2025 ATI ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Valleywise Health Medical Center
2601 E. Roosevelt Avenue, Phoenix, AZ
Saturday, September 27, 2025
8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Having Time vs. Making Time: Taking Control of Your Goals

MAIN SESSION

Manager, Court Access & Stats Unit/Language Access Coordinator, AZ Supreme Court, AOC

In a fast-paced world with competing goals and demands, time often feels like the scarcest resource. This presentation offers proven strategies for effective time management and organization tailored to the realities of busy professionals. Drawing on current research in productivity and workplace habits, I will introduce techniques such as time-blocking, prioritization matrices, and digital task management tools. You will learn how to identify time-wasters, delegate effectively, and design daily workflows that align with their goals. Also, the importance of setting boundaries, managing interruptions, and creating sustainable routines. Whether you're juggling work, family, professional development, social commitments, or all of the above, this session provides actionable insights to help you stay focused, organized, and in control of your time. Participants will learn strategies they can personalize to improve efficiency, reduce burnout, and create more space for meaningful work and professional growth.

Interesting Times: Translation & Interpreting at a Crossroads

DAVID SVOBODA, KEYNOTE

Ethics form the cornerstone of professionalism and integrity in court interpreting, crucially shaping the delivery of justice. This presentation delves into the intricate ethical challenges faced by court interpreters, examining foundational principles and practical dilemmas. Participants will navigate scenarios illustrating the delicate balance between transparency and neutrality. The session will underscore the interpreter's role in upholding due process for individuals with limited English proficiency. Ethical standards will be reviewed, highlighting universal principles and their application in court. Attendees will cultivate strategies for navigating ethical challenges, bolstering their ability to uphold professionalism under pressure. By the session's conclusion, participants will gain a comprehensive toolkit for ethical decision-making, ensuring their work in the judiciary upholds the principles of fairness, transparency, impartiality, and meaningful communication.

Biography: David Svoboda is the Language Access Coordinator for the Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). Prior to joining the AOC, Mr. Svoboda worked for eleven years as a staff Spanish interpreter for the Superior Court of Arizona in Maricopa County. Mr. Svoboda is a federally- and state certified court interpreter. Mr. Svoboda served on the Board of Directors of the Arizona Court Interpreters Association as Treasurer and President. He has also given numerous training sessions on interpreter ethics, modal skills, and other court interpreting-related subjects for interpreters, court staff, and leadership. He is a graduate of the Monterey Institute of International Studies where he earned his master's degree in Translation and Interpretation.

ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS (Cont'd.)

The intersection of Medical Interpreting and Spiritual Care

LAURYN M. ALBIZU-GARCIA
Certified Medical Interpreter

Healthcare interpreters are trained to handle medical terminology and ethical situations but at times can feel out of depth with the non-clinical areas of medicine, especially when it comes to spiritual care and working with a chaplain. You must shift from discussing a patient's physical condition to engaging in prayers, rituals or spiritual activities.

This presentation looks to explore the terminology, role and importance of spiritual care in a healthcare setting. This session is mainly meant to shape awareness on spiritual care and could be helpful when having to interpret for a chaplain.

Biography: Lauryn Albizu Garcia graduated from the University of Arizona with a bachelor's degree in Spanish healthcare and judicial translation and interpretation. Formerly an interpreter supervisor at CyraCom International and currently working as a medical interpreter at Tucson Medical Center. Started her interpreting career at her local church in 2017 and is currently overseeing training for the interpreting team in her church. Host of the Church Interpreting Podcast. Currently working on co-authoring a book on church interpreting. She loves puzzles, books, and board games.

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THE ENDOCRINE SYSTEM – an English Immersion Mini Bootcamp

ROSANNA BALISTRERI
Cultural/Linguistic Consultant

The fundamental skills of healthcare interpreters is to be able to understand the message they are going to relay in the target language. Knowledge of healthcare terminology, body systems and medical procedure enables interpreters to, not only own the message, but be able to anticipate it, taking the burden off memorization. During this 1.5-hour boot camp participants will learn the basic components of Endocrine System and their functions. The boot camp is facilitated in English and is especially geared toward healthcare interpreters and translators who are non-native speakers of English. Explore in detail the Endocrine System, its respective components & their function.

Biography: Rosanna is a dedicated advocate of health equity and cultural competence in healthcare with a background in Linguistics and Global Health. She has lived and worked in Argentina, England, Spain, and Italy before settling in California. Her experience spans healthcare interpreting, cultural diversity, and leadership. She has served as President of both the California Healthcare Interpreting Association (CHIA) and the National Council on Interpreting in Health Care (NCIHC). In 2010, she founded REACH-reaching diversity to enhance health equity, patient safety, and effective communication in healthcare. Today she continues her work of Health Equity through her role of Health Program Specialist with the California State Department of Health Care Services. Rosanna is a sought-after speaker and presenter at national and regional conferences, including ATA, NARHC, IMIA, and CHIA.

ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS (Cont'd.)

Juvenile Court vs Superior Court

SARHA BELTRAN/MARIA GOMEZ

Court Interpreter Manager, Pima County Juvenile Court, Tucson, AZ/ACICP, CCHI credentialed freelance interpreter

Is there a difference between Superior and Juvenile Courts? The short answer is yes, but you will find out that they are worlds apart. Come and see through the lens of different court interpreters and experience what it would be like to work for different courts. My hope is to inspire more interpreters to venture into either Juvenile, Superior Court or both. And to spark curiosity within the field of legal interpreting! If you want to learn more about what happens both in and out of the courtroom come and join us!

Biography: Sarha has a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish with a concentration in Translation and Interpretation and a minor in Pre-Law. She has basic knowledge of Brazilian Portuguese and American Sign Language. She is an Arizona Certified Court Interpreter in the Spanish language and has been with the courts for over a decade. Her roles have included both court interpreter and interpreter coordinator. Sarha is currently the Interpreter Manager at the Pima County Juvenile Court Center in Tucson, Arizona. Sarha volunteers for organizations such as the Hispanic Scholarship Fund and for community events held by the courts. She is also a member of the National Association for Court Management, the National Language Service Corps, the Pima Community College TRS Advisory Committee and the Court Interpreter Program Advisory Committee with the Arizona Court Interpreter Credentialing Program (ACICP).

Ms. Gómez holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California (UABC). She is an Arizona-Credentialed Court Interpreter in the Spanish language (ACICP) and a Certified Healthcare Interpreter-Spanish (CCHI). Ms. Gómez previously served as a Staff Interpreter at the Juvenile Court for two years, where she provided Spanish/English interpretation and translation for judicial proceedings and she is currently a per diem interpreter for both Juvenile Court and Pima County Superior Courts. She currently he works as an Independent Court Interpreter and Conference Interpreter. She also provides services in various legal proceedings, including Independent Medical Examinations (IMEs), Depositions, Arbitrations, Industrial Commission of Arizona Hearings (ICA), Neuro-Evaluations, and Psycho-Evaluations, among others.

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Expanding Boundaries In Interpretation In An Era of AI and ChatGpt

MIHAI BLEDEA

Professional Court & Conference Interpreter

The landscape of interpretation is rapidly evolving through the integration of AI and human expertise. AI tools now assist interpreters in real time with terminology, cultural context, and routine interpretation tasks, while human-in-the-loop models ensure accuracy and nuance. Mobile apps and wearable tech like smart glasses offer on-the-go and remote interpreting solutions, especially valuable in healthcare, legal, and educational settings. Interpreting services have become more inclusive, expanding to support indigenous, endangered, and sign languages, and playing crucial roles in refugee aid and crisis response. Advanced platforms provide data-driven quality assurance through performance analytics and immersive training with VR and AI. With the surge in remote interpretation, ethical considerations such as encrypted communication and bias mitigation have become central to maintaining trust and professionalism in the field.

ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS (Cont'd.)

Biography: Multilingual interpreter and translator with over 32 years of experience in court, medical, government, and international conference settings. Mihai Bledea is a federally cleared linguist, certified translator, and interpreter for Romanian, multiple dialects of French, Italian, Moldovan, and Latin. He has served across the U.S. Federal State, Immigration and Asylum Courts, medical institutions and international organizations such as the European Commission, UN, World Bank, INTERPOL and FBI. He holds two master's degrees (Global Business MBA & British Cultural Studies) and a BA in Applied Modern Languages, Conference Interpreting Specialization. A strong advocate for multilingual equity, Mihai combines professionalism with cultural sensitivity, precision, and technological fluency in CAT tools (Trados, MemoQ, DeepL, Dragon.

His volunteer work spans training and church leadership summits, reflecting deep commitment to global language access.

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Navigating the Federal Courts, everything you need to know to perform your job successfully and with grace.

BEATRIZ BOGARD

F.C.C.I. and Certified Image Consultant by the London Image Institute.

In this class, participants will have a very clear idea of what it's like to interpret for the Federal Courts. The session will cover essential protocols and etiquette for courtroom settings, ensuring interpreters are well-prepared to handle various scenarios with professionalism. Participants will learn about the different roles within the court system and how interpreters fit into the judicial process. Dress Code and other important information will be included. The workshop will delve into the specific types of hearings, such as arraignments, trials, and sentencing, highlighting the unique challenges and expectations of each. Real-life case studies will be presented to illustrate the nuances of interpreting in real-time, emphasizing the importance of precision and neutrality.

Additionally, the class will provide practical tips for managing stress and maintaining composure in high-pressure situations, enabling interpreters to deliver their best performance. The included glossary will serve as a valuable resource, demystifying legal jargon and ensuring clear communication between all parties involved.
By the end of the class, participants will not only gain a comprehensive understanding of the Federal Court system but also feel empowered and confident in their ability to contribute effectively to the legal process.

Biography: Beatriz Bogard is originally from Veracruz, México and came to this country over 30 years ago. She's a mother of two children, ages 28 and 24, and a stepmother to her husband's 14-year-old daughter. She's a Federally Certified Spanish Interpreter and Translator with over 22 years of experience working as a Court Interpreter. About seven years ago she felt the need to reinvent herself and started studying fashion and jewelry design, and fashion styling. She then became a Certified Image Consultant, by the London Image Institute in Atlanta, GA. She also obtained an International Certification as a Style Coach, she's a member of the Association International of Image Consultants and obtained a Translation Certificate from the Tec de Monterrey, Monterrey, N.L. Mexico.

In 2020, she founded Bogard House of Style, Image Consulting and opened her studio in Phoenix, Arizona. She now helps people find their true style and improve their image to succeed in their professional careers and personal lives. She advises clients on Color Analysis and Image, which includes not only wardrobe, hair, and makeup but also communication skills, behavior, and etiquette. Beatriz is also a speaker and instructor. She teaches Image workshops and does presentations in both English and Spanish to serve the Latin Community in the U.S. She works full time as a staff interpreter at the U.S. District Courts, Arizona District, and lives in Phoenix, Arizona with her husband Jim and his daughter Anaiah. Her biggest passion is helping others and learning new things, "because if we stop learning, we start dying."

ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS (Cont'd.)

Technique and Formulaic Language for Gender Identification

KAREN BORGENHEIMER
Director of FIU Translation & Interpreting Program, Florida International University

This session will be divided into two sections. Part 1 will consist of an introduction to the use of gender-inclusive language that does not discriminate against a particular sex, social gender, or gender identity. The speaker will discuss the characteristics of formulaic legal language and its use for gender inclusivity. Attendees will learn strategies for translating gender-inclusive language into English. In Part 2, this knowledge will be applied while translating several excerpts from legal Spanish-language texts into English. Attendees will then discuss and revise their translations to comply with standard legal translation into English and gender inclusivity.

Biography: Prof. Borgenheimer, director of the Translation and Interpreting Program at Florida International University, Miami, has been a professor for 26 years. She is a classically trained, certified interpreter and translator regarded as a skilled, insightful, and versatile professional. She has an MFA in translation studies from the University of Arkansas—Fayetteville. She completed doctoral coursework in Spanish language and linguistics at the University of Wisconsin—Madison. For nearly a decade, she lived in Madrid, Spain, where she taught at the Real Centro Universitario "Maria Cristina". Attended the Sampere Escuela de Traductores e Intérpretes.

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Employment Law 101 for Language Service Providers

TREVOR COOK
Certified Legal and Court Interpreter

Trevor will provide a general overview of the federal and state employment law framework covering businesses and individuals in Arizona, pointing out areas of particular note for language service professionals. The overview will include an introduction to the legal characteristics of the independent contractor role and how businesses and independent contractors can avoid potential pitfalls as they work together.

Small employers and businesspeople hiring independent contractors or employees will benefit by gaining awareness of potential liabilities and how to maintain the business relationships they want. Individual language service professionals will benefit by learning about their rights as independent contractors and how to avoid coercive business relationships.

Biography: Trevor Cook is an ATA-certified Chinese-to-English translator who operated a small translation agency for several years. He is licensed to practice law in Arizona and is now a lawyer at the Silence Law Group, PLLC (www.silencelaw.com). He represents parties—typically employees—in employment disputes, defamation cases, and other civil and commercial litigation. He also provides consulting services for small businesses and other employers to help them avoid employee litigation and make sure they are checking the legal boxes that reflect their intent to be fair employers.

ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS (Cont'd.)

My Journey: From Medical to Legal

LIZETH ELIZONDO
Certified Legal and Court Interpreter

Are you a medical interpreter in Arizona considering a transition into the legal field? Don't miss this session that will guide you through the uncharted path from hospitals to courtrooms. With the demand for legal interpreting opportunities growing across the state, now is the perfect time to prepare, get certified, and position yourself for success.

Lizeth Elizondo, a Spanish Certified Healthcare Interpreter (CCHI) and Arizona Credentialed Court Interpreter with 14 years of experience, will share her journey, the challenges she has faced, lessons learned, and *Aha* moments from being a staff interpreter at a community hospital to earning her credentials with the Supreme Court of Arizona and engaging in freelance work.

Whether you are ready to jump into legal interpreting or are still exploring your options, this session will provide you with the roadmap and resources to transition confidently—and profitably.

Biography: Lizeth Elizondo is a Spanish Certified Healthcare Interpreter and an Arizona Credentialed Court Interpreter with 14 years of experience. She began her career in medical interpreting at Tucson Medical Center, where she also trained and mentored other interpreters. In 2022, Lizeth transitioned to the legal field, she obtained her Court Interpreter Credential, and is currently pursuing her federal certification.

Currently, she leads Elizondo Language Services, offering court, conference, and medical interpreting services. Her journey from hospital corridors to courtrooms has provided her with unique insights. Lizeth is passionate about helping fellow interpreters, bridging language barriers, and serving diverse communities.

ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS (Cont'd.)

Building Walls, not Bridges: Ongoing Restriction of Language Access in the Immigration Detention and Removal Process

JAIME FATÁS-CABEZA & LAURA BELOUS, ESQ.
Associate Professor, Spanish/Portuguese Department, University of Arizona

This presentation provides an overview of language access in the immigration context and highlights the changes to long-standing Executive Orders and practices implemented thus far under the second Trump Administration. We examine the federal government's legal obligations to ensure that non-citizens have meaningful access to language services at each stage of the detention and removal process—including apprehension by Customs and Border Protection (CBP), detention by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), interviews conducted by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), and adjudication of removal proceedings by the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR). We then review the most significant changes—both formal and informal—introduced since January 2025, and assess their devastating impact on the already problematic provision of language access in immigration settings.

We will conclude with suggestions for coping strategies for language professionals and a call for volunteer translators and interpreters to support the Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project in Arizona. This support is crucial for bridging critical service gaps and ensuring effective and accurate communication for clients.

Biographies: Associate Professor of the Practice **Jaime Fatás-Cabeza** is a United States Court Certified Interpreter and a healthcare interpreter (Spanish). Jaime launched and directed the undergraduate degree program in healthcare and legal translation and interpretation at the University of Arizona, 2006-22. Formerly he was a staff judicial interpreter with the Trial Court of Massachusetts, Operations Supervisor of Interpreting Services at Harvard's Brigham and Women's Hospital, and official translator and interpreter for Spanish and Mexican consular offices.

Jaime has developed bilingual legal and medical curricula for government, higher education and healthcare organizations and published a large number of book-length translations and articles. He is on the editorial board of Access, the newsletter of the National Council on Interpreting for Health Care Interpreters (NCIHC) and is a member of its Trainers of Trainers Committee. His current research focuses on defining the role of the expert witness in translation and interpreting in judicial and police settings. He loves music, books, conversation, cooking, wine, regenerative agriculture, and helping others, and is very worried about climate change.

Laura Belous, Esq. is an advocacy attorney Laura Belous was born and raised in the Phoenix area. She graduated from Oberlin College with a degree in history and received her Master's degree in Mexican American studies and law degree from the University of Arizona College of Law. In 2010, she received an Equal Justice Works fellowship to join the Florence Project and represent clients with serious mental illnesses in Eloy, Florence, and Phoenix. She has worked with the Pima County Office of Children's Counsel representing children in the custody of the Arizona Department of Children's Services. In 2013, she returned to the Florence Project and mentored pro bono attorneys representing unaccompanied children and then worked as the Tucson Children's Team managing attorney from 2014-2018. There, she practiced before USCIS, EOIR, the Board of Immigration Appeals, and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. She has worked as an adjunct instructor at the James E. Rogers College of Law where she taught legal writing classes to first-year law students. Laura enjoys monsoons, lazy weekend mornings, and spending time with her family. Laura became an FIRRP's advocacy attorney in December of 2018.

ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS (Cont'd.)

Culturally bound terms: How a componential analysis can help

DR. JEFFREY GABBITAS
Lead Faculty, Translation and Interpretation Studies, Pima Community College, Tucson, AZ

When translating a document, it doesn't take long to run into a culturally bound term that doesn't seem to fit with the translation on hand. This presentation will demonstrate how a componential analysis of culturally bound terms can help us get a sense of what is packed into a term of phrase. We will also look at some strategies for parsing out the nuances found therein.

Biography: Dr. Jeffrey W. Gabbitas has been directing the Translation and Interpretation Program at Pima Community College for 13 years and has taught Spanish for 27 years at the postsecondary level. He received his BA and MA from BYU, and an MA and PhD from the University of Arizona in Second Language Acquisition and Teaching. He has worked as a freelance translator in the medical and mining fields and a freelance interpreter in the financial field. He also served as the President of Arizona Translators and Interpreters (ATI) for two years. Besides his passion for teaching, he likes to sing and break dance.

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Things Needed to Prepare for a Trial, that Most of Us do not Do

TONY ROSADO
Consultant/Conference Interpreter, Rosado Professional Services

Interpreting trials is complex and difficult, it requires of thorough preparation before the assignment, and a high level of concentration only achieved when the interpreter understands not just what is happening at the trial, but why it is happening. This is only achievable when we know how to get ready; where to look for what we need. This session will cover the benefits of a good preparation and clear understanding of what the lawyers are doing that participants can use to get ready for an assignment, and to explain clients why an interpretation cannot be properly provided without the required documents and information about a case. The presenter will spell out the role of the interpreter at each stage of a court assignment, from self-evaluation before accepting a case, to detailed preparation, and performance during the trial. Mr. Rosado will talk about the tools interpreters may use to get acquainted with the details of a case, glossary development, what text books should be available during preparation and rendition, and how to be assertive when requesting the appropriate working conditions. Those attending will learn, through theoretical description and practical examples, how the best interpreters work. The participants will leave with the tools necessary to help them advance their careers as court interpreters.

Biography: Tony is an interpreter with experience working all over the world. He has a law degree and has worked internationally in high profile conferences, court proceedings, sports events, and TV broadcasts, including presidential debates and political conventions. The author of two books on court interpreting, a lecturer at many universities, a United States Department of State independent contractor accredited at the conference-level. Tony is the current Chair of AIIC-USA, and the President of the Ethics Committee of IAPTI. He is a court certified interpreter by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts and several States, a member of AIIC, TAALS, ATA, IAPTI, ASETRAD, OMT, ITI & NAJIT, and the author of the popular blog "The Professional Interpreter."

ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS (Cont'd.)

Contract Negotiation for Dummies - Marketing and Negotiation for Independent Contractors

FRANCESCA SAMUEL
Founder and CEO, A la Carte Translations and Freelance Interpreter and Translator

This session will cover marketing/advertising and contract negotiation for independent contractors and freelancers with all levels of experience in the profession. For new professionals entering the business to well-seasoned professionals who have been working for a company and are now freelancers, managing your own business could be new turf.

In the age of social media, there are many methods available for little or no cost. We will examine the different ways and strategies that can be used in order to market your brand and your services while not falling victim to scammers targeting at our profession. Additionally, we will review contract basics such as min. charges, fees v. rates, the importance of having a late cancellation clause in your contract and the obligation to read every word of the contract, however small the font.

We'll talk about tax tips and tax preparation (most expenses you can deduct at the end of year), contract negotiation, etc. The importance of adhering to confidentiality and NDA's agreements, the importance of having your own. Also, we will discuss business ethics in contract negotiation. What are the "Do's and Don'ts" of contract negotiation? Sometimes what one may perceive as a financial advantage could potentially have a devastating effect on your business.

Biography: Francesca Samuel is a freelance interpreter/translator and founder and president of A la Carte Translations, a web-based translation business established in 2000, and a proud member of NAJIT and ATA since 1999. She is a graduate of the Pima College Translation and Interpreting Program and has 25+ yrs. experience as an immigration court contract interpreter and freelance translator.

Francesca is an avid volunteer and passionate advocate for the profession. She has presented at several annual conferences including FIT, NAJIT, CFI, ATA and ATI on immigration, business management, social media marketing and scam prevention, and continues to spread awareness about the working conditions of immigration court interpreters.

She has served on several committees and boards which include president of Arizona Translators and Interpreters, ATA Spanish Division Administrator, ATA Spanish Division Asst. Administrator, ATA Spanish Division Treasurer, and ATA Spanish Division Professional Development, Hospitality and Public Relations committees as chair and/or member. Additionally, she served as NAJIT's Training and Education chair, NAJIT's Conference and Nominations' committee co-chair, etc.

In 2022, she became a member of the National Assoc. of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT) Board of Directors where she also served as treasurer and interim vice-chair. Francesca is an avid volunteer and advocate for the interpreting and translation professions. Currently, she is immediate past-president of Arizona Translators & Interpreters and has been conference organizer since 2006.

A proud native of Puerto Rico, Francesca lived in New York City and Los Angeles before eventually settling down in Tucson, AZ with her husband and sons.