

Meet the Trainers



Agustín Servin de la Mora was born and raised in Mexico City, Mexico, and has been a professional interpreter for the last 22 years, both as a freelance and staff interpreter. He is the President of the de la Mora Interpreter Training. Mr. de la Mora is one of the Supervisor Raters in the United States for the National Center for State Courts and has been a Lead Rater for the federal and consortium oral exams for court interpreters. He was the Lead Interpreter for the Ninth Judicial Circuit for over a decade, is a member of the Florida Court Interpreter Certification Board and a voting member of the Technical Committee of the National Consortium for Interpreter Certification. Mr. de la Mora is certified by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, as a Federally Certified Court Interpreter. He is also a Certified Court interpreter by the Florida Court Interpreter Certification Board. He has been a consultant for the Administrative Offices of the State Courts, conducting orientation seminars and advanced skills workshops for interpreters in Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Washington and Wisconsin. As a recognized professional in his field, he has been featured as a speaker and presenter in several national conventions, including the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators, the American Translators Association and the National Association of State Court Administrators.



Patricia Michelsen-King, originally from Colombia, serves as a consultant to judiciaries throughout the country on the development of foreign language interpretation services. She is Federally Certified and interprets in Virginia federal and state courts. She is a Master Test Specialist for the National Center for State Courts and has worked on the development of the state tests, as well as the federal oral and written exams. She has also trained raters for the state and federal tests. Presently she is the Coordinator of the SETI Program (Spanish English Translation Interpretation Certificate) and teaching at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia. She was on the Advisory Committee for the ABA Standards for Language Access in Courts. She has had extensive experience training court interpreters in 36 states, and continues to be a featured speaker at state and national judicial conferences that educate judges, attorneys, and court system personnel on properly handling interpreted proceedings.

Patricia formerly served as the Chief Interpreter for the United States District Court, Southern District of New York where she supervised Spanish and other language interpreters, provided interpreter training and orientation, and dealt extensively with the courts, bar, public and the interpreter community on issues of concern. She also works as a translator and has transcribed tapes for 37 trials, and been qualified as an expert witness more than 25 times in five states. In addition, she does conference interpreting for corporations, and has interpreted for former U.S. Attorney Janet Reno, Supreme Court Justices Ruth Bader-Ginsberg, and Sandra Day O'Connor

among others. Ms. Michelsen-King has completed post-graduate work in advanced simultaneous interpretation techniques at Marymount Manhattan College.



Sophia N. Akbar is the Language Access Services Specialist at the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (AOIC). Sophia manages the AOIC interpreter certification program in Illinois and the statewide interpreter registry. Sophia also oversees implementation of the IL Supreme Court Language Access Policy and serves on the Language Access Advisory Board, which enforces the Illinois Code of Interpreter Ethics. She assists each of the 24 circuit courts in creating and updating a Language Access Plan, which describes each circuit court's practices and procedures related to providing language assistance services. Sophia conducts trainings for judges and court personnel to improve and standardize language access practices. Sophia also reviews data collected from the circuit courts to assess the current need for interpreters across Illinois and the current status of interpreter usage and language access services in the courts.

Sophia is an attorney with a background in poverty law and policy implementation. Her prior legal experience involved helping disadvantaged communities access the legal system. Sophia is not trained as an interpreter, but speaks Urdu and has studied Arabic. Having grown up in an immigrant community, she is aware of the challenges language barriers can present to limited English proficient persons. Sophia graduated from the University of Chicago with a degree in Public Policy and a minor in Arabic in 2008, and graduated from the University of Iowa College of Law in 2012. She has worked at legal aid organizations, including the Legal Assistance Foundation and the Shriver Center on Poverty Law in Chicago. Prior to joining the AOIC, Sophia worked for the Illinois House of Representatives and assisted passing legislation in the areas of consumer protection, public benefits, and child support.