



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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JANICE HAHN

Chair

March 8, 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,

I am writing with serious concerns about the critical shortage of interpreters in the Los Angeles court system, which is resulting in racial injustice and a violation of constitutional rights. The 6th amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees the right for non-English speaking individuals to have access to a court interpreter when they are involved in a legal case.

Unfortunately, we have heard an increasing number of reports that courts are operating with skeletal interpreter staff further marginalizing vulnerable, non-English speaking individuals. With over 200 languages spoken, the Los Angeles Superior Court must take immediate steps to address this disparity.

It has also come to my attention that Los Angeles interpreters are the only group in all of California without step increases in pay and receive less than 1% raises per year. This may explain the inability to retain qualified and competent court interpreters. It is imperative that the allocation of State funding dedicated for court interpreters prioritizes the hiring and retention of interpreter staff that meet the needs of the community.

I respectfully urge the courts in Region 1 (Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo) to negotiate in good faith with the California Federation of Interpreters, Local 39000 on a fair wage that values their critical service. It is the only way we can truly provide equal access and justice for all.

Sincerely,

JANICE HAHN
Chair of the Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles