

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 interpretation 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 proxy for skill level throughout government and the military, as well as by many Washington-based international organizations that don't conduct their own in-house skills testing.

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 highest levels as contractors for the State Department.

Interpreting Experience:

U.S. Department of State:

I have worked as a contract interpreter for the U.S. State Department since 1993. Through its **Office of Language Services**, the State Department provides interpreting services for the whole of government.

I work regularly at the White House, Pentagon, Department of Homeland Security, Justice Department, DEA, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, FBI, Commerce Department, Department of Agriculture, Voice of America, among others. Most recently I interpreted at a bilateral meeting between **President Biden** and Brazilian president Lula on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly (2023).

A small sampling of State Department conference work:

9th Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles in 2022;

I accompanied **Vice President Kamala Harris** to Guatemala (June of 2021);

Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin to Brazil (July 2022);

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);

President Trump and Central American Heads of State (3/21-23/2019);

President Trump and cabinet secretaries in a meeting with President Varela of Panama (6/19/2017);

Chiefs of Defense Conference - October 2016;

Counter ISIL Defense Ministerial on July 20th, 2016, hosted and presided over by **President Obama**;

Nuclear Security Summit 03/31/2016 to 04/01/2016 hosted and presided over by President Obama;

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; Several high-level consecutive conferences at the 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 meetings with successive U.S. Chiefs of the Joint Chiefs of Staff with their Latin American counterparts.

Other Organizations for which I regularly work as a contractor:

International Monetary Fund: I have interpreted at the IMF for the past 14 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: I have worked at the OAS for the last 17 years, primarily in the English booth, taking from Spanish and Portuguese, at its Permanent Council and committees, and numerous General Assemblies, including one held in 2021 in Lima, Peru. I am one of the regular core of interpreters who interpret for the **Inter-American**

Commission of Human Rights, at its executive meetings and hearings;

Pan American Health Organization: I've worked the past 15 years for the annual meetings of the Governing Bodies, comprised of the Pan American Sanitary Conference, the Directing Council, the Executive Committee, and the Subcommittee on Program, Budget and Administration--in the English booth, taking from Spanish and Portuguese. I also work weekly at the technical conferences in the Spanish<=>English and Portuguese<=>Spanish bidirectional booths, on topics covering a broad range of highly technical health-related subjects, such as: neglected tropical diseases, swine flu, the zika virus, chikungunya, influenza virus, vaccination, non-communicable diseases, Covid-19 and countless others;

Inter-American Development Bank: I have worked at the IDB for the past 15 years, primarily in the English booth, taking from Spanish and Portuguese, as well as in bi-directional booths in any combination of my 3 active languages. I have worked for many sessions of the bank's **Administrative Tribunal**, which resolves workplace labor disputes and is highly technical.

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

Voice of America: On numerous occasions I interpreted Presidents Obama, Trump, and Biden 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 14 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 on numerous projects.

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. I continue to work at the IADB when called upon to interpret for their seminars.

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.