

UNITED STATES COURT INTERPRETER COMPENSATION DATABASE

Supplement: Updates Reported after January 1, 2014

NOTICE

The United States Court Interpreter Compensation Database is a point-in-time summary of compensation practices in place during July-December 2013. It is intended to provide a one-time snapshot and will not be updated to reflect subsequent changes.

This Supplement, however, will publish updates in compensation practices that occur after December 31, 2013. It will include information from courts that have created their first staff interpreter position or adopted significant changes with respect to compensation of staff or contract interpreters reported in the Database. The Supplement will be updated periodically as jurisdictions provide information about developments on or after January 1, 2014. Jurisdictions wishing to update their data may send the information to rjlee@courtinterpretingresearch.com. The Supplement is organized by the same groups of courts as the Database. The date of each update is reported in parentheses after the name of the jurisdiction.

Robert Joe Lee

October 31, 2014

Updated September 21, 2015; December 2, 2015

FEDERAL COURTS

Administrative Office of the United States Courts¹

The rates for contract interpreters were increased effective January 1, 2015 as follows:

| Category of Interpreter | Full Day | Half Day | Overtime |
|--|----------|----------|---------------------------|
| Certified and Professionally Qualified | \$412 | \$223 | \$58/hour or part thereof |
| Language Skilled (Non-Certified) | \$198 | \$109 | \$34/hour or part thereof |

U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York (11-2-2014)

The job title, “Administrative Court Interpreter,” was eliminated in June 2014.²

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Texas (7-28-2014)

On recommendation of its Committee on Judicial Resources, the Judicial Conference of the United States approved the first staff court interpreter position beginning in fiscal year 2015 for this district at its September 17, 2013 meeting.³ The Human Resources office of the Eastern District of Texas posted a notice of vacancy to commence recruiting for the position on July 28, 2014.⁴ The position is located at the United States Court House in Plano, Texas. The salary range was posted as \$61,288 (the minimum level at JSP-11)-\$134,189 (the maximum level at JSP-14). The actual grade at which the position would be filled depends on the selected person’s experience as follows:

| JSP Grade | Required Experience |
|-----------|--|
| 11 | None |
| 12 | Two years of specialized experience, including at least one year equivalent to work at the grade 11. |
| 13 | Two years of specialized experience, including at least one year equivalent to work at the grade 12. |
| 14 | Two years of specialized experience, including at least one year equivalent to work at the grade 13. |

¹ Memorandum to Clerks, United States Courts; Chief Probation Officers; and Chief Pretrial Services Officers from Judge John D. Bates re “2015 Fees for Contract Court Interpreters (INFORMATION)” (October 2, 2014).

² E-mail from Paula Gold, Chief Interpreter (November 2, 2014).

³ Report of the Proceedings of the Judicial Conference of the United States, p. 26.

<http://www.uscourts.gov/FederalCourts/JudicialConference/Proceedings/Proceedings.aspx?doc=/uscourts/FederalCourts/judconf/proceedings/2013-09.pdf>.

⁴ E-mail from Jeanette Knight, Human Resources Administrator (July 31, 2014). Announcement Number: 2014-3.

STATE AOCs

Illinois, Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (10-10-14)

Beginning January 1, 2015, the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts will provide reimbursement to the counties for the actual expenses paid for contract interpreters. The reimbursement program is subject to funding beyond FY2015. The amount of the maximum hourly reimbursement for court interpreters shall be as follows:

1. Forty dollars per hour for interpreters “certified” under the requirements and procedures approved by the Illinois Supreme Court.
2. Thirty dollars per hour for interpreters “registered” under the requirements and procedures approved by the Illinois Supreme Court.⁵

New Hampshire, Administrative Office of the Courts (10-17-14)

Beginning January 1, 2014, the mileage rate changed to \$0.56/mile. In addition, the name of the entity that has the contract changed to The Language Bank of Ascentria Community Services, Inc.⁶ In addition, the rates paid to the contracting agency (not to individual interpreters) per the contract are now as follows:

| Category of Interpreter Service | Hourly rate with 2-hour minimum |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Individually scheduled | \$45 |
| Prearranged block scheduled | \$40 |
| Emergency service | \$65 |
| Travel time if the interpreter travels more than 20 miles | \$30 |

Texas, Office of Court Administration (10-10-14)

Beginning January 2, 2014, there was a single full-time Spanish interpreter working out of the OCA as a telephonic and videoconference interpreter available to courts statewide. A second part-time (20 hours per week) Spanish interpreter began July 1, 2014, and this program may add staff as utilization increases.⁷

| Title | Minimum | Maximum |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Interpreter II [full-time] | \$38,746.00 | \$61,644.00 |
| Interpreter II [half-time] | \$19,373.00 | \$30,822.00 |

⁵ E-mail from Sophia Akbar, Language Services Access Specialist (October 10, 2014).

⁶ E-mail from Lisa Merrill, Executive Secretary to the Administrative Director (October 16, 2014).

⁷ E-mail from Marco Hanson, Language Access Coordinator (October 10, 2014).

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

Region 2⁸ (10-31-14)

In late 2013 a new agreement was reached for the period December 16, 2013-December 30, 2016 providing for:

- A 2% increase to the base pay to be effective at the pay period closest to October 1, 2014;
- An additional 2% increase to the base pay to be effective at the pay period closest to October 1, 2015; and
- A signing bonus of \$2,500, less applicable withholdings, for all employees (full-time, part-time and intermittent) to be distributed within 45 days of ratification.

| Employee Category | Base Hourly Pay | Pay Effective 10/1/2014 | |
|--|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | Hourly (Base x 1.02) | Annual (Hourly x 2080) |
| Full time | \$35.31 | \$36.02 | \$74,922 |
| Part time and intermittent part time with guarantee of 4 hours | \$35.31 | \$36.02 | |
| Part time and intermittent part time with only an AM or PM or night court assignment | \$39.17 | \$39.95 | |

⁸ “You Did It! Tentative Agreement with Raises Reached in Region 2” (December 5, 2013); <http://www.calinterpreters.org/you-did-it-tentative-agreement-with-raises-reached-in-region-2/>. The Agreement is posted at <http://www.calinterpreters.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Region2MOU.pdf>. See Article 22.

COUNTY COURTS

No updates.

CITY/MUNICIPAL COURTS

No updates.