American Translators Association
225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Sir/Madam:

This responds to your letter of November 20, 2015, addressed to Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR). Director Juan P. Osuna. Your letter was forwarded to me for reply.

The Office of Administration oversees EOIR’s procurement office, which manages many of EOIR’s contracts. Although the specific contract you reference for interpretation services is managed by the Department of Justice, Justice Management Division, I believe that we can address some of your concerns. Knowing the critical need for skilled interpreters in the immigration courts, EOIR works to ensure that only qualified interpreters provide language services in those courts.

SOS International (SOSi) began providing interpreter services to immigration courts in two cities in October 2015 and began to provide interpreter services to immigration courts nationwide on December 1, 2015. EOIR has conveyed to SOSi the importance of ensuring that the interpreters they provide are qualified and we understand that SOSi has contracted with many of the same qualified contract interpreters who were under contract with EOIR’s previous interpreter services provider. These qualified contract interpreters will continue to provide language services in the immigration courts.

Thank you for your letter. We appreciate your concerns and encourage the American Translators Association to notify EOIR if at any time it believes the interpreter services provider is not providing qualified interpreters.

Sincerely,

Kate Sheehey
Acting Deputy Assistant Director
Office of Administration

cc: USDOJ, OCR, Division of Federal Coordination and Compliance