

Court Interpreter Internship Program

New Jersey Judiciary

Language Services Section

BACKGROUND

The Judiciary recognizes that its need for competent interpreters continues to grow. In January 2007, to help increase the pool of skilled court interpreters, the Judicial Council approved the establishment of a standardized internship program for use whenever a vicinage can provide a meaningful work experience. No state currently has such a statewide court interpreter internship program, but the Judiciary believes that nurturing people who show interest in the field of court interpreting will result in more qualified interpreters wanting to work with the courts.

DESCRIPTION

Internships are available for persons seeking careers in Court Interpreting. Interns will: 1) observe various types of court proceedings and court interpreting events; 2) prepare draft translations of documents; 3) practice interpreting in limited situations under the supervision of a staff interpreter; and 4) assist with compiling statistics, providing information to the public, and conducting ad hoc research projects. Academic credit can be arranged with sponsoring schools if desired, but being enrolled in an academic program is not required. These internships are unpaid and available only for prospective Spanish interpreters (hopefully other languages will be added over time).

DURATION OF PROGRAM

This internship requires 72 hours during an academic term (six hours a week for twelve weeks) or 80 hours during a summer (eight hours a week for ten weeks).

REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must:

1. Be committed to the career goal of becoming a court interpreter; and
2. Have a mastery of Spanish and English at the level of a highly educated, native speaker (interviews will include components in both English and Spanish and candidates will be asked to produce a writing sample in each language).

Courses in translation and/or interpretation are a plus.

LOCATIONS AVAILABLE

Internships are provided by courts that meet certain requirements and want to offer the program. The availability of internships varies from time to time. Some locations will offer them three times a year (Spring, Summer and Fall), while others will offer them only one or two of those periods of time each year. The following counties have established the program: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Monmouth, Passaic, Somerset, and Union. For information on the availability of internships and how to apply for an internship, go to <http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/jobs/index2.htm> and scroll down to "Unpaid Internships."