

Interpreters in the Courtroom

Language Access Webinar
November 15, 2018

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State Licensed Court Interpreters



History of regulation of Texas interpreters

Prior to 2001

1. In state courts, no regulating body to qualify interpreters.
2. In federal courts, the Administrative Office of the United States Courts was the regulating body.

Since 2001

1. Spoken language interpreters are regulated by the Judicial Branch Certification Commission (JBCC) under Texas Office of Court Administration (OCA).
2. Sign language interpreters are regulated by the Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) under Health and Human Services (HHS).



The need for court interpreters in Texas

One in six Texans reports to be Limited English Proficient (LEP)



Top Languages spoken by LEP's

- Spanish
- Vietnamese
- Mandarin
- Korean



When is a spoken or sign language interpreter appointed by the court?

TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, SEC 57.002

Any of the following may apply:

1. Upon the motion of a party
2. Upon the request of a witness
3. Upon the motion of the court



Who can act as a spoken language interpreter in my county?

TEX GOV'T CODE, SEC 57.002

Court proceedings in counties with a population \leq 50,000

1. Must be qualified as an 'expert' under Texas Rules of Evidence.
2. Must be at least 18 years of age.
3. Must not be a party to the proceeding.

Court proceedings in counties with a population \geq 50,000

1. Spanish interpreters must be licensed court interpreters.
2. For any other language, if no licensed interpreter is found within 75 miles, a court may appoint an unlicensed interpreter.



When is a spoken language interpreter appointed by the court in criminal cases?

TEX CODE OF CRIM PROC, ART 38.30

Upon the motion for appointment of an interpreter, the interpreter must be sworn to interpret for the person charged or the witness.

The interpreter is under the same rules and penalties as those provided for witnesses.

If the available interpreter is not adequately equipped to interpret, the person charged or witness may be permitted by the court to nominate another individual who will act as an intermediary between the LEP and the appointed interpreter during the proceeding.



When is a sign language interpreter appointed by the court in criminal cases?

TEX CODE OF CRIM PROC, ART 38.31

Upon the motion for appointment of an interpreter for deaf persons by a party or the court, a qualified interpreter must be sworn to interpret for the person charged or the witness.

“Qualified interpreter” means an interpreter who holds a legal certificate issued by National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf or a current court interpreter certificate issued by the Board for Evaluation of Interpreters.



When is a spoken or sign language interpreter appointed by the court in civil cases?

TEX RULES OF CIVIL PROC, RULE 183

- The court may appoint an interpreter of its own selection and may fix the interpreter's reasonable compensation. The compensation shall be paid out of funds provided by law or by one or more of the parties as the court may direct, and may be taxed ultimately as costs, in the discretion of the court.



How does Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 impact interpreters in the court system?

Guidance letter to all State Court Administrators

- The Department of Justice (DOJ) guidance refers to the importance of meaningful access to courts and courtrooms, without distinguishing among civil, criminal or administrative matters. It states that “every effort should be taken to ensure competent interpretation for LEP individuals during *all* hearings, trials, and motions.”¹

¹ https://www.lep.gov/final_courts_ltr_081610.pdf



Texas Office of Court Administration

A unique state agency in the Judicial Branch of Texas that operates under the direction of the Supreme Court of Texas and the Chief Justice.

Our mission is to provide resources and information for the efficient administration of the Judicial Branch of Texas.



Language Access Department

Texas Court Remote Interpreter Service



- **Free** court remote interpreting services via telephone or videoconference.
- In short, non-contested and non-evidentiary hearings of 30 minutes or less.
- By advanced scheduling or on demand, upon interpreter's availability.

Finding a Court Interpreter



Step 1: Go to www.txcourts.gov (Programs & Services > Interpretation & Translation)

The screenshot shows the Texas Judicial Branch website. The header features the text "Texas Judicial BRANCH" over a background of the Texas state flag. A navigation bar includes links for Home, Courts, Rules & Forms, Organizations, Publications & Training, Programs & Services, Judicial Data, eFile Texas, and Media. The "Programs & Services" menu is open, displaying a list of services. A red arrow points from the "Programs & Services" menu to the "Interpretation & Translation" option, which is also highlighted with a red box. Below the navigation bar, a "Welcome to the Texas Judicial Branch" message is followed by a photograph of the Supreme Court of Texas justices. A search bar and a "TER TIMELINE" section are visible on the right side of the page.

Texas Judicial
BRANCH

Home Courts Rules & Forms Organizations Publications & Training Programs & Services Judicial Data eFile Texas Media

Welcome to the Texas Judicial Branch

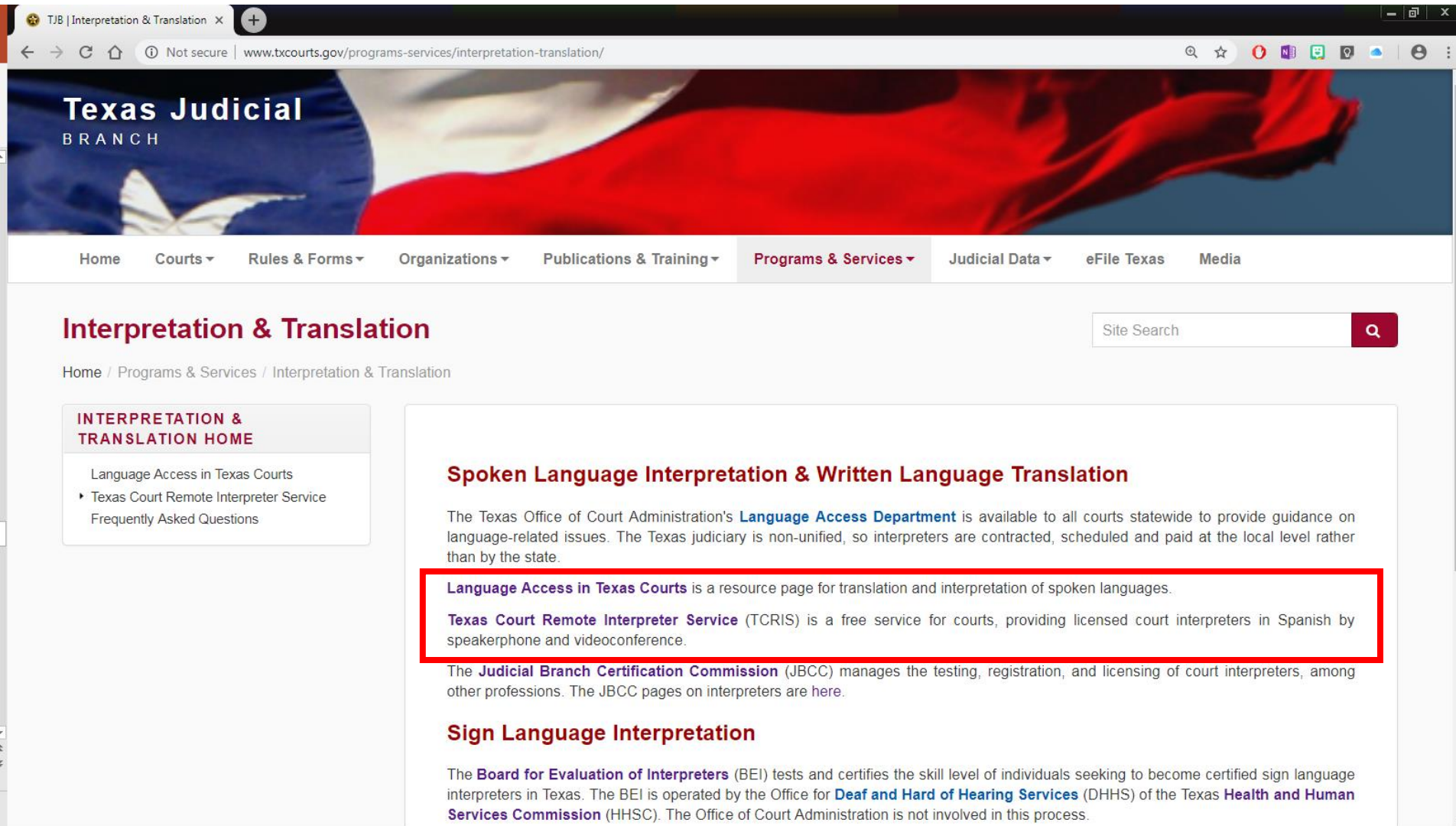
Supreme Court of
Texas

- Centers of Excellence
- Certification, Registration & Licensing
- Collection Improvement Program
- Court Consultant Services
- Court Security
- Domestic Violence Resource Program
- Electronic Filing
- Guardianship Compliance Project
- Indigent Defense
- Interpretation & Translation**
- Legal Aid
- Pretrial Risk Assessment Information System for Texas
- Self-Help
- Statewide eCitation System
- Video Conferencing

www.txcourts.gov/programs-services/interpretation-translation/



Step 2: Click on Language Access in Texas Courts



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL www.txcourts.gov/programs-services/interpretation-translation/. The page header features the Texas Judicial Branch logo and a navigation menu with items: Home, Courts, Rules & Forms, Organizations, Publications & Training, Programs & Services (highlighted), Judicial Data, eFile Texas, and Media. The main content area is titled 'Interpretation & Translation' and includes a search bar. A sidebar on the left contains a 'HOME' link and a list of items: 'Language Access in Texas Courts', 'Texas Court Remote Interpreter Service', and 'Frequently Asked Questions'. The main text area has a red-bordered box around the following text: 'Language Access in Texas Courts is a resource page for translation and interpretation of spoken languages. Texas Court Remote Interpreter Service (TCRIS) is a free service for courts, providing licensed court interpreters in Spanish by speakerphone and videoconference.' Below this, there are sections for 'Spoken Language Interpretation & Written Language Translation' and 'Sign Language Interpretation'.

INTERPRETATION & TRANSLATION HOME

- Language Access in Texas Courts
- ▶ Texas Court Remote Interpreter Service
- Frequently Asked Questions

Spoken Language Interpretation & Written Language Translation

The Texas Office of Court Administration's [Language Access Department](#) is available to all courts statewide to provide guidance on language-related issues. The Texas judiciary is non-unified, so interpreters are contracted, scheduled and paid at the local level rather than by the state.

Language Access in Texas Courts is a resource page for translation and interpretation of spoken languages.

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The **Judicial Branch Certification Commission (JBCC)** manages the testing, registration, and licensing of court interpreters, among other professions. The JBCC pages on interpreters are [here](#).

Sign Language Interpretation

The **Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI)** tests and certifies the skill level of individuals seeking to become certified sign language interpreters in Texas. The BEI is operated by the Office for [Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services \(DHHS\)](#) of the Texas [Health and Human Services Commission \(HHSC\)](#). The Office of Court Administration is not involved in this process.



Step 3: For languages other than the top 4 languages spoken in Texas, scroll to the bottom and see Additional Resources.

Additional Resources

- **Judicial Branch Certification Commission (JBCC)** - The Judicial Branch Certification Commission licenses court interpreters and maintains a current list that can be used to find an interpreter in a particular area of the state.
- **Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR)** - State agency resource for interpreting and translating services if a Texas licensed court interpreter on the JBCC list of licensed court interpreters is unavailable.
- **Interpreter Locator Listserv for Courts (OCA)** - This free OCA resource helps court personnel find spoken language interpreters when there is none available from the JBCC **Licensed Court Interpreters** list. Any Texas judge, court coordinator, administrator or other court staff member who is responsible for scheduling interpreters can e-mail the OCA Language Access Program at interpreter@txcourts.gov to join. Please title your e-mail "Join Listserv," and in the body of the message include your name, title/position, court, city, ZIP code, county, e-mail address and phone number. A reply e-mail with instructions will be sent.
- **Judges' Guide to Standards for Interpreted Proceedings (NCSC)** - This guide for judges can be found in Chapter 6 of **Court Interpretation: Model Guides for Policy and Practice in the State Courts**, published by the National Center for State Courts.
- **I Speak card** - A tool for identifying the language of individuals who do not speak English.
- **Limited English Proficiency web site (LEP.gov)** - Federal interagency web site with information and resources on providing language assistance to LEP individuals.
- **State Interpreter Certification (NCSC)** - The Consortium for Language Access in the Courts' section of the NCSC web site.
- **Standards for Language Access in Courts (ABA)** - Adopted by the ABA House of Delegates on February 6, 2012.

1. Interpreters work in *spoken and signed* languages, while translators work in *written* languages.



Physical Address

Tom C. Clark Bldg.
205 W. 14th, Ste. 600
Austin, TX 78701

Top 10 Court Web Sites



2016 WINNER

Mailing Address

P O Box 12066
Austin, TX 78711-2066

Phone

Main: 512-463-5656
Fax: 512-666-3633

Email

interpreter@txcourts.gov

Finance

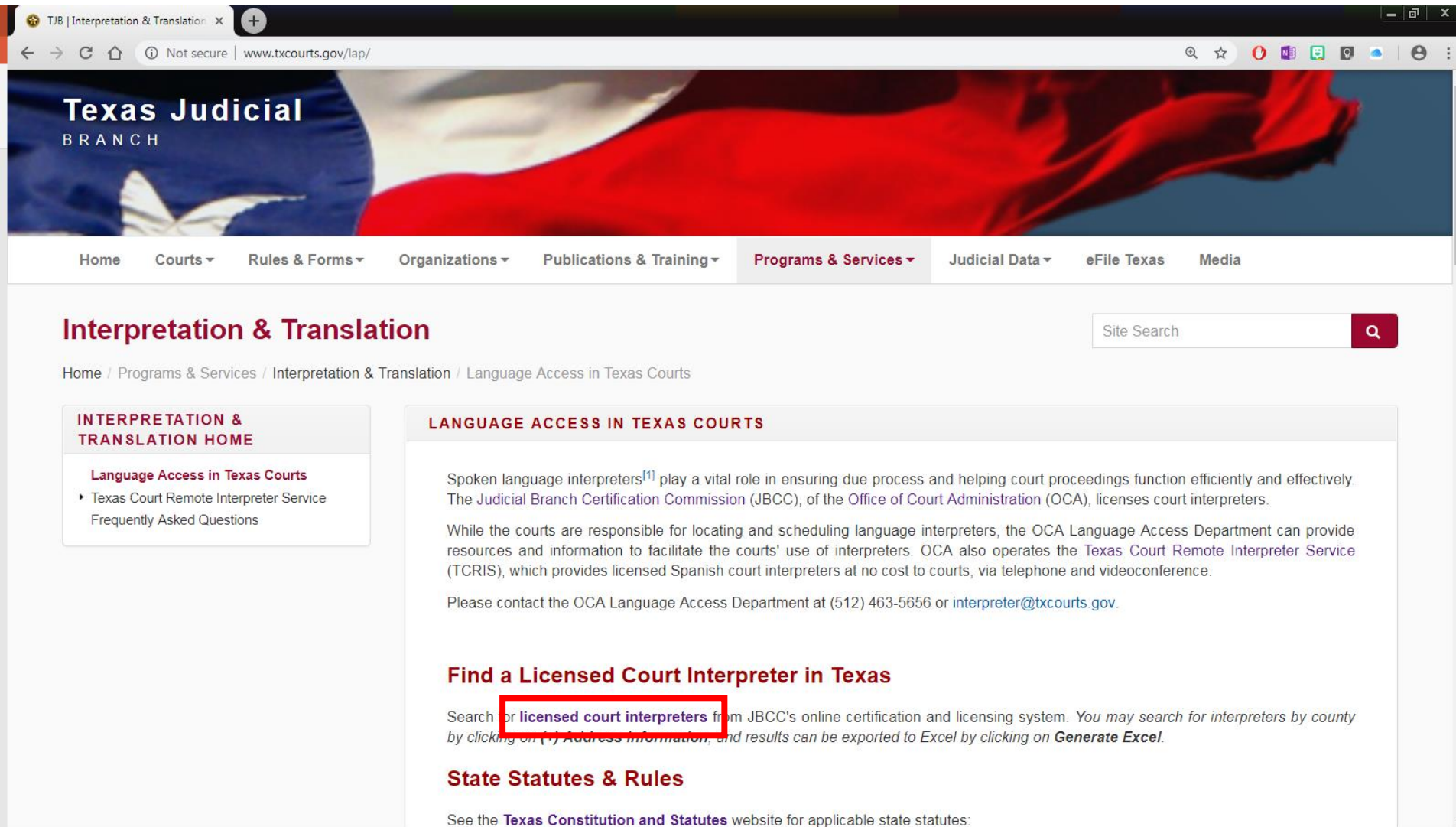
Where the Money Goes
Report Fraud, Waste and Abuse

Resources

Careers
Site Policies
Texas Homeland Security
Texas Veterans Portal
Texas.gov
TRAIL
Webmaster



Step 4: Click licensed court interpreters.



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL www.txcourts.gov/lap/. The page header features the Texas Judicial Branch logo and a navigation menu with items: Home, Courts, Rules & Forms, Organizations, Publications & Training, Programs & Services, Judicial Data, eFile Texas, and Media. The main content area is titled "Interpretation & Translation" and includes a search bar. A breadcrumb trail reads: Home / Programs & Services / Interpretation & Translation / Language Access in Texas Courts. On the left, a sidebar titled "INTERPRETATION & TRANSLATION HOME" contains a link for "Language Access in Texas Courts" with sub-links for "Texas Court Remote Interpreter Service" and "Frequently Asked Questions". The main content area is titled "LANGUAGE ACCESS IN TEXAS COURTS" and contains the following text:

Spoken language interpreters^[1] play a vital role in ensuring due process and helping court proceedings function efficiently and effectively. The Judicial Branch Certification Commission (JBCC), of the Office of Court Administration (OCA), licenses court interpreters.

While the courts are responsible for locating and scheduling language interpreters, the OCA Language Access Department can provide resources and information to facilitate the courts' use of interpreters. OCA also operates the Texas Court Remote Interpreter Service (TCRIS), which provides licensed Spanish court interpreters at no cost to courts, via telephone and videoconference.

Please contact the OCA Language Access Department at (512) 463-5656 or interpreter@txcourts.gov.

Find a Licensed Court Interpreter in Texas

Search for **licensed court interpreters** from JBCC's online certification and licensing system. You may search for interpreters by county by clicking on [\(*\) Address information](#), and results can be exported to Excel by clicking on **Generate Excel**.

State Statutes & Rules

See the [Texas Constitution and Statutes](#) website for applicable state statutes:



Step 5: In the new window, click on the Generate Excel button.



Step 6: View the results in Microsoft Excel.

LicenseeList (9).xls [Compatibility Mode] - Excel

Leonardo Perales

File Home Insert Page Layout Formulas Data Review View Acrobat Tell me what you want to do

Clipboard Font Alignment Number Conditional Formatting Format as Table Styles Cells Editing

A1

LICENSEE LIST

Name	Certification Type	Certification Number	Status	Expiration Date	Address	State	County	Phone#	Primary Email
ABRAHAM WILSON	MASTER COURT INTERPRETER(SPANISH)	LCI-851	Active	02/28/2020	133 N RIVERFRONT BLVD 9TH FLOOR DALLAS, TX 75207	TX	DALLAS	972-702-8072	ABFDAL2000@AOL.COM
ACELA G GARRETT	MASTER COURT INTERPRETER(SPANISH)	LCI-404	Active	01/31/2020	PO BOX 295179 LEWISVILLE, TX 75029	TX	DENTON		LANGUAGE@ABG2.COM
ADELA GARCIA MORENO	MASTER COURT INTERPRETER(SPANISH)	LCI-670	Active	01/31/2020	PO BOX 6102 BROWNSVILLE, TX 78523	TX	CAMERON	956-498-4708	ADELA_GARCIA_MORENO@HOTMAIL.COM
ADRIANA A MORALES	MASTER COURT INTERPRETER(SPANISH)	LCI-1671	Active	09/30/2019	7506 WATER WOOD TRL HUMBLE, TX 77346-3304	TX	HARRIS	214-695-3088	ADRIANA.MEXIC01@HOTMAIL.COM
ADRIANA MEDINA	MASTER COURT INTERPRETER(SPANISH)	LCI-230	Active	02/28/2020	2436 GRAND BLVD 110 PEARLAND, TX 77661-1888	TX	BRAZORIA	281-485-1528	ADRIANAM@BRAZORIA-COUNTY.COM

LicenseeSearch

Ready

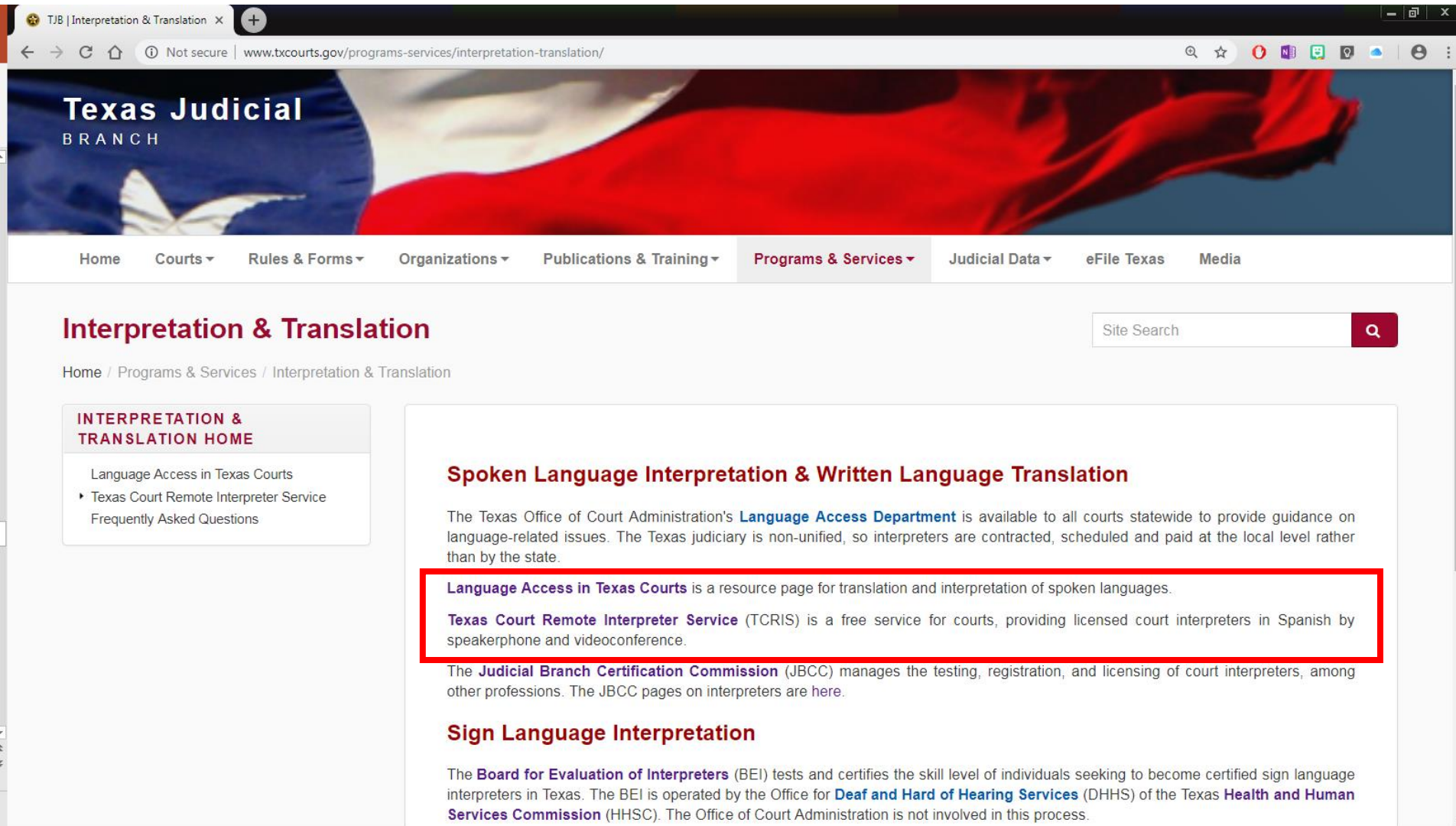
100%



Using OCA's Remote Interpreting Service



Step 1: Click Texas Court Remote Interpreter Service



TJB | Interpretation & Translation x

Not secure | www.txcourts.gov/programs-services/interpretation-translation/

Texas Judicial BRANCH

Home Courts Rules & Forms Organizations Publications & Training **Programs & Services** Judicial Data eFile Texas Media

Interpretation & Translation

Home / Programs & Services / Interpretation & Translation

INTERPRETATION & TRANSLATION HOME

- Language Access in Texas Courts
- ▶ Texas Court Remote Interpreter Service
- Frequently Asked Questions

Spoken Language Interpretation & Written Language Translation

The Texas Office of Court Administration's [Language Access Department](#) is available to all courts statewide to provide guidance on language-related issues. The Texas judiciary is non-unified, so interpreters are contracted, scheduled and paid at the local level rather than by the state.

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Step 2: Click Schedule An Interpreter

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL www.txcourts.gov/tcris/. The page title is "Texas Judicial BRANCH". The navigation menu includes: Home, Courts, Rules & Forms, Organizations, Publications & Training, Programs & Services, Judicial Data, eFile Texas, and Media. The main heading is "Interpretation & Translation". Below the heading is a search bar and a breadcrumb trail: Home / Programs & Services / Interpretation & Translation / Texas Court Remote Interpreter Service. On the left, there is a sidebar menu with "INTERPRETATION & TRANSLATION HOME" and a sub-menu for "Texas Court Remote Interpreter Service" containing links for "Who May Use This Service", "How to Enroll", "Equipment Needed", "Bench Card", "Introductory Video", and "Frequently Asked Questions". The main content area is titled "TEXAS COURT REMOTE INTERPRETER SERVICE (TCRIS)". A red box highlights a button labeled "SCHEDULE AN INTERPRETER". Below the button, there is a paragraph: "Spanish licensed court interpreters available to courts via speakerphone or videoconference." Underneath is a section titled "Overview & Scope" with the text: "The Office of Court Administration's (OCA) Texas Court Remote Interpreter Service (TCRIS) provides:" followed by a bulleted list:


- **free** Spanish language interpreting services by state licensed court interpreters^[1] in *all* case types,
- for short, non-contested and non-evidentiary hearings that would typically last 30 minutes or less^[2] by advanced scheduling or on demand, as available^[3],
- by telephone or by video conference, using the court's existing equipment.^[4]

Below the list is the text: "For interpretation and translation needs not covered by TCRIS, please see the OCA Language Access Program." At the bottom, there is a footnote: "1. These interpreters have passed stringent oral and written testing developed by the National Center for State Courts' Consortium for State Court for Language Access in the Courts, are experienced in Texas courtroom procedures, meet annual continuing education requirements, and comply with the Licensed Court Interpreters Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility."



Step 3: In the new window, click on Make Appointment for Spanish

Office of Court Administration - <https://www.appointmentquest.com/scheduler/2150096234>


Office of Court Administration
PO Box 12066
Austin, TX 78711
USA (512) 463-5656

Online Appointment Scheduler

Make Appointment | My Calendar | My Appointments | My Profile | Login

Services

Spanish

Remote Spanish court interpretation by videoconference or telephone, provided by a licensed Texas court interpreter.

[Make Appointment for Spanish](#)

Business Hours

Day	Hours
Sunday	Closed
Monday	08:00 AM - 05:00 PM
Tuesday	08:00 AM - 05:00 PM
Wednesday	08:00 AM - 05:00 PM
Thursday	08:00 AM - 05:00 PM
Friday	08:00 AM - 05:00 PM
Saturday	Closed

Since you are currently not logged in you will be asked to do so when you try to make an appointment.
You may [Login](#) now.


Online appointment scheduler powered by AppointmentQuest



Step 4: Click on the Enrollment tab and fill in the form.

Office of Court Administration - 1 x

https://www.appointmentquest.com/scheduler/2150096234/enroll



PO Box 12066
Austin, TX 78711
USA (512) 463-5656

Online Appointment Scheduler

Login **Enrollment**

To start making appointments just fill in the form below and click the Enroll button.

New Customer Profile

First Name:	<input type="text"/>
Last Name:	<input type="text"/>
Name of Court/Organization:	<input type="text"/>
Phone:	<input type="text"/> ext. <input type="text"/> (optional)
Cell Phone:	<input type="text"/> (optional)
Fax:	<input type="text"/> (optional)
E-mail:	<input type="text"/> (optional)
E-mail Preference:	<input type="radio"/> Rich Text (HTML) <input checked="" type="radio"/> Plain Text (ASCII) (optional)
Mailing Address:	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/> United States <input type="text"/>
Your Position:	<input type="radio"/> Judge <input type="radio"/> Associate Judge <input type="radio"/> Master <input type="radio"/> Magistrate <input type="radio"/> Referee <input type="radio"/> Other (please specify below) (optional)
Your Position (if not listed above):	<input type="text"/> (optional)
Type of Court:	<input type="radio"/> District Court <input type="radio"/> Statutory County Court (County Court at Law) <input type="radio"/> Statutory Probate Court



Step 5: Click on the Enroll button at the bottom of the page.

Office of Court Administration - 1 x

https://www.appointmentquest.com/scheduler/2150096234/enroll

Your Position (if not listed above): (optional)

Type of Court:

- District Court
- Statutory County Court (County Court at Law)
- Statutory Probate Court
- Constitutional County Court
- IV-D Court
- Child Protection Court
- Specialty Court (e.g., Drug Court, DWI Court or Mental Health Court)
- Municipal Court
- Justice Court
- Other (please specify below) (optional)

Type of Court (if not listed above): (optional)

County (where interpretation services provided): (optional)

Name of a backup person in your court that we can contact if needed: (optional)

That person's phone number: (optional)

That person's e-mail address: (optional)

Interpretation services requested by means of:

- Speaker phone
- Videoconference
- Wireless headsets
- Other or undecided (optional)

Are you currently set up for videoconferencing?: Yes No (optional)

Is there a microphone for each participant?: Yes No (optional)

Additional comments about audio/video equipment available: (optional)

Desired Username:

Password:

Confirm Password:

Online appointment scheduler powered by AppointmentQuest





Language Access Department

Phone: **(512) 463-5656**

Email: Interpreter@TxCourts.gov

www.TxCourts.gov/tcris

