

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO**

400 McAllister Street, Room 205  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4512  
Phone: 415-551-5707  
FAX: 415-551-5701



**T. MICHAEL YUEN**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

December 8, 2020

VIA US MAIL AND EMAIL

Mr. Michael Ferreira, President  
California Federation of Interpreters, Local 39000  
11823 E. Slauson Ave, Unit 7  
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

RE: Notice of Planned Adoption of Video Remote Interpreting in Region 2

Dear Michael,

After months of requests to bargain, beginning in December 2018, on August 24, 2020 Region 2 Courts made a final request to the California Federation of Interpreters, Local 39000 to impact bargain Video Remote Interpreting (VRI). Article 19, Section 9 of the Memorandum of Understanding between CFI and the Region requires that the Region “provide CFI with not fewer than 90 days advance written notice of its decision and provide to CFI the opportunity to meet and confer regarding the impacts of the decision [to implement VRI] prior to the implementation of the decision.” Kristina Ramsey, CFI Board Member and Representative for Region 2, contacted Kim Turner shortly before the 90-day deadline to ask that the Region 2 CEOs agree to postpone VRI impact bargaining until the expired Region 2 successor MOU is bargained. Given the immense challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has presented to the courts and the union, Ms. Ramsey also stated that the union is prepared to postpone bargaining the successor MOU until summer 2021, leaving the current agreement in place through September 30, 2021.

Kim explained to Ms. Ramsey that the Region 2 courts have been attempting to bargain VRI impacts for nearly three years and she was doubtful that the CEOs of those courts would be willing to postpone implementation for nearly an additional year. Kim added that the Region 2 courts have already missed out on a few opportunities to apply for technology grant funding to purchase expensive and proprietary equipment used in VRI, successfully piloted by several courts in 2018 and 2019. Kim told Ms. Ramsey that there is some likelihood that technology funding will be available again and the Region 2 CEOs would like to be in a position to apply for such funds. However, Kim told Ms. Ramsey that she would present the union’s proposals to the CEOs.

Kim reached out to the CEOs about the prospect of postponing VRI impact bargaining until next summer. The CEOs rejected this idea and asked Kim to communicate to the union that the CEOs have made the decision to implement VRI effective February 1, 2021. The Region is

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prepared to meet and confer with the union regarding the impact of this decision prior to February 1, 2021.

The Region 2 CEOs are in favor of your other proposal, to extend the current MOU to September 30, 2021 with no changes in light of the pandemic and budget uncertainty. The Region would be receptive to memorializing this in a side letter if the union is agreeable.

If CFI would like to bargain the impacts of VRI implementation before February 1, 2021, please contact Kim Turner with proposed dates and the union's preferred method (e.g. Zoom, Blue Jeans, other platform) for bargaining. As stated earlier, the Region is prepared to meet with the union prior to February 1<sup>st</sup> if the union would like to do so. Also, if the union would like to execute a side letter to extend the current MOU to September 30, 2021, please contact Kim and the Region will draft the side letter for your review and approval.

Very truly yours,



T. Michael Yuen  
Region 2 CEO Chair



Kim Turner  
Region 2 Administrative Chair

cc: All Region 2 Court Executive Officers  
Mr. Joseph Wiley, Chief Spokesperson, Wiley, Price and Radulovich  
Ms. Kristina Ramsey, CFI Board Member and Region 2 Representative