

Directions for completing this form: Place the title of your workshop in the space indicated, followed by the name and contact information for the presenters. Provide a brief description by placing the cursor on the line below “Brief Description” and commence typing. To complete the “Topical Outline”, place cursor next to each Roman numeral and begin typing. Then place the cursor next to the “a.” to begin listing sub-topics. To list more than one sub-topic, push “Enter” and “b.” should appear on the next line, and so on. Place the cursor on the line under “Notes” to begin providing your notes. To list bibliographic information, place the cursor next to “1.” and start typing. Push “Enter” to move on to “2.” and etc.

ABA/ NLADA 2007 Equal Justice Conference

Limited English Proficiency: Self-Help as a Tool for Access

Presenters:

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Moderator:

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Brief Description:

Studies and practice confirm that most LEP people who deal with the justice system must often do so without the assistance of counsel. Self help services become the major way of preventing injustice. This workshop will discuss the legal and ethical framework mandating language access in legal and self help contexts and how language barriers impact court situations and the management of a self help program. It will also highlight some promising practices for bridging the language gap in self help contexts.

Topical Outline:

- I. Why Focus on Language Access?
 - a. Definitions
 - b. U.S. Demographics
- II. About LEP Pro Se Applicants
- III. Legal Framework for Language Access
 - a. Legal Values and the Responsibility to Provide Language Access
 - b. Ethical framework mandating language access
- IV. Types of Language Assistance Activities
- V. Questions to Consider When Assessing if Providing Language Access
- VI. Impact of Language Barriers on Service Providers
 - a. Self-help centers
 - b. Legal aid agencies
 - c. Pro bono coordination programs
 - d. Lawyer referral programs
- VII. Promising Practices in providing services to LEP litigants
 - a. Translated materials in plain language
 - b. Multi-lingual audio reference materials
 - c. Partnerships between courts and community organizations
 - d. Ensuring quality of interpretation and translation differences

Bibliography & Website Links:

1. Resources for Serving Clients with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) available at http://www.lri.lsc.gov/sitepages/diversity/div_lep.htm
2. Network for Practitioners of Self-Help Programs as well as an online clearinghouse of information relating to self-representation, including language access issues at www.selfhelpsupport.org.
3. [Joann H. Lee, "A Case Study: Lawyering to Meet the Needs of Monolingual Asian and Pacific Islander Communities in Los Angeles," *Clearinghouse Rev.* \(May-June 2002\) 172-184. \(020077\)](#)
4. [Angela McCaffrey, "Don't Get Lost in Translation: Teaching Law Students to Work with Language Interpreters," *Clinical Law Review* 6, No. 2 \(Spring 2000\). \(030188\)](#)

5. [Trang Nguyen, "Working with Linguistically and Culturally Isolated Communities: The Cambodian Outreach Project of Merrimack Valley Legal Services," *Clearinghouse Rev.* 37, No. 3 \(May-June 2003\) 79-83. \(030143\)](#)
6. [Paul Uyehara, "Making Legal Services Accessible to Limited English Proficient Clients," *Management Information Exchange Journal* 17, No. 1 \(Spring 2003\) 33-37. \(030063\)](#)
7. [Paul Uyehara, "Opening Our Doors to Language-Minority Clients," *Clearinghouse Review* 36, No. 11-12 \(March-April 2003\) 544-557. \(030099\)](#)
8. [Paul M. Uyehara, "Funding the Mandate for Language Access," *Dialogue*, Winter 2004 \(16- 20\). \(040026\)](#)
9. [Molly McDonough, "Lost in Translation: Lack of Qualified Interpreters May Compromise Justice," *ABA Journal*, 3 November 2003.](#)