidates must also fulfill all corresponding Judicial Council requirements in order to become a registered interpreter.

II. Allowable Expenditures

Expenditures that qualify for reimbursement are limited to the following:

1. Contract court interpreters and their per diems (see Section III), including travel;
2. Certified and registered court interpreters employed by the courts, including their salaries, benefits, and travel;
3. Court interpreter coordinators who are certified or registered court interpreters;³ and
4. Four court interpreter supervisor positions: two in Los Angeles County, one in Orange County, and one in San Diego County. These are the only positions funded under Program 45.45 that include funding for standard operating expenses and equipment (OE&E).

The Judicial Council does not reimburse trial courts for the cost of supervisors, administrative overhead, or any OE&E except for the contractual services, travel, and standard complementary items noted above in items 1, 2, and 4. Trial courts absorb all other OE&E costs and, except as noted in items 3 and 4 above, all supervisory expenditures associated with staff interpreters and court interpreter coordinators.

The most significant change accounting for the decrease in total reimbursable expenses between FY 2011–2012 and FY 2012–2013 (see Attachment 1; column F) is for interpreter coordinator costs. Reimbursed expenses for interpreter coordinators in FY 2012–2013 accounted for \$178,000 vs. \$2,243,962 in FY 2011–2012, a decrease of \$2,065,962, accounting for a 92 percent decrease.

This reduction is attributed to the change in the Budget Act of 2012 (Schedule 4, provision 3), which now requires interpreter coordinators to be certified or registered court interpreters in order to be funded out of Program 45.45.

³ Limited by item 0250-101-0932, provision 4, of the Budget Act of 2012 to 1.0 personnel year (PY) each for counties in classes 1–15, 0.5 PY each for counties in classes 16–31, and 0.25 PY each for counties in classes 32–58. The Budget Act of 2012 defines county classes based on size of population: counties in classes 1–15 have populations greater than 500,000; classes 16–31 have populations between 130,000 and 500,000; and classes 32–58 have populations less than 130,000.

Attachment 1 is a summary by court and by category of all the reimbursements for allowable court interpreter expenditures.

III. Rates of Pay for Court Interpreters

The Judicial Council first established statewide standards for court interpreter compensation in January 1999 at two defined levels, a full-day rate and a half-day rate. Three increases in pay for certified and registered interpreters have been authorized since then, effective on July 1, 1999; July 1, 2000; and September 1, 2007.

A significant change to the provision of interpreter services, requiring the trial courts to assign interpreter employees to perform spoken language interpretation, was the enactment of Senate Bill 371 (Stats. 2002, ch. 1047). Known as the Trial Court Interpreter Employment and Labor Relations Act, this law is codified in the California Government Code, at sections 71800–71829.

The law required trial courts to establish staff interpreter positions and offer employment to certified and registered court interpreters under prescribed conditions. As a result, trial courts began hiring contract interpreters as staff interpreters. The council's standard interpreter pay rates apply only to contract interpreters, not to staff interpreters.

Statewide Standard Rate for Certified and Registered Contract Court Interpreters

Effective September 1, 2007, the Judicial Council increased the statewide standard pay rate for certified and registered independent contractor interpreters to \$282.23 for a full day and \$156.56 for a half day. The full-day rate of \$282.23 represents a 41 percent increase over the original January 1999 rate of \$200.

Statewide Standard for Noncertified and Nonregistered Interpreters

During FY 2012–2013, the statewide standard rate for noncertified and nonregistered interpreters remained \$175 for a full day and \$92 for a half day, the same rate established by the Judicial Council in July 1999. Actual rates paid to contract interpreters, whether certified/registered or noncertified/nonregistered, often exceed these standards because each assignment must be negotiated by the trial court, subject to the realities of current market rates, as well as supply and demand. This is particularly the case for contractors who interpret less commonly spoken languages and who may reside outside the state.

Comparison with Federal Rates

State compensation rates for California employee court interpreters are comparable to federal rates. California employee court interpreters receive health and retirement benefits that increase the total value of their compensation by 30 to 35 percent. The current federal rates for contract court interpreters are \$388/full day and \$210/half day for certified interpreters and \$187/full day and \$103/half day for noncertified interpreters.

Whereas the federal system relies almost exclusively on contract interpreters, court interpreter assignments in California are increasingly performed by staff interpreters.

IV. FY 2012–2013 Reimbursed Expenditures

Table 1 details reimbursed expenditures for the past five years for employee-related costs as compared to contract court interpreter costs. Total employee-related expenditures represented 74.53 percent of interpreter costs in FY 2008–2009 and increased to 84.13 percent of interpreter costs in FY 2012–2013, with contract expenditures in the same period thereby decreasing from 25.47 percent to 15.87 percent.

Fiscal Year	2008–2009	2009–2010	2010–2011	2011–2012	2012–2013
Total Employee Related Expenditures	\$69,842,707 74.53%	\$68,042,596 77.36%	\$71,763,311 79.78%	\$72,835,667 81.67%	\$73,871,935 84.13%
Total Contractor Expenditures	\$23,862,667 25.47%	\$19,912,471 22.64%	\$18,188,643 20.22%	\$16,351,818 18.33%	\$13,936,585 15.87%
Total	\$93,705,374	\$87,955,067	\$89,951,954	\$89,187,485	\$87,808,520

Staff court interpreter-only costs, which exclude interpreter coordinator or supervisory positions, was \$73,162,560 in FY 2012–2012 against \$70,075,471 in FY 2011–2012, an increase of \$3,087,089 (see Attachment 1, column D).

Expenditures for Noncertified and Nonregistered Contract Interpreters

During FY 2012–2013, statewide per diems for noncertified contract interpreters equaled \$1,338,401, or 1.52 percent of total statewide expenditures. Statewide expenditures on per diems for nonregistered contract interpreters equaled \$681,188, or 0.78 percent of total statewide expenditures. Per diem expenditures for both noncertified and nonregistered contract interpreters equaled 2.3 percent of all statewide interpreter costs. Columns K and L on Attachment 1 detail nonregistered and noncertified contract interpreter per diem expenditures for FY 2012–2013 for each of the 58 county trial courts.

Table 2 illustrates annual statewide expenditures over the past five years (excluding travel) for noncertified and nonregistered interpreters, and the percentages of total reimbursements for court interpreter services. The annual percentages show a continuous downward trend, from 4.77 percent in FY 2008–2009 to 2.3 percent in FY 2012–2013.

Table 2. Expenditures for Noncertified and Nonregistered Contract Interpreters and Percentage of Total Expenditures					
Fiscal Year	2008–2009	2009–2010	2010–2011	2011–2012	2012–2013
Noncertified Expenditures	\$3,408,555 3.64%	\$2,816,013 3.20%	\$2,488,385 2.77%	\$1,642,989 1.84%	\$1,338,401 1.52%
Nonregistered Expenditures	\$1,058,9544 1.13%	\$862,814 0.98%	\$797,239 0.89%	\$735,860 0.83%	\$681,188 0.78%
Combined Expenditures	\$4,467,509 4.77%	\$3,678,827 4.18%	\$3,285,624 3.65%	\$2,378,849 2.67%	\$2,019,589 2.30%

Chart 1 depicts total reimbursed court interpreter expenditures since FY 2007–2008.

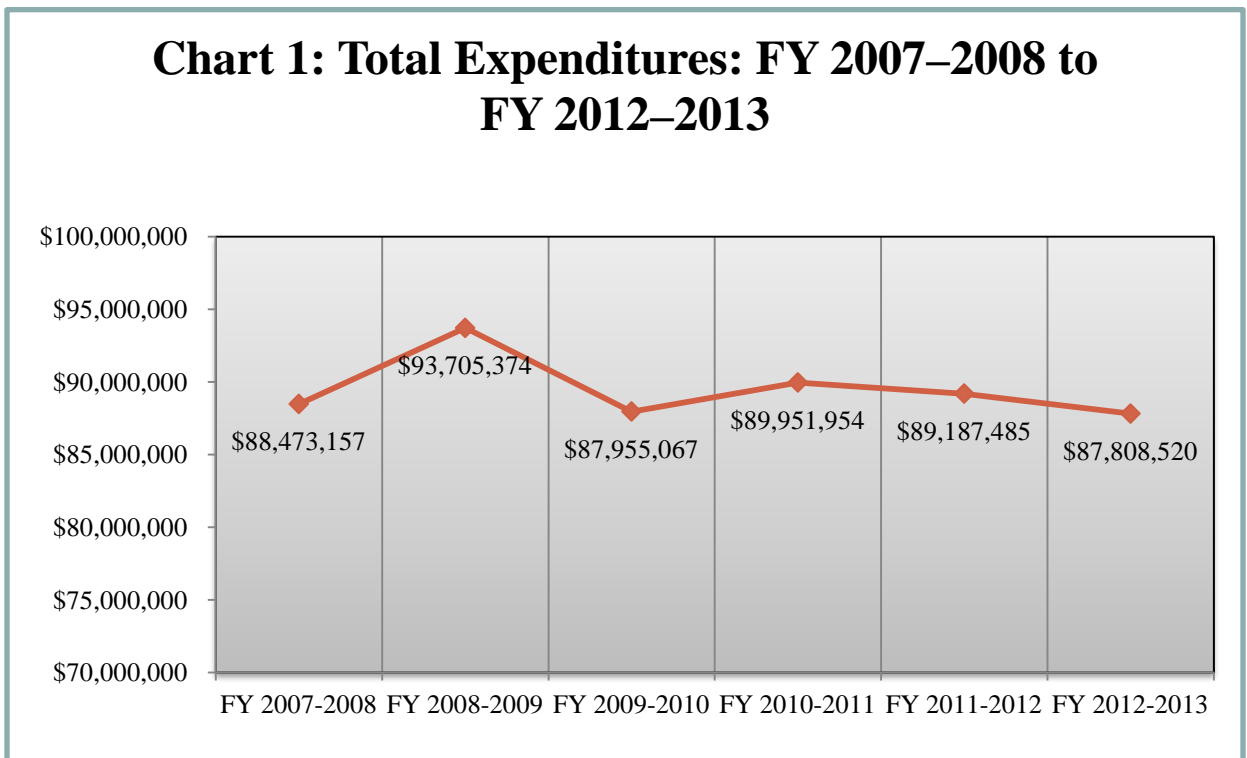


Table 3 illustrates the annual percentage changes in statewide reimbursed expenditures, FY 2007–2008 to FY 2011–2012.

Table 3. Percentage Change in Statewide Reimbursed Expenditures				
FY 2007–2008 to FY 2008–2009	FY 2008–2009 to FY 2009–2010	FY 2009–2010 to FY 2010–2011	FY 2010–2011 to FY 2011–2012	FY 2011–2012 to FY 2012–2013
5.91%	-6.14%	2.27%	-0.85%	-1.55%

V. Distribution of Reimbursed Expenditures by Largest Court Providers

Table 4 lists the 11 courts that received the largest reimbursements for eligible court interpreter costs in FY 2012–2013. These 11 courts accounted for \$69,706,561 or 79.38 percent of the state’s reimbursed expenditures for court interpreters. The Superior Court of Los Angeles County alone accounted for 36.2 percent of reimbursed expenditures. The remaining 10 courts account for 43.18 percent of reimbursed expenditures.

Table 4. Reimbursed Expenditures by the 11 Largest Providers of Court Interpreters		
Superior Court	FY 2013–2014 Reimbursed Expenditures (\$)	Percentage of Statewide Total
Los Angeles	\$31,790,421	36.20%
Orange	\$7,899,480	9.00%
San Diego	\$5,935,508	6.76%
San Bernardino	\$4,522,387	5.15%
Alameda	\$3,502,242	3.99%
Sacramento	\$3,352,653	3.82%
Santa Clara	\$3,346,647	3.81%
Riverside	\$3,062,531	3.49%
Kern	\$2,198,127	2.50%
Fresno	\$2,076,627	2.36%
San Francisco	\$2,019,938	2.30%
Subtotal	\$69,706,561	79.38%
Statewide Total	\$87,808,520	100.00%

VI. Conclusion

The California judicial branch is committed to providing meaningful language access to the state’s seven million limited-English-proficient individuals (LEP) by expanding language access services statewide. In April 2013, the Joint Working Group for California’s Language Access Plan was established and is in the process of developing a

comprehensive statewide Language Access Plan (LAP). The LAP will provide recommendations, guidance, and a consistent statewide approach to ensure language access to LEP court users.

VIII. Attachments

1. FY 2012–2013 Court Interpreters Program 45.45 Year-End Reimbursed Expenditures

Reimbursement of Courts' FY 2012-2013 Court Interpreter-Related Expenditures Using TCTF Program 45.45 (Court Interpreter) Appropriation

Court	Reimbursed Employee-Related Interpreter Costs								Reimbursed Contractor-Related Interpreter Costs								Total Reimbursed Expenditures
	Staff Interpreter Salaries & Benefits	Staff Interpreter Travel	Staff Cross Assignment Costs	Total Staff Interpreter Salaries, Benefits & Travel	CIP Arbitration Awards	Interpreter Coordinator Reimbursed Amount	Supervisor Salaries, Benefits, & OE&E (\$12,500/FTE)	Total Employee Related Costs	Registered Contractor Per Diems	Certified Contractor Per Diems	Non-Registered Contractor Per Diems	Non-Certified Contractor Per Diems	ASL Contractor Per Diems	Total Contractor Per Diems	Contractor Travel, Mileage, Meals, & Lodging	Total Contractor-Related Costs	
	A	B	C	D (A + B + C)	E	F	G	H (D + E + F + G)	I	J	K	L	M	N (I thru M)	O	P (N + O)	
Alameda	2,943,478	5,341	-	2,948,819	-	-	-	2,948,819	36,606	219,233	71,780	52,918	88,591	469,128	84,295	553,423	3,502,242
Alpine	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	106	-	109	-	215	-	215	215
Amador	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,266	276	-	-	11,542	10,540	22,082	22,082
Butte	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	470	79,661	184	1,414	7,472	89,201	79,923	169,124	169,124
Calaveras	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,240	-	1,037	-	7,277	1,799	9,076	9,076
Colusa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	65,126	-	-	-	65,126	27,404	92,530	92,530
Contra Costa	1,158,831	1,583	-	1,160,414	-	-	-	1,160,414	40,920	189,856	8,072	12,933	1,411	253,192	27,306	280,498	1,440,912
Del Norte	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24,176	-	-	-	24,176	8,570	32,746	32,746
El Dorado	111,907	140	-	112,047	-	-	-	112,047	-	49,886	-	3,826	-	53,712	7,716	61,428	173,475
Fresno	1,813,616	3,659	38,122	1,855,397	-	89,000	-	1,944,397	9,837	25,601	13,344	39,858	41,349	129,989	2,241	132,230	2,076,627
Glenn	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19,841	-	24,885	-	44,726	23,609	68,335	68,335
Humboldt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	41,621	-	-	-	41,621	21,356	62,977	62,977
Imperial	420,983	1,441	-	422,424	-	-	-	422,424	-	58,369	-	-	-	58,369	13,864	72,233	494,657
Inyo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19,172	-	2,912	-	22,084	10,403	32,487	32,487
Kern	1,332,721	17,923	3,778	1,354,422	-	-	-	1,354,422	55,214	431,805	19,472	239,890	623	747,004	96,701	843,705	2,198,127
Kings	178,630	1,889	-	180,519	-	-	-	180,519	-	56,136	7,534	175	1,160	65,005	17,653	82,658	263,177
Lake	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	58,274	-	-	-	58,274	7,633	65,907	65,907
Lassen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,197	-	2,048	847	7,092	4,173	11,265	11,265
Los Angeles	28,651,825	1,621	407,533	29,060,979	-	-	332,357	29,393,336	172,882	916,523	177,514	71,218	700,589	2,038,726	358,359	2,397,085	31,790,421
Madera	384,511	-	-	384,511	-	-	-	384,511	-	61,708	-	10,193	-	71,901	35,027	106,928	491,439
Marin	420,671	-	-	420,671	-	-	-	420,671	-	30,687	-	1,679	-	32,366	18,370	50,736	471,407
Mariposa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	282	7,297	-	92	-	7,671	10,648	18,319	18,319
Mendocino	126,663	-	-	126,663	-	-	-	126,663	11,782	22,328	175	834	2,604	37,723	36,900	74,623	201,286
Merced	566,934	1,243	-	568,177	-	-	-	568,177	12,685	142,977	1,620	18,725	3,298	179,305	108,529	287,834	856,011
Modoc	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	600	-	4,760	-	-	5,360	-	5,360	5,360
Mono	27,363	-	2,612	29,975	-	-	-	29,975	-	60	-	727	2,062	2,849	3,965	6,814	36,789
Monterey	651,278	1,412	-	652,690	-	-	-	652,690	20,848	85,275	18,526	38,826	10,626	174,101	31,529	205,630	858,320
Napa	291,002	-	-	291,002	-	-	-	291,002	-	127,719	-	-	-	127,719	25,125	152,844	443,846
Nevada	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	313	19,723	-	5,211	470	25,717	6,596	32,313	32,313
Orange	6,430,898	3,066	99,626	6,533,590	-	151,199	-	6,684,789	77,338	793,240	50,591	120,315	145,747	1,187,231	27,460	1,214,691	7,899,480
Placer	103,871	159	671	104,701	-	-	-	104,701	8,782	78,425	-	21,884	16,365	125,456	65,580	191,036	295,737
Plumas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,504	-	-	100	-	1,604	3,643	5,247	5,247
Riverside	2,595,278	6,918	25,619	2,627,815	-	-	-	2,627,815	18,637	178,786	16,045	35,888	104,293	353,649	81,067	434,716	3,062,531
Sacramento	2,663,727	6,303	184,408	2,854,438	-	-	-	2,854,438	90,575	209,029	32,872	39,496	37,159	409,131	89,084	498,215	3,352,653
San Benito	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	93,496	-	1,592	-	95,088	-	95,088	95,088
San Bernardino	4,185,178	333	302	4,185,813	-	-	-	4,185,813	20,241	240,220	18,402	16,705	-	295,568	41,006	336,574	4,522,387
San Diego	5,391,530	4,705	21,996	5,418,231	-	-	47,819	5,466,050	72,482	175,523	47,080	110,920	-	406,005	63,453	469,458	5,935,508
San Francisco	1,405,156	-	9,331	1,414,487	-	-	-	1,414,487	55,293	357,942	17,794	88,439	42,737	562,205	43,246	605,451	2,019,938
San Joaquin	665,413	1,558	301,413	968,384	-	-	-	968,384	9,808	200,720	6,105	6,183	-	222,816	45,444	268,260	1,236,644
San Luis Obispo	252,391	-	-	252,391	-	-	-	252,391	11,433	40,092	1,348	1,128	7,950	61,951	20,846	82,797	335,188
San Mateo	1,334,418	2,464	869	1,337,751	-	-	-	1,337,751	22,596	106,192	15,764	56,597	7,050	208,199	25,724	233,923	1,571,674
Santa Barbara	1,026,969	1,436	-	1,028,405	-	-	-	1,028,405	26	170,006	30,649	92	22,928	223,701	39,433	263,134	1,291,539
Santa Clara	2,778,940	11,869	103,319	2,894,128	-	-	-	2,894,128	13,391	153,527	49,426	114,133	50,419	380,896	71,623	452,519	3,346,647
Santa Cruz	641,485	30	-	641,515	-	-	-	641,515	8,339	12,769	1,803	92	9,575	32,578	20,134	52,712	694,227
Shasta	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,804	43,653	100	8,852	8,998	92,407	101,262	193,669	193,669
Sierra	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	642	-	-	-	642	125	767	767
Siskiyou	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,550	28,293	-	156	-	38,999	11,540	50,539	50,539
Solano	106,336	37	-	106,373	-	-	-	106,373	13,806	109,010	8,065	59,378	12,562	202,821	22,192	225,013	331,386
Sonoma	1,030,497	381	28,085	1,058,963	-	-	-	1,058,963	19,973	67,126	8,971	5,100	38,874	140,044	25,830	165,874	1,224,837
Stanislaus	301,053	-	-	301,053	-	-	-	301,053	14,946	91,474	13,570	12,067	5,254	137,311	45,789	183,100	484,153
Sutter	234,590	99	-	234,689	-	-	-	234,689	4,150	12,771	1,314	2,800	1,722	22,757	12,809	35,566	270,255
Tehama	84,972	-	562	85,534	-	-	-	85,534	1,261	157	470	9,566	626	12,080	3,285	15,365	100,899
Trinity	-	725	-	725	-	-	-	725	-	25,003	92	-	-	25,095	14,736	39,831	40,556
Tulare	758,392	26	-	758,418	-	-	-	758,418	40,501	396,358	13,514	53,250	28,382	532,005	117,036	649,041	1,407,459
Tuolumne	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,330	-	184	-	7,514	1,319	8,833	8,833
Ventura	672,530	683	-	673,213	-	89,000	-	762,213	28,636	710,437	22,722	33,098	-	794,893	70,418	865,311	1,627,524
Yolo	113,233	-	-	113,233	-	-	-	113,233	44,527	177,133	1,077	10,876	4,518	238,131	88,418	326,549	439,782
Yuba	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,762	19,661	157	-	2,317	25,897	16,004	41,901	41,901
TOTAL	71,857,270	77,044	1,228,246	73,162,560	-	178,000	531,375	73,871,935	985,800	7,273,878	681,188	1,338,401	1,408,578	11,687,845	2,248,740	13,936,585	87,808,520