

The background features a large, faint, circular seal of the Judicial Council of California. The seal contains the text "JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA" around the perimeter, "EUREKA" at the top, and "1926" at the bottom. The central image depicts a woman holding a scale of justice, with a bear and a ship also visible.

*Strategic Plan for
Language Access in the
California Courts*

January 22, 2015

Need Reflected

- Chief Justice's Access 3D Vision
- Equal, Physical, Remote Access
- Enhancing language access is a critical component



Presentation Agenda

- The need for language access
- The basic structure of the Plan
- The planning process
- Recent changes in response to public comment
- Proposal for implementation
- Final Plan for adoption



Need for the Plan

- Equal access to justice for all is the cornerstone of our judicial process
- 7 million Limited English Proficient Californians are potential court users
- Language access is critical
- Voices from the planning process reinforced this need



Public Voices

“There is a need for a fundamental change in culture. Language access should be as integral and critical to court operations as keeping on the lights.”

-Legal Services Attorney



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The LAP supports Goal I of the Judicial Council's 2006-2016 *Strategic Plan:*

- All persons will have equal access to the courts and court proceedings
- Court procedures will be fair and understandable to court users; and
- Members of the judicial branch community will strive to understand and be responsive to the needs of court users from diverse cultural backgrounds



Content of the Plan

- Set of 75 comprehensive recommendations
- Promotes language access as a core court service in every courthouse branchwide
- Accommodates individual court need for flexibility



Planning Process



Stakeholder input has been essential



Public Hearing



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Formal Public Comment

| From... | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 41 legal services & community organizations | Indigenous language interpreters & community organizations |
| ACLU of California & community organizations | Individual superior courts (Alameda, Fresno, Los Angeles, Orange, Placer, and Ventura) |
| CA Association of Family Court Services Directors | Legal Aid Association of CA |
| CA Commission on Access to Justice | Two attorneys |
| CA Federation of Interpreters | One court commissioner |
| CA Rural Legal Assistance | One court interpreter |
| CA State Bar's Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services | |



Working Group Response

- Reorganized Plan and reordered priorities
- Added new recommendations re: VRI
- Added Family Court Services Mediation as a priority for Phase 1 of civil expansion
- Added language clarifying plan implementation and key role of Implementation Task Force
- Added new recommendation re: court-ordered programs



Next Steps

- Form Implementation Task Force
- Create standing committee for Translations
- One time and ongoing funding



Recommendations

- Council to adopt final plan
- Immediately form Language Access Implementation Task Force (ITF), and Translation Committee
- ITF will provide periodic updates to E&P and/or council regarding LAP implementation progress



Group Charge

- Develop a comprehensive statewide language access plan that will serve California's LEP court users
- Plan accomplishes charge



Discussion and/or Motion for Adoption



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Public Hearing



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In Courtroom



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Signage

