

Janis Palma  
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**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

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

**Academic Background:**

**Ph.D. in Communication**, starting in Fall 2023 – Regent University (online). Expected graduation date: May 2027.

**Master in Legal Studies**, currently enrolled – Arizona State University (online). Expected graduation date: December 2023.

**Master of Arts**, 1996 – Centro de Estudios Avanzados de Puerto Rico y el Caribe. Major: Puerto Rican & Caribbean Literature and History

**B.A.**, 1977 – University of Texas at Austin. Major: Spanish language and literature. Minor: Art History.

**Professional Background:**

**Judiciary Interpreter & Translator**

July 1, 2017 – Present

Independent contractor

2002 – June 31, 2017

Staff Interpreter, U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico (Retired)

Supervisory Interpreter 2009-2015

1984-2001

Contract Interpreter 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.

1983-84

Staff Interpreter, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Brownsville Division

1980-83

Contract Interpreter for private clients, state and federal courts, in Dade County, Florida. Organization, among others.

**Interpreter & Translator Educator**

2022 - Present

Founder and President

*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.

**1985 – Present**

Instructor developing and teaching basic, intermediate and advanced courses in the theory and practice of interpreting and translation, on a contract basis with public and private institutions such as the University of Texas at San Antonio, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, San Diego State University, the Federal Judicial Center, the Office of Court Administration for the States of New Hampshire, Delaware, New Jersey, Oregon, and Florida, the Texas Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (TAJIT), the American Translators Association, the National Center for State Courts, the New York Unified Court System, Pima County Superior Court (Tucson, Arizona), the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Universidad del Quindío (Almeria, Colombia), and the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT), among others.

**Full-length Book Translation**

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

**Professional Publications:**

*Three reasons why LEP defendants may never be “similarly situated”*. **Proteus**, Sprint 2023. Also in academia.edu, [https://www.academia.edu/99728514/Three\\_reasons\\_why\\_LEP\\_defendants\\_may\\_never\\_be\\_similarly\\_situated\\_](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\\_](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](https://www.academia.edu/44719055/The_Fallacy_of_Equal_Footing_in_Simultaneous_Interpreting)

*What we call ourselves matters*. **ATA Chronicle**, November-December 2019.

*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):**

*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.* 43<sup>rd</sup> 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 (DVRTA), 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.

*The Relationship of Textual Density to a Judiciary Interpreter's Performance in Consecutive Interpreting.* NAJIT's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Conference, New York, 1994.

### **Professional Affiliations:**

National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT), formerly the Court Interpreters and Translators Association (CITA), since 1983. Life Member since 2006.

Chair, Board of Directors, May 2021 – June 2022.

Board Member, May 2020 – June 2022.

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

Linguistic Society of America (LSA), Individual Member since 2021.

ASTM, Individual Member since 2021.

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.

Project Director for the NEH-funded *Simposio sobre la Traducción: Panorama, Realidad y Perspectiva.* San Juan, Puerto Rico, 1992.

### **Other Professional Activities:**

Blog author

NAJIT, 2014 - Present