



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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HILDA L. SOLIS
SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT

February 27, 2023

Mr. David Slayton
Executive Officer/Clerk of Court
Superior Court of Los Angeles County
111 N. Hill Street, Room 105-E
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Slayton:

As Supervisor to the First District of Los Angeles County, I write concerning the current wage scale for court interpreters in California Region 1 (Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo). I know you share my belief that language access is central to due process – and in Los Angeles County, we have a collective responsibility to ensure residents can navigate government, extending to the court system.

The high vacancy rate and high attrition rate in court interpreter staff positions are indicators that the current pay scale impacts the courts' ability to recruit and retain staff court interpreters. This is despite the fact that court interpreters are essential to providing access to justice.

As you know, California provides a dedicated budget for interpreter services with ongoing funding. The state's budget action is reflective of the Legislature's commitment to providing Limited English Proficient court users, judges, attorneys, and court staff access to competent and professional language services throughout the court process. Additionally, I recently learned that, as of January 1, 2023, the federal courts provided a 35.5% increase to the fee paid to contract interpreters in recognition of the steeply rising cost of living we are experiencing nationwide.

In light of the dedicated budget, I respectfully urge the courts in Region 1 to negotiate in good faith with the California Federation of Interpreters, Local 39000 on a fair wage that reflects their indispensable service. Please contact Elise Weinberg of my staff at 213-974-4111 or eweinberg@bos.lacounty.gov if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hilda L. Solis".

HILDA L. SOLIS
Supervisor, First District