

**Brian Ross**  
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Conference Interpreter (simultaneous and consecutive interpretation)

Master's degree in Interpretation and Translation from the *Monterey Institute of International Studies* (1993)

Federally Certified Court Interpreter (Spanish) --a test that has only a 5% pass rate.  
Federally Professionally Qualified in Portuguese.

Languages:

English	A
Spanish	Very strong active B
Portuguese	Very strong active B

I have U.S. Government "Top Secret" clearance.

I have passed the U.S. State Department conference exam in Portuguese and Spanish. This exam is the de facto gold standard for skills assessment for the highest level of diplomatic and technical interpretation, with an emphasis on speed, accuracy, register and ease and creativity of linguistic expression. It is used as a reference for skill level throughout government and the military, as well as by all other Washington-based international organizations, which don't conduct their own in-house skills testing, choosing to use the State Department test as a proxy.

I am regularly called upon by the State Department Office of Language Services to design, evaluate and grade these very tests offered to candidates seeking to work at the conference level as contractors for the State Department.

Interpreting Experience:

U.S. Department of State:

Since 1993 I have worked as a contract interpreter for the U.S. State Department, which provides interpreting services for the **whole of government** through its **Office of Language Services**, for seminars (simultaneous interpreting using portable equipment) and conferences (simultaneous interpreting from a booth), working bi-directionally in the following language combinations:

**Spanish** <> **English**

**Portuguese** <> **English**

**Portuguese** <> **Spanish**

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, interpretation has gone mostly remote (RSI-Remote Simultaneous Interpretation) through the use of a number of RSI platforms such as *Zoom; Interprefy; Kudo, Webex* and others. I now work remotely almost exclusively and have become very adept at managing the different platforms. RSI is more demanding than in-person interpretation, requiring greater concentration, collaboration with your virtual boothmate, comfort with managing documents, communication with teammates, and the virtual console itself, in order to provide the same seamless service I've always strived for.

Other Organizations for which I regularly work:

**International Monetary Fund:** I have interpreted for the past 11 years at the *World Bank / IMF Annual and Spring Meetings* (Portuguese booth), including several meetings of finance ministers of the G-20.

**Organization of American States:** Over the last 14 years I have worked here in the English booth in all bodies

including the Permanent Council and its committees. I am one of the regular interpreters for the **Inter-American Commission of Human Rights** (Spanish↔English), its executive meetings and hearings;

**Pan American Health Organization:** I have been working here for the past 10 years. For the annual meetings of the Governing Bodies, including the Directing Council and the Subcommittee on Program, Budget and Administration, I interpret in the English booth, taking from Spanish and Portuguese. I mostly work at the technical conferences in the Spanish↔English bidirectional booth on topics covering a broad range of highly-technical health-related subjects, such as: neglected diseases, swine flu, the zica virus, influenza virus, vaccination, Covid-19 and many others.

**Inter-American Development Bank:** For the past 10 years I have worked here primarily in the English booth taking from Spanish and Portuguese. I have worked many sessions of the bank's **Administrative Tribunal**, which resolves workplace labor disputes.

**World Bank:** Both in Portuguese and Spanish bi-directional booths.

**Voice of America:** On numerous occasions I interpreted President Trump and other top US officials for international live broadcasts.

**Inter-American Dialog** including the annual *CAF Conference (Development Bank of Latin America)* for the past 8 years (Spanish↔English) and (Portuguese↔English); This conference brings together former presidents, vice-presidents, ministers and subject-matter experts from academia and the private sector to discuss pressing policy issues in Latin America.

**American University Moot Court Competition:** I have interpreted for the past 10 years for this fast-paced, highly complex moot court competition in the Portuguese↔English; Portuguese↔Spanish and Spanish↔English booths.

**Drug Enforcement Agency:** I regularly interpret for segments of 5-week courses on different aspects of drug interdiction: telephony and wiretapping; interviewing and interrogation techniques; clandestine lab interdiction and decontamination; among others (Spanish↔English and Portuguese↔English bilingual booths).

**United States Trade Representative:** Several rounds of trade talks relative to the establishment of free trade areas with Andean countries and with Panama, Mexico and Colombia. Among my topics were textiles and sanitary and phytosanitary measures (Spanish/English bilingual booth).

**International Law Enforcement Academy:** I interpreted for five, 4-week managerial courses for Latin American, Mozambican and Angolan law enforcement agents (Portuguese↔English bilingual booth on three occasions, and Spanish↔English on one occasion).

**International Judicial Academy:** Over 5 years I interpreted for three one-week seminars a year for this private organization on the topics of intellectual property (patents, copyright and trademark law), courtroom technology, and insurance, for judges from Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Peru and Brazil. I have also worked numerous occasions for the **US Patent and Trademark Office**, assigned mostly through the State Department.

**U.S. Trade & Development Agency:** *Airport Security* through Voila Meetings & Incentives (Elizabeth Czernikow) June 16-20/2016 and *Waste to Energy* through Koeppen, Elliott & Associates, Limited (8/14-21/10), (Portuguese↔English).

**Inter-American Defense College:** I worked here two weeks per month for three years, between 2008-11, primarily in the Portuguese booth. Examples of seminars given here are: *International Air Space Law*; *Negotiation and Moderation Skills*; *Military Involvement in Disaster Relief Operations*; *Civil-Military relations* and many more.

**Institute of Brazilian Issues (George Washington University):** I have interpreted for 5 one-week seminars for

Brazilian judges and politicians.

**I regularly work at the DC Superior Court as a court interpreter.**

**Sampling of recent State Department conference work:**

I accompanied *Secretary of State Michael Pompeo* to the Dominican Republic for the inauguration of the new Dominican president (8/16/2020);

I interpreted at Mar-a-Lago for *President Trump and Brazilian president Bolsonaro* (3/7/2020);

Mar-a-Lago, *President Trump and Central-American Heads of State* (3/21-23/2019)

*President Trump and cabinet secretaries in meeting with President Varela of Panama* (Spanish↔English)  
6/19/2017

*Chiefs of Defense Conference* - October 2016 (Portuguese↔English);

*The Counter ISIL Defense Ministerial* on July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016, hosted and presided over by *President Obama* (Spanish↔English);

*Nuclear Security Summit* 03/31/2016 to 04/01/2016 hosted and presided over by *President Obama* (Portuguese↔English);

*AGOA (African Growth Opportunity Act)* conference every summer since 2008, including the *U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit* (50 heads of state and government), hosted and presided over by *President Obama* in August of 2015 (Portuguese↔English);

Several high-level consecutive conferences at Pentagon between *Defense Secretaries Robert Gates, Leon Panetta* and Ministers of Defense and/or Chiefs of Joint Chiefs of Staff of Brazil, Mexico, and Peru. Numerous Pentagon bilateral negotiations with Mexico, Colombia, Brazil.

Eight-week in-house stint for State Department Office of Language Services from end of November, 2007 to first week of January, 2008.