



## American Translators Association

*The Voice of Interpreters and Translators*

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April 22, 2019

Mr. Robert Lowney  
Chief, Courts Programs Division  
Administrative Office of the United States Courts  
1 Columbus Circle Northeast  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Mr. Lowney,

As president of the American Translators Association, the United States' largest association of professional translators and interpreters, I am writing to respectfully request that you create a publicly available roster of Federally-Certified Court Interpreters that attorneys and individuals in need of interpreters can access. After discussing this situation with other translation and interpreting associations in the US, ATA feels that it would be advantageous to limited English proficiency (LEP) persons in the US, and their attorneys, to be able to easily consult such a directory on your office's website.

As the entity responsible for certifying Federal Court Interpreters, the AOUSC is uniquely able to publish this roster. As an example, the American Translators Association allows the general public to verify an ATA-certified translator's credential on our own website; we believe that this results in greater recognition of the importance of professional translators, and in greater confidence in our credential, because it can be verified. Publishing your roster would surely make it easier for LEP individuals and their attorneys to access qualified interpreters, without the risk of using untrained bilinguals, or individuals misrepresenting themselves as FCCI-credentialed.

We understand that there may be some concerns related to the privacy of interpreters who do not wish for their contact information to be made public. It seems that this could be easily solved by giving interpreters the option to choose what contact details would appear in your directory, or to opt out of it entirely. We feel that a public directory of Federally-certified interpreters would be a great benefit to the general public and to LEP individuals in their interactions with the US courts.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Corinne McKay  
President