



MEDIA ADVISORY

**New York State
Unified Court System**

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Chief Administrative Judge

www.nycourts.gov/press

Date: September 30, 2015

New York State Courts Commemorate International Translation Day

NEW YORK — As we commemorate International Translation Day and this year's theme — “The Changing Face of Translation and Interpreting” — the New York State Unified Court System (UCS) remains committed to ensuring access to courts and court services, and effectively meeting the needs of persons with limited English language proficiency, including those who are deaf or hard of hearing.

New Yorkers speak 150 different languages and dialects, with more than 30 percent of New Yorkers — almost five million people — speaking a language other than English. Over the past few years, much has been accomplished by the UCS regarding language access, such as utilizing the services of nearly 900 court interpreters and providing interpreting services in 111 different languages, primarily Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Russian, and Haitian Creole.

Significant progress continues to be made in ensuring language access to all. For example, some of our projects over the past few years include:

- ▶ Distribution of “We Speak Your Language” cards and posters in multiple languages
- ▶ Informational cards translated into seven languages which provide an overview of the role of the interpreter to court users
- ▶ Upgrading our court system’s information line (1-800-Court-NY) to include service to non-English proficient callers
- ▶ Implementation of Language Line (telephonic interpreting), outside of the courtroom
- ▶ Instructional programs for judges and clerks
- ▶ Statewide deployment of an Electronic Scheduling System (E-system) for the assignment of interpreters
- ▶ Statewide Remote Interpreting

In April of this year, the UCS commenced a pilot program utilizing bilingual orders of protection forms in Family Courts located in New York, Monroe, and Westchester counties. These forms have a Spanish translation either below or alongside the English text. Approximately 300 of the Spanish-English orders have been issued, with Chinese and Russian translations to be introduced by year’s end.

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