

Interpreters Division: 2008 Candidate Statement

Ms. Thelma Gomez-Ferry

Candidate for Assistant Administrator

I welcome this unique opportunity to face the challenge to be considered for the nomination of Assistant Administrator for the ATA Interpreters Division.

I have acquired more than eighteen (18) years of experience managing my language consulting firm, servicing numerous multinational corporations. My specialization is conference interpreting in the legal and medical fields. I am currently performing as Staff Court Interpreter with El Paso State Courthouse; I have been the recipient of numerous community service awards for my dedication to community involvement as instructor for English as a Second Language.

As an advocate for team interpreting in the courtroom; I have conducted interactive workshops and presented at International Conventions and most recently at the 2008 National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators 29th Annual Conference and the International Translation/Interpretation Conference & Expo 2008 in Mexico.

In addition, I have served as an expert witness in many criminal and civil cases and working under contract for the United States District Court in the Southern District of Texas.

My professional affiliations include: Translators and Interpreters Guild (TTIG), the National Association of

Judiciary Interpreters (NAJIT), the American Translators Association (ATA), and the Asociación Panameña de Traductores e Intérpretes (APTI). I am also a founding member of the Texas Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (TAJIT) serving as membership committee board member.

I will dedicate my efforts to encourage an atmosphere of cooperation and interchange by:

- Organizing a Division Conference event to engage in professional development to build our professional competencies, energize our leadership skills and share networking opportunities.
- Conducting extensive research and working with ATA to seek a comprehensive professional healthcare insurance coverage for our members. ID membership participation will be encouraged.
- Re-establishing the publication of the division newsletter. I will actively recruit members to volunteer and expand communications links between the Division and the Association to provide more visibility and positive exposure.

I would be honored to serve as Assistant Administrator for the Interpreters Division of ATA.