

COUNCIL OF LANGUAGE ACCESS COORDINATORS (CLAC)

CHARTER

I. Charter

The Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA) hereby charters the Council of Language Access Coordinators.

II. Name

This organization is the Council of Language Access Coordinators.

III. Purpose

The Council of Language Access Coordinators, hereinafter referred to as CLAC, is created by COSCA to facilitate the professional development of CLAC members through educational and networking activities, and, upon request by the COSCA Language Access Advisory Committee (LAAC), to provide technical expertise, volunteer services and assistance to LAAC.

IV. Membership

The Council of Language Access Coordinators shall consist of individuals designated by the COSCA member in each state who are interested in or associated with the provision of language access services to the courts, such as language access program coordinators.

V. Organizational Relationships

A. Conference of State Court Administrators Language Access Advisory Committee

The Language Access Advisory Committee (LAAC) is a subcommittee of the joint Access, Fairness, Public Trust and Confidence (AFPTC) Committee of COSCA and the Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ). LAAC is composed of COSCA members, and includes representation from the Council of Language Access Coordinators as non-voting members for technical purposes, as appropriate. Such non-voting members will be designated by the members of LAAC. Policy and resolution recommendations from LAAC are submitted to the full AFPTC Committee for review and approval.

LAAC focuses on:

- Promoting the availability of timely and high quality court interpreting and other language access services for all state courts
- Strengthening professional standards and practices for court interpretation and language access in the state courts
- Exchanging and collaborating on strategies, best practices and information among courts to enhance court interpreting and other language access services
- Working closely with the appropriate NCSC staff related to court interpreter testing issues, including test development, maintenance, administration and policies
- Supporting the development of training programs, best practices and protocols for court interpretation

B. Council of Language Access Coordinators

CLAC is created by COSCA to facilitate the professional development of CLAC members through educational and networking activities, and, upon request by LAAC, to provide technical expertise, volunteer services and assistance to LAAC. It consists of members with subject matter expertise whose purpose and membership are set forth in sections III and IV. As part of the assistance that it may provide to LAAC, CLAC may be requested by LAAC to identify topics of policy and technical interest for research, further consideration and development.

C. National Center for State Courts

The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) is responsible for development, management and maintenance of valid and reliable testing instruments for court interpretation and other language access services as specified below. Specifically the NCSC will:

- Develop valid testing instruments for court interpreters in multiple languages
- Provide support in the training and testing of state court interpreters
- Develop certification testing standards and requirements
- Identify best practices related to recruitment, training and managing services for languages other than English
- Serve as a clearinghouse for information on court interpreting and other language access services

- Provide technical assistance to the courts on court interpreting and other language access issues
- Provide guidance to courts on managing language access services
- Provide staff support to LAAC
- Provide secretariat services to CLAC as set forth herein
- Serve as liaison to other organizations
- Develop a long range plan for the provision of interpreters and other language access services, including the use of technology

VI. Meetings

CLAC is encouraged to conduct an annual conference to further the professional development of its members and exchange information and best practices on the provision of court interpreting and other language access services. Members of CLAC or their states will fund participation in such meetings, including associated administrative or secretariat services, through conference registration fees. CLAC is encouraged to develop and implement communication networking strategies to support the professional development of its members and to provide technical expertise, volunteer services and support to LAAC, upon request by LAAC.

VII. Funding

The cost of secretariat or administrative services needed to support organization of CLAC conferences and other networking activities will be paid from conference registration fees.