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**NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF
COURT ADMINISTRATION
Court Interpreting in New York
State**

1 [START TAPE 1 SIDE A]

2 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE ANN PFAU:

3 Welcome to the Unified Court System of the State
4 of New York. As a court interpreter, you are an
5 important member of the courtroom team. It's
6 your job to help us safeguard the rights of
7 people who do not speak English, or who are
8 deaf, or hard of hearing, and unable to
9 understand and fully participate in legal
10 proceedings.

11 Every member of this team must have a clear
12 understanding of the role of the professional
13 court interpreter and of each other's role in
14 assuring the fair and impartial treatment of
15 individuals in the diverse multicultural
16 communities we serve. Every member of this team
17 is a service provider. As such, we must treat
18 each other with professional courtesy and
19 respect. We all deliver important services to
20 the public.

21 The role of the court interpreter is
22 critical to ensure access to the courts for
23 everyone. Today you will learn about the
24 effective practice of court interpreting in a
25 variety of settings, some of the on-the-job

1 challenges you may face, and the ethical
2 standards required in this profession, as
3 outlined in the present edition of the UCS Court
4 Interpreter Manual and Code of Ethics.

5 We hope that this program will help you to
6 better understand the role of court interpreter
7 and aid in the continued development of
8 interpreting services in the New York State
9 Courts. Thank you and good luck.

10 [VIDEO]

11 "Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole
12 truth and nothing but the truth, so help you
13 god?"

14 [DIFFERENT LANGUAGES, SPANISH, CHINESE]

15 "Pursuant to Family Court Act 37.04, my
16 second application is that my client be paroled
17 to his mother who is here in court today."

18 FEMALE VOICE: Imagine you are in a country
19 where you cannot understand the language and
20 suddenly you find yourself in a court room
21 before a judge on a charge that you don't
22 understand. How would you defend yourself?

23 New York State is home to people who come
24 from different countries and backgrounds. Many
25 do not speak English or have only a limited

1 understanding of the language. There are times
2 when they might come into contact with our
3 judicial system and need the services of court
4 room interpreters to ensure they will receive
5 fair and impartial treatment.

6 The New York State courts have ruled that
7 criminal defendants who cannot understand
8 English are entitled to have the proceedings
9 interpreted for them in a language they do
10 understand. The same may hold true for civil and
11 family courts, when the parties or witnesses do
12 not speak English or have other special
13 communication needs. People who are deaf or
14 hearing impaired, for example, also have the
15 right to have sign language interpreters
16 appointed to help them.

17 In addition to the trial courts shown here,
18 there are a number of other courts in New York
19 State that might use the services of court
20 interpreters. For example, the Court of Claims,
21 Town and Village courts, Surrogate courts,
22 County and District courts.

23 MALE VOICE: That person who comes to face
24 the system for the first time, they are
25 intimidated. They are uncomfortable. They don't

1 even know that there are official interpreters
2 because they bring along their neighbor. And by
3 the time they finish I will have done a good job
4 if that person is fully informed of his rights.

5 FEMALE VOICE: Our job is very important and
6 we are the voice of the person who needs the
7 help.

8 MALE VOICE: In the criminal division, which
9 is where all of my experience has been at the
10 end of the trial one of the charges is where
11 they inform the jury where the interpreter's
12 translation that prevails.

13 FEMALE VOICE: The interpreter's job is to
14 be as unobtrusive as possible, as invisible as
15 possible. We are the voice.

16 FEMALE VOICE: Family court there is also a
17 lot of tension, because you have cases where you
18 have domestic violence and people are very
19 belligerent toward one another. And sometimes
20 they'll take it out on the interpreter.

21 FEMALE VOICE: When you are signing there is
22 a lot, it's very important to make eye contact
23 and to be physically close.

24 FEMALE VOICE: Sometimes when we have the
25 judges that speak in a very low voice or speak

1 to their shirts that you also to have.

2 MALE VOICE: Yes.

3 FEMALE VOICE: As soon as you start having
4 difficulty, you have to interrupt.

5 MALE VOICE: There is an assumption some
6 place that this is relatively easy to do.

7 MALE VOICE: Oh, yes.

8 MALE VOICE: It isn't. It isn't. It isn't.

9 An interpreter.

10 FEMALE VOICE: A bilingual is not an
11 interpreter.

12 MALE VOICE: Bilingual does not.

13 MALE VOICE: No way.

14 [MUSIC]

15 MALE VOICE: My name is Frank Wen. I'll be
16 the interpreter.

17 FEMALE VOICE: When an interpreter is first
18 appointed to a case he or she must introduce him
19 or herself to the client and make sure they are
20 speaking the same language and dialect.

21 MR. WEN: Yes, I speak Cantonese.

22 MR. SANCHEZ: I am Mr. Sanchez, your
23 attorney that will be representing you in court.

24 MR. WEN: [interpreting]

25 FEMALE VOICE: In criminal trials the

1 attorney, defendant and interpreter often meet
2 for the first time at pre-arraignment
3 interviews, which often take place in a holding
4 pen at the court house.

5 MALE VOICE: You are charged with attempted
6 robbery in the second degree, and assault in the
7 third degree.

8 INTERPRETER: [interpreting]

9 FEMALE VOICE: The consecutive mode of
10 interpreting is used for first meetings. The
11 interpreter here waits for a complete question
12 and then interprets it completely. Waits for a
13 response, and interprets it completely.

14 While family court and some civil cases may
15 be held outside their traditional court setting,
16 the proceedings are still part of a formal
17 judicial process. In this case, the mother is
18 deaf. It is the responsibility of the
19 interpreter to make sure the type of signing
20 used and any idiosyncrasies are fully understood
21 prior to the start of this proceeding.

22 MALE VOICE: I would like the record to
23 reflect that the respondent has been handed a
24 copy of the petition.

25 MALE VOICE: What do we know about this

1 matter?

2 MALE VOICE: If I may be heard?

3 MALE VOICE: Yes.

4 FEMALE VOICE: Many sign languages are used
5 throughout the world. Some like American sign
6 language, or ASL are separate and distinct
7 languages with their own lexical, grammatical
8 and syntactic structures. On the other hand,
9 signed English or Spanish, for example,
10 paraphrase the spoken language, giving each word
11 a corresponding sign. Sign interpreters must
12 know for certain what language is being used, or
13 communication will be impossible.

14 Some deaf and hearing impaired individuals
15 lip read. Others communicate in writing. Some
16 can communicate orally. And many use a
17 combination of these skills. As with spoken
18 language, the deaf communicate at different
19 levels, or registers determined by education,
20 onset, or degree of deafness, and other factors.

21 To be an effective sign interpreter, you
22 must not only be skilled in the type of language
23 used, but also be able to sign in the person's
24 register. By state law, all sign interpreters
25 who work in the court must be RID certified.

1 As an interpreter you must never fraternize
2 nor become personally involved with the litigant
3 or any family members, and friends who might be
4 present. The interpreter here acts impartially,
5 never intruding his or her own personality,
6 knowledge or opinions into the situation.

7 Setting a professional tone at the first
8 meeting is critical and will carry through all
9 future encounters.

10 [INTERPRETER]

11 [MUSIC]

12 MALE VOICE: We deal with a population that
13 is very distrustful.

14 MALE VOICE: Right.

15 MALE VOICE: Of the system in general.

16 MALE VOICE: And often times embarrassed
17 about whatever they might be accused of. And we
18 have to get beyond that before we get the open
19 honesty that's going to.

20 MALE VOICE: And for some, for some obvious
21 reason we are looked at as an extension of the
22 system.

23 MALE VOICE: Of the system, sure.

24 FEMALE VOICE: Particularly with deaf people
25 it's important to go in and to introduce

1 yourself as an interpreter, and you know, your
2 name, and your name sign, so there is some
3 familiarity and ask them maybe what their name
4 sign is. So, there is a familiarity set up at
5 the same time there is a distance set up that
6 you are just the interpreter.

7 FEMALE VOICE: It's so extremely important
8 for a court interpreter to be exact, and to
9 acknowledge when there is a mistake or when
10 there is ambivalence about a translation.

11 MALE VOICE: I guess it begins when you
12 first introduce yourself to the litigant. You
13 explain, you explain yourself, and you explain
14 your role exactly, what they can expect of you.

15 MALE VOICE: Sure.

16 MALE VOICE: And make sure that they
17 understand that you are only there to repeat
18 what someone is saying in the language that they
19 don't understand.

20 MALE VOICE: Even when they don't understand
21 the language, when you are truly professional,
22 when you are truly doing a good job, there is a
23 certain rhythm to it that even the non Spanish
24 speaking person knows that, hey, that's a good
25 interpreter.

1 FEMALE VOICE: For all interpreters it's
2 really important that we have the, that we be
3 assertive enough to go in the courtroom and
4 stop, and interrupt the judge, and interrupt the
5 lawyers. And not to be intimidated by [you
6 know], the specialized language, by the demeanor
7 of all the parties involved.

8 MALE VOICE: By gaining their confidence and
9 explaining to them that we are impartial, that
10 the law protects that impartiality, and that we
11 are there to assist them.

12 FEMALE VOICE: We might sometimes be accused
13 of giving legal advice. We are not supposed to
14 do that. And there is a fine line between
15 information and legal advice.

16 MALE VOICE: And that litigant is listening
17 to you. Although what you are doing is
18 repeating what the attorney is saying, and that
19 litigant will say to you, what do you think.

20 MALE VOICE: Right.

21 MALE VOICE: You know, what do you think.
22 And that's that fine line.

23 [MUSIC]

24 MALE VOICE: All rise.

25 FEMALE VOICE: During the arraignment

1 process in a criminal trial, you will become
2 part of a courtroom team that includes a court
3 officer who provides security, the court clerk
4 who maintains court documents, keeps track of
5 evidence, and fills out all required forms, a
6 court reporter who keeps a verbatim record of
7 the proceeding, and of course, the judge and
8 attorneys. Here the interpreter carefully
9 interprets every statement by each of the
10 participants for the defendant.

11 FEMALE VOICE: Bail in the amount of
12 \$15,000.

13 INTERPRETER: [interpreting]

14 FEMALE VOICE: Thoroughness and precision
15 are essential, otherwise, this defendant might
16 not know whether or not his constitutional right
17 to bail has been set at a level above his means.

18 FEMALE VOICE: \$15,000 is excessive in this
19 case regardless of prior.

20 FEMALE VOICE: Since a defendant's rights to
21 be present and participate are constitutional
22 and crucial to his or her defense, you must
23 never attempt to simplify or summarize the
24 exchange between the attorneys and the judge.

25 [MUSIC]

1 FEMALE VOICE: At a pre trial hearing,
2 such as a Traverse Hearing in civil court, legal
3 issues are decided. For example, the judge may
4 decide whether service of a notice of petition
5 was proper. This must happen before a trial can
6 begin.

7 Other issues are proper for trials, such as
8 whether there was a breach of warranty of
9 habitability.

10 MALE VOICE: Mrs. Gutierrez, you understand
11 that you are in court today because you haven't
12 paid your rent?

13 INTERPRETER: [interpreting] yes.

14 MALE VOICE: Please tell us in your own
15 words why you haven't paid your rent.

16 FEMALE VOICE: The interpreter does not have
17 the right to assume that the litigant lacks the
18 knowledge of her own language to follow and
19 understand the proceedings. Only the litigant
20 knows this, and should ask the judge through the
21 interpreter for explanations or clarification.

22 FEMALE VOICE (INTERPRETER): Mr. Phillips
23 never provided me with room and board while I
24 was staying out of the apartment. I was lucky
25 that I stayed with friends.

1 MALE VOICE: Is there anything you would
2 like to tell us about the apartment?

3 FEMALE VOICE: Your Honor, may I show one
4 picture here?

5 MALE VOICE: [Interpreting] Yes, you may,
6 counselor.

7 FEMALE VOICE: I don't understand. Is that a
8 picture of my apartment?

9 MALE VOICE: Yes, this is your apartment
10 while it was under repair.

11 [MUSIC] - [INTERPRETING]

12 MALE VOICE: Do you have any more?

13 FEMALE VOICE: Your job becomes more complex
14 and critical when all of the parties come
15 together for the trial phase of a case. Expect
16 to work continuously in the simultaneous mode,
17 but be prepared to alternate between
18 simultaneous and consecutive modes depending on
19 the circumstances.

20 For example, the consecutive mode is used
21 whenever there is direct dialogue between the
22 defendant and counsel, judge or officer of the
23 court.

24 MALE VOICE: What do you think about the
25 jury?

1 MALE VOICE: I don't like her.

2 FEMALE VOICE: The questioning of
3 prospective jurors must always be interpreted in
4 its entirety. Otherwise, the defendant cannot
5 participate fully in the jury selection process,
6 which is his right.

7 FEMALE VOICE: Do you have any further
8 questions for the members of this panel?

9 FEMALE VOICE: Mr. Ortiz, do you know any
10 attorneys?

11 MALE VOICE: No.

12 FEMALE VOICE: Jurors might also require
13 interpreting services. In this instance,
14 because the potential juror speaks and
15 understands only Spanish, he needs an
16 interpreter who can translate all that is said
17 into his language. Notice again that the
18 interpreter is using the consecutive mode of
19 translation in this question and answer dialogue
20 between the attorney, judge, defendant and the
21 prospective juror.

22 FEMALE VOICE: Thank you. Mr. Thompson,
23 have you ever served on a jury before.

24 MALE VOICE: No, I haven't.

25 [MUSIC]

1 FEMALE VOICE: We are supposed to be
2 accurate in both, when we do both simultaneous
3 and when we do consecutive. The difference
4 between the two is in the timing, but you are
5 not supposed to omit or add in either case.

6 FEMALE VOICE: And I find so that I don't
7 make any eye contact with the person on the
8 witness stand, I try to find a focal point and I
9 focus on that and I listen to what's being said,
10 and as stoically as possible, I repeat
11 everything. And if he has any kind of emotion
12 or if he is gesticulating, that speaks for
13 itself.

14 FEMALE VOICE: Not the gestures, but the
15 meaning behind the words sometimes is conveyed
16 through the intonation of the word.

17 FEMALE VOICE: Facial expressions and your
18 body language are paramount in sign language.
19 And that very often you, I mean, I can, you
20 know, do one sign and with three different
21 facial expressions or three different, you know,
22 whatever, be saying three different things. And
23 so, it's so important.

24 MALE VOICE: That goes to the argument of do
25 you assume that the witness' demeanor or not.

1 FEMALE VOICE: Not very much. You see, I
2 try, for instance, when the person is speaking I
3 speak in the first person. When the person who
4 is asking the question be it a petition room
5 clerk, an attorney, a judge, anyone, I assume
6 their, I assume the first person as well. And I
7 do that to and fro.

8 FEMALE VOICE: It's also very important as a
9 sign language interpreter to make sure that the
10 deaf person understands who says what, because
11 if I am just going to be, you know, sitting here
12 interpreting any sound that I hear, they have no
13 idea did the judge say that, you know, who said
14 it, and so it's important to let them know who
15 said it, and to let them be aware of where in
16 the room that person may be, so that they may
17 look to that person as they are speaking and
18 then back and forth.

19 MALE VOICE: If you have noise in the court
20 room, anybody talking behind you, it's going to
21 impede your hearing.

22 MALE VOICE: Right.

23 MALE VOICE: So, you have to take it upon
24 yourself if the officer has not said anything,
25 that you just turn around, Your Honor, excuse

1 me. Please.

2 FEMALE VOICE: One of the things that shows
3 professionalism is being able to admit that you
4 have made a mistake. It happens to the best
5 interpreter.

6 FEMALE VOICE: The consequences of an error
7 might be pretty grave, so you just take the
8 fall. Get up, tell everybody, well, I made this
9 mistake, and I am clearing it up now, and that's
10 it, as quickly as you possibly can.

11 MALE VOICE: When I caught myself, I just
12 stopped and I told the judge, I said to the
13 judge, Your Honor, I made an error in
14 translation. I would like to correct it for the
15 record.

16 [MUSIC]

17 FEMALE VOICE: I intend to prove beyond a
18 reasonable doubt that the defendant is guilty.

19 FEMALE VOICE: After jury selection comes
20 the opening statements by the attorneys.
21 Opening statements will test your skills and
22 endurance, as you work strictly in the
23 simultaneously mode.

24 FEMALE VOICE: Are you the tenants of
25 Apartment 6 at 18 Sunset Avenue?

1 [INTERPRETING]

2 INTERPRETER: Yes, that's correct.

3 There are no formal opening statements in
4 civil or family courts. Interpreters will work
5 in either consecutive or simultaneous modes
6 depending on the circumstances.

7 Sign interpreters must always be positioned
8 so that the deaf or hearing impaired person can
9 see everything that is said or signed. It also
10 critical for the interpreter to be positioned in
11 such a way that he or she sees and hears
12 everything signed or said.

13 MALE VOICE: Now, counsel, what was that
14 time frame again?

15 FEMALE VOICE: In the simultaneous mode, it
16 is the interpreter's job to carefully shadow
17 each speaker, retaining what is said, while
18 interpreting what has already been said.

19 [MUSIC]

20 FEMALE VOICE: When a witness who requires
21 interpreting services takes the stand you must
22 use the consecutive mode of interpreting. You
23 will find this process is more orderly and
24 easier for both judge and jury to follow.
25 Discussion between the witness and interpreter

1 is not permitted. Whatever is said by the
2 witness is interpreted in its entirety.
3 Confusion, doubt or misunderstandings during
4 questioning on the part of the witness must be
5 part of the record. The interpreter cannot
6 repeat the question to the witness for
7 clarification.

8 FEMALE VOICE: And what happened on the
9 following Tuesday?

10 [INTERPRETING]

11 FEMALE VOICE: On what day?

12 FEMALE VOICE: The question was, what
13 happened on the following Tuesday?

14 [INTERPRETING]

15 FEMALE VOICE: The interpreter waits for the
16 witness to finish answering a question before
17 interpreting. If a witness begins to ramble
18 however, the interpreter signals the witness to
19 stop, or interrupts at a convenient moment and
20 begins interpreting so the witness understands
21 she must stop.

22 [INTERPRETING]

23 FEMALE VOICE: My landlord finally returned
24 my call.

25 A long consecutive translation may also

1 require note taking to aid in the retention of
2 names, dates, numbers and key words which may be
3 referred to in the testimony.

4 FEMALE VOICE: Ms. Matthews, do you live at
5 18 Sunset Avenue?

6 FEMALE VOICE: Notice the placement of the
7 sign interpreter in relationship to this
8 witness. The interpreter must always be in full
9 view of the witness so she can see everything
10 the interpreter signs. The interpreter must
11 also be able to hear and see everything said and
12 signed as well, making sure never to block the
13 judge or jury.

14 [MUSIC]

15 FEMALE VOICE: When you are interpreting
16 from English, what you are hearing to ASL which
17 is in fact another language, which is, with it's
18 own grammar you know, you are hearing one thing.
19 You are thinking and then you are saying, you
20 are doing something else.

21 FEMALE VOICE: If you have formal language
22 you are to interpret in formal language. The
23 difficult thing about being an interpreter
24 precisely is that we have to be able to
25 fluctuate between the different levels.

1 FEMALE VOICE: Sometimes it's also
2 difficult with the level of language. One time I
3 was completely berated and cursed at because the
4 man said that I was speaking like an educated
5 person and I was belittling him. But, I wasn't.
6 It's just that you are in a formal setting.

7 MALE VOICE: Absolutely.

8 FEMALE VOICE: And there are certain
9 vocabulary and certain mannerisms that just
10 apply.

11 FEMALE VOICE: About the interruptions,
12 about the highly specialized language, and that
13 that you mentioned.

14 MALE VOICE: Area.

15 FEMALE VOICE: Area, we get that in family
16 court, too, with the medical testimony.

17 MALE VOICE: Absolutely.

18 FEMALE VOICE: The psychiatric testimony.
19 And the thing is, there is never going to be a
20 time where it's going to be easy to interrupt
21 the judge or the person who is giving testimony.
22 So, as quickly as you can interrupt you do.

23 FEMALE VOICE: The reverse interpreting is
24 very difficult. From ASL into English can be
25 extremely difficult, because each deaf person

1 has their own style, has their own way, has
2 their own phrase.

3 MALE VOICE: And over a period of time we
4 want to build the faith that we want the judges,
5 and other agencies and the attorneys to have
6 faith in our abilities, and know that, and be
7 secure that all that's being translated is being
8 translated accurately.

9 FEMALE VOICE: There is one woman, she
10 couldn't describe what a headlock was. So, she
11 said come here. So, I look at her and she got me
12 in a headlock.

13 MALE VOICE: Oh, boy.

14 FEMALE VOICE: It was horrible.

15 [MUSIC]

16 MALE VOICE: And finally, consider the facts
17 that my defendant was working on the day of the
18 alleged assault and robbery on a woman who only
19 had ten dollars and fifty cents. My client
20 makes \$6.50 an hour and was on parole.

21 FEMALE VOICE: During a criminal trial you
22 will have three solid blocks of interpretation
23 to get through simultaneously, the closing
24 arguments by each attorney, and the judge's
25 charge to the jury. Like opening statements,

1 closing arguments can be demanding and require
2 that you carefully shadow the speakers,
3 retaining and interpreting information in the
4 simultaneous mode.

5 FEMALE VOICE: You have now heard both sides
6 of the case. I have presented arguments to show
7 you that the defendant is guilty. The defense
8 attorney has presented arguments.

9 FEMALE VOICE: Lengthy procedures like these
10 can cause fatigue and affect the quality of
11 interpreting. If this happens, it is your
12 responsibility to inform the bench. The court
13 can then authorize appropriate breaks.

14 FEMALE VOICE: If you find him guilty of
15 attempted robbery in the second degree.

16 [MUSIC]

17 MALE VOICE: I have reached my decision. He
18 is remanded to secure detention. This
19 application is denied.

20 FEMALE VOICE: In family and civil courts
21 the judge may hand down a decision.

22 MALE VOICE: I find in favor of the
23 petitioner and award the amount of \$2000 for
24 rent arrears.

25 INTERPRETER: [interpreting]

1 MALE VOICE: Court is adjourned.

2 MALE VOICE: All rise.

3 FEMALE VOICE: Having heard the statements
4 of the people and defense.

5 FEMALE VOICE: The final procedure in a
6 criminal trial is the verdict. If the defendant
7 is found guilty the judge reads the sentence.
8 Prior to sentencing the judge will ask the
9 defendant if he wishes to make a statement.

10 FEMALE VOICE: Mr. Liu, do you wish to say
11 anything to this court before I pronounce
12 sentence.

13 MALE VOICE: I have nothing to say.

14 FEMALE VOICE: Then I hereby sentence you to
15 a maximum.

16 FEMALE VOICE: These final comments must be
17 interpreted thoroughly and accurately for the
18 court.

19 FEMALE VOICE: Counsel, please advise your
20 client of his rights to appeal.

21 FEMALE VOICE: Even as the proceedings end
22 and your role as interpreter comes to a close,
23 you must still act with professional
24 impartiality.

25 In addition to trial interpretation, there

1 are a number of other important services
2 performed by court interpreters. You will
3 encounter many of these on the job.

4 Confidential discussions between defense lawyers
5 and clients, pretrial release interviews, out of
6 court settlements, transcriptions of audio tapes
7 in criminal investigations, filling out forms
8 for litigants, filing and processing legal
9 documents, and other kinds of over the counter
10 work.

11 We have given you an overview of your
12 responsibilities and have shown you some of the
13 challenges you will face as a court interpreter.

14 A few of the key points we have highlighted
15 and that you should always take into account
16 are:

17 Never fraternize or become personally
18 involved with the person for whom you are
19 interpreting.

20 Be impartial, never intruding your own
21 personality, knowledge or opinions in the
22 situation.

23 Set a professional tone at the first
24 meeting.

25 Translate every word spoken. Never attempt

1 to simplify or summarize any exchange. Do not
2 try to improve or edit any words or statements.
3 Translate all colloquial and slang expressions.

4 As a sign interpreter always position
5 yourselves so that the deaf or hearing impaired
6 person can see everything that is said or
7 signed.

8 It is your obligation to inform the court
9 when a pause or a break is needed.

10 To maintain a high level of professionalism,
11 you must continuously improve your interpreting
12 skills.

13 For more comprehensive information about the
14 guidelines you must follow, you can refer to the
15 Court Interpreter Manual that accompanies this
16 program.

17 [MUSIC]

18 MALE VOICE: It's very important that we do
19 our best to be competent and good interpreters
20 so that we have the kind of credibility that we
21 deserve.

22 MALE VOICE: An interpreter has to take a
23 language, digest it mentally, spit it out in the
24 other language in very quick form. It isn't
25 easy.

1 FEMALE VOICE: Training is really
2 important. It's really important that
3 interpreters maintain the responsibility of
4 always studying, training themselves, learning
5 new vocabulary. Language is a living thing.

6 FEMALE VOICE: And to realize that every
7 situation is different and it needs its own
8 considerations and you have to be sensitive to
9 each person you are interpreting for, and for
10 the situation.

11 FEMALE VOICE: In all the courts it's very
12 important to be, to be exact, because a court...
13 this marks a court interpreter, rather than the
14 different language interpreter. You have the
15 responsibility of conveying the message of the
16 person whom you are interpreting for, and the
17 message of the lawyers and the judge and
18 everyone involved in the process in the legal
19 process.

20 MALE VOICE: Lets all keep in mind that the
21 only thing that's going to be read in any future
22 litigation by a higher court is going to be that
23 version, that transcript, which is in English.
24 Therefore, it's important, it's imperative that
25 we be very accurate.

1 FEMALE VOICE: I feel elated when I see
2 the person nod when I am doing simultaneous,
3 when at the conclusion of the trial the person
4 says to me, wow, I really understood everything
5 you said. You really brought across the meaning
6 of what was being said.

7 MALE VOICE: Our main obligation in my mind
8 is that person understanding exactly what took
9 place.

10 FEMALE VOICE: Your role as a court
11 interpreter is essential to the legal process.
12 By maintaining the highest professional
13 standards, you are able to assure equal access
14 to the judicial system for non English speaking,
15 deaf, and hearing impaired individuals. These
16 standards apply both inside and outside of the
17 courtroom whenever you provide interpreting
18 services and represent New York State's Unified
19 Court System.

20 [END OF VIDEO]

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25