

Janis Palma

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Academic Background:

Ph.D. in Language Studies, July 2024 – Bircham International University.

Thesis: *Language Misunderstood: Referential meaning and linguistic recursion in the oral translation of legal discourse in the United States.*

Master in Legal Studies (MLS), Dec. 2023 – Arizona State University. Concentration Area: Criminal Law

Honors

Outstanding Master of Legal Studies Graduate Student, Fall 2023, Sandra Day O'Connor School of Law, Arizona State University.

Master of Arts (M.A.), May 1996 – Centro de Estudios Avanzados de Puerto Rico y el Caribe.

Major: Puerto Rican & Caribbean Literature and History

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Dec. 1977 – University of Texas at Austin. Major: Spanish language and literature. Minor: Art History.

Professional Credentials:

Licensed as a Master-Level Court Interpreter, English<>Spanish, by the Texas Judicial Branch Certification Commission, (JBCC), 2017

Certified by the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT) Interpreter & Translator, English<>Spanish, 2004

Accredited by the American Translators Association (ATA) in English-to-Spanish and Spanish-to-English translation, 1986.

Certified by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts Interpreter, English<>Spanish, 1981.

Professional Background:

Judiciary Interpreter & Translator

Independent contractor July 1, 2017 – Present

Staff Interpreter, U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico (Retired), January 2002 – June 31, 2017; Supervisory Interpreter 2009-2015

Contract Interpreter 1984-2001 – worked for various federal and state agencies, courts, and private clients, in Texas, New York, Florida, Louisiana, Indiana, Missouri, Maryland, Mississippi, New Jersey, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico, including FBI, DEA, ATF, the former INS and U.S. Customs (now Customs and Border Protection), U.S. Secret Service, and U.S. Attorney's Office.

Staff Interpreter, U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas, Brownsville Division, 1983-84.

Contract Interpreter, Dade County, Florida. 1980-83.

Interpreter & Translator Educator

Founder and President, 2022 - Present

IKIGAI – Integrated Knowledge Institute for the Greater Advancement of Interpreters (ikigaiusa.org), a tax exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization incorporated in San Antonio, Texas.

Instructor, 1985 – Present

Develop and teach basic, intermediate and advanced courses in the theory and practice of interpreting and translation, on a contract basis with public and private institutions, universities, court administration offices, and professional associations.

Full-length Book Translation

History of the Federal Court in Puerto Rico, by Guillermo Baralt. Publicaciones Puertorriqueñas, Inc.: Hato Rey, PR, 2004.

Professional Publications (a selection):

“When interpreting does not remove the language barrier: interpreter ethics at odds with due process rights in U.S. courts.” *Texas Hispanic Journal of Law & Policy*, U. of Texas at Austin Law School, Vol. 29, Spring 2023. (pp. 25-45). Available at

https://www.academia.edu/108259566/When_interpreting_does_not_remove_the_language_barrier_interpreter_ethics_at_odds_with_due_process_rights_in_U_S_courts

The Legal Duty of Care: What is it and how does it impact the role of the judiciary interpreter? *The ATA Chronicle*. Vol 52, No. 5. Nov/Dec. 2023. (pp. 14-19) Available at <https://www.ata-chronicle.online/magazine>

Three reasons why LEP defendants may never be “similarly situated”. *Proteus*, Spring 2023. Also in academia.edu, https://www.academia.edu/99728514/Three_reasons_why_LEP_defendants_may_never_be_similarly_situated.

What is a Certified Judiciary Interpreter? *Academia Letters*, academia.edu,

https://www.academia.edu/50984513/What_is_a_certified_judiciary_interpreter_i

The Fallacy of Equal Footing in Simultaneous Interpreting. *Proteus*, Fall-Winter 2020. Also in academia.edu, <https://www.academia.edu/44719055/>

The Fallacy of Equal Footing in Simultaneous Interpreting

The Pitfalls of the Long Consecutive Mode in the Courtroom: learning when to use it. *ATA Chronicle*, December 2009.

Strategizing Your Performance at the Witness Stand. *ATA Chronicle*, Winter 2002.

“Vienen tumbando caña (todavía),” in *Historia y género: Vidas y relatos de mujeres en el Caribe*, comp. Mario R. Cancel. San Juan: Asociación Puertorriqueña de Historiadores, 1997 (105– 21).

The Relationship of Textual Density to a Judiciary Interpreter’s Performance in Consecutive Interpreting. Marshall Morris, ed. *Translation and the Law*, ATA Scholarly Monograph Series, VIII. Philadelphia, PA: John Benjamins North America, Inc.: 1995.

Professional Papers and Presentations (a selection):

Understanding what “understanding” means for your LEP client, LEO 9th International Virtual Conference, June 2024.

The Judiciary Interpreter as Expert Witness: What to expect when you are called in to testify as an expert. NAJIT Annual Conference, Providence, RI, May 2024

Language Building Blocks for Expert Performance in the Simultaneous Mode and Beyond, NAJIT Annual Conference, Providence, RI, May 2024

Taking it to the next level: discourse analysis techniques to improve accuracy in consecutive and simultaneous interpreting. Maryland Judiciary, Court Interpreter Program, April 2024.

Adapting Interpreting Techniques to Target Listeners in Legal Settings. New England Translators Association (NETA), October 2023.

The Legal Duty of Care, NAJIT Annual Conference, Las Vegas, June 2023.

Accuracy in Consecutive and Accuracy in Simultaneous: Methods, Strategies and Techniques. Carolina Association of Translators and Interpreters (CATI) Annual Conference April 2023, Charleston, SC.

- When additions and omissions are not mistakes: Empowering judiciary interpreters to use their better judgment.* Linguist Education Online (LEO) Conference, December 2022.
- When interpreting does not remove the language barrier: Interpreter ethics at odds with due process in U.S. courts,* First International Conference on the Right to Languages: Linguistic Policies and Translation and Interpretation in Public Services and Institutions, University of Valencia, Valencia, Spain, June 2022.
- Why are we even there? Building up accuracy standards for interpreters in legal, medical, educational and conference settings.* 43rd Annual Conference, National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT), Ft. Lauderdale, FL. June 2022.
- Nonverbal Cues that Impact Source-Language Meaning,* 2021 Annual Conference, Carolina Association of Translators and Interpreters (CATI), November 2021.
- Building Blocks for Consecutive Interpreting,* Delaware Valley Translators Association (DVTA), 2018 East Coast Summit, Wilmington, DE. September 2018.
- Untangling the Tortuous Tapestry of Legal Discourse.* Legal Translation & Interpreting Seminar, American Translators Association, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 2007.
- What Your See... Is What You Hear? The Hidden Messages of Discourse.* Keynote address during the annual meeting of the Chicago Area Translators and Interpreters Association (CHICATA), Chicago, Illinois, 1996.

Professional Affiliations:

- IKIGAI – Integrated Knowledge Institute for the Greater Advancement of Interpreters. Founder and President, since 2022.
- National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT), formerly the Court Interpreters and Translators Association (CITA), since 1983. Life Member since 2004. Chair, Board of Directors, May 2021 – June 2022. Board Member, May 2020 – June 2022. Bylaws and Governance Committee Chair, 2024-Present.
- Texas Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (TAJIT). Active Member since 2016; Board of Directors, 2019-2020 Conference Committee Co-Chair (2020) Policies and Bylaws Committee Chair (2019-2020)
- Society for the Study of Translation and Interpretation (SSTI). Board Member, 1998- 2006, 2014-2019; Board President, 2002-2004, 2014-2019
- American Alliance of Professional Translators and Interpreters (AAPTI). Individual Member since 2021.
- American Translators Association (ATA). Associate Member, 2021 – present; Active Member, 1986-1989.
- Asociación Profesional de Traductores e Intérpretes (APTI) de Puerto Rico. Member 2021 – present, 1991- 1993; Vice President, 1992.

Other Professional Activities:

- Blog author
NAJIT, 2014 – Present
- Project Leader – Translation of Miranda Warnings
Joint NAJIT and IKIGAI Project, 2022 – Present
- Project Director for the NEH-funded *Simposio sobre la Traducción: Panorama, Realidad y Perspectiva.* San Juan, Puerto Rico, 1992.