

# **Court Interpreter Funding: Legislative Implementation**

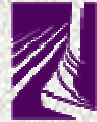
**Presented by**

**Chris Ruhl and Karina Pugachenok**

**Washington State  
Administrative Office of the Courts**

**WASCLA Summit  
Sept. 7, 2007**

# Purpose



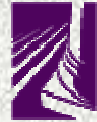
WASHINGTON  
COURTS

- **Describe significant legislative policy initiative**
- **Report on status and plans for implementation, and impact on interpreter program stakeholders**



*"I need someone well versed in the art of torture—do you know PowerPoint?"*

# Background



WASHINGTON  
COURTS

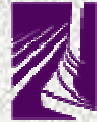
- **Trial Court Funding Task Force: State should partner with local governments in funding trial courts where a clear nexus exists between state mandates and court operations**
- **Examples: judicial salaries, representation in dependency cases, indigent defense, and *interpreter costs***

# 2007 Justice in Jeopardy Package



- **Requested \$7.8 million for Interpreters**
  - State funding for 50% of costs for certified and registered interpreters at \$50 per hour rate
  - Help develop and implement Limited English Proficiency (LEP) plans

# Budget Proviso Language (HB 1128)



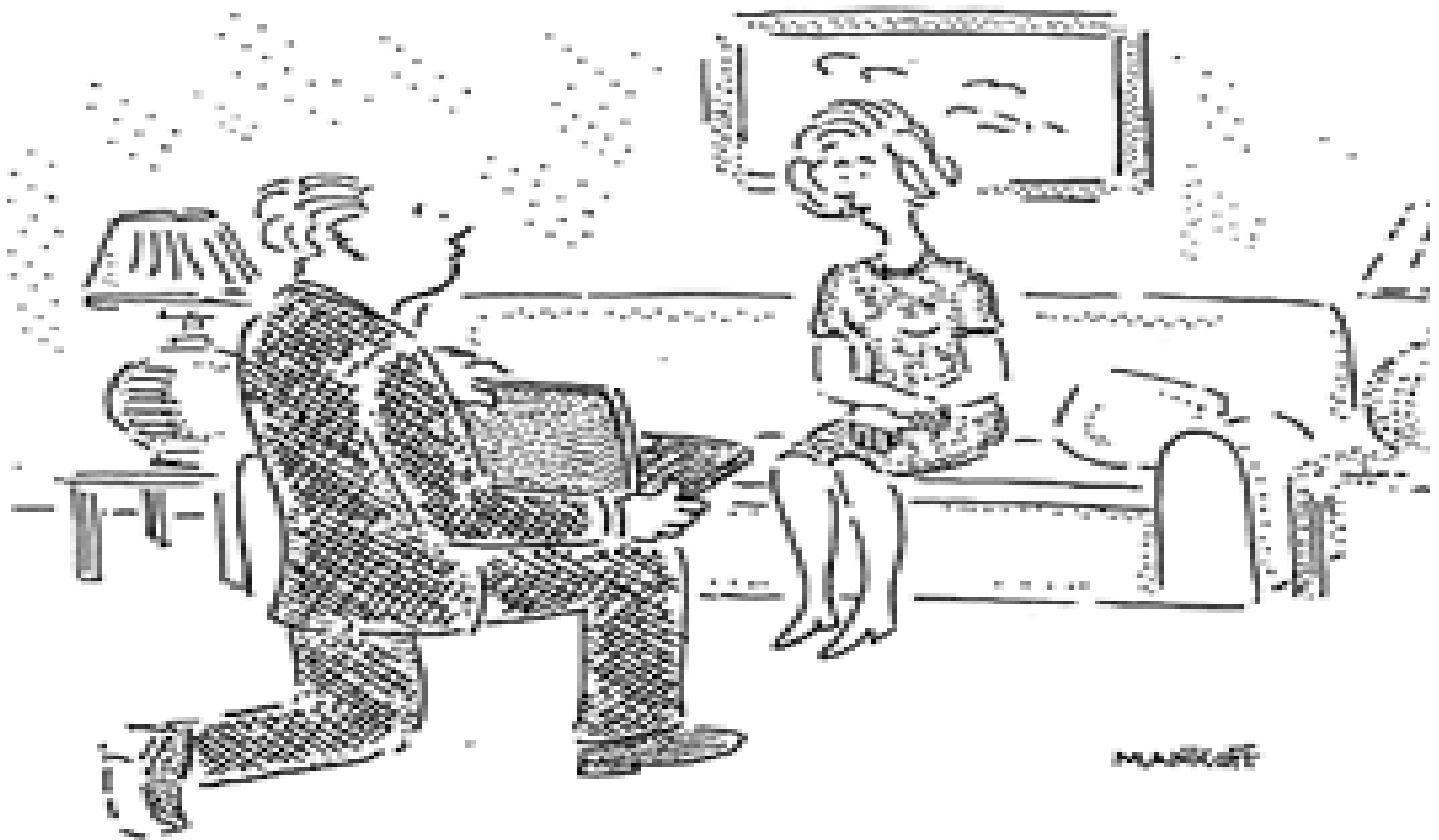
WASHINGTON  
COURTS

- **\$340,000 (ONLY for FY 08) to help trial courts develop and implement Language Assistance Plans (LAP's) to meet AOC standards, which should include guidelines on:**
  - 1. Local community input.**
  - 2. Notifying court users on the right and methods to obtain an interpreter.**
  - 3. Procedures for identifying and appointing an interpreter.**
  - 4. Access to translations of commonly used forms.**
  - 5. Information on training for judges and court personnel.**
  - 6. Processes to evaluate the development and implementation of the plan.**

## Budget Proviso Language (cont.)



- **\$610,000 for FY 08 and \$950,000 for FY 09 to assist trial courts with interpreter services. To be eligible for assistance, a trial court must:**
  - 1. Complete a Language Assistance Plan (LAP) consistent with AOC standards.**
  - 2. Submit the amounts spent annually on interpreters for FY's 05, 06, and 07.**



MARSH

*"Great PowerPoint, Kevin, but the answer is n*



# Legislative Impacts on Trial Courts



- A statewide Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan, and LAP template and directions for local courts, have been completed and distributed to all courts in the state.
- An application for interpreter funding has been completed and distributed to all courts.

# Legislative Impacts on Trial Courts (cont.)



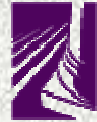
- **Local courts can follow the statewide LAP template and directions to create their local LAP.**
- **Karina Pugachenok at AOC will assist local courts in creating and implementing their LAP's.**
- **\$240,000 will be available in FY 08 to assist local courts in implementing LAP's. (\$340K - \$100K for AOC admin & staff-related expenses.)**
- **Some of the \$240,000 will be reserved for state-level LAP efforts (pattern forms translation, signage, etc.)**

# Legislative Impacts on Trial Courts (cont.)



- **Local courts must complete LAP's to be eligible for state interpreter funds.**
- **At the end of FY 08, fund recipients will be required to report to AOC the amount spent on interpreter services in FY 08.**

# Implementation – Timeline & Milestones



WASHINGTON  
COURTS

- **July 31, 2007 – Interpreter Services Funding application and LAP materials distributed to courts statewide.**
- **August / September 2007 – AOC staff assist local jurisdictions (including potential funding applicants) in creating LAP's.**
- **September 2007 – First local LAP's approved.**
- **October 2007 – Select initial interpreter services implementation site funding recipients and begin reimbursing interpreter costs.**
- **January 2008 – AOC begins receiving interpreter cost / usage data from implementation site funding recipients (to be provided to AOC on a quarterly basis).**
- **January 2008 – Applications for FY09 interpreter services funds distributed statewide.**
- **August 1, 2008 – FY08 Implementation site funding recipients report to AOC the amount spent on interpreter services in FY08.**

# Timeline/Milestones – LEP/LAP



- **August / September 2007 – AOC staff assist local jurisdictions (including potential funding applicants) in creating LAP's.**
- **September 2007 – First local LAP's approved.**
- **September 2007 – Application for LAP implementation \$\$ distributed to all courts.**
- **October 2007 – June 2008 – LAP implementation \$\$ distributed (for both state-level and local projects).**

# Timeline/Milestones – Interpreter Services Funding



- **July 31, 2007 – Interpreter Services Funding application and LAP materials distributed to all courts.**
- **August / September 2007 – AOC staff assist local jurisdictions in completing funding applications.**
- **Develop funds disbursement procedures (invoicing, verification, etc.).**
- **October 2007 – Select initial interpreter services implementation site funding recipients and begin reimbursing interpreter costs.**
- **January 2008 – Applications for FY09 interpreter services funds distributed statewide.**

## **Initial Implementation Sites – Interpreter Funding**

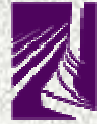


- **Probably 2-4 Initial Implementation Sites in FY08 (more added in FY09)**
- **Combination of medium / small and urban / rural jurisdictions**
- **Multi-Court / Countywide / Regional Collaborative Efforts**
- **Laboratories for Innovation / Best Practices (e.g. Scheduling)**



*The Night Before the Big Meeting Frank  
Receives a Visit from the PowerPoint Fairy.*

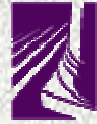




WASHINGTON  
COURTS

**July 2007 – June 2009:**

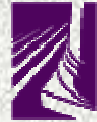
**The First Phase of a Long  
Term Plan**



## **SO – WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR...???**

- **Interpreters**
- **LEP Persons**
- **Deaf / HH Persons**
  - **Courts**

## Impact – Interpreters



WASHINGTON  
COURTS

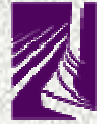
- **Better Scheduling (multi-court coordination)**
- **Consistent pay rate**
- **Incentive for courts to use certified and registered interpreters**
- **Incentive for interpreters to become certified / registered**
- **Uniform invoice and payment process**
- **More consistent court practices for Spoken Language and ASL interpreters.**

# Impact – LEP and Deaf / Hard of Hearing Persons



- **More consistent service provision, including between LEP and Deaf / HH persons**
- **Better overall integration and coordination between spoken language and ASL interpreter services**
- **Higher quality interpreting (more use of certified / registered interpreters)**
- **Better Language Access and Language Assistance (both in-court and outside the courtroom)**

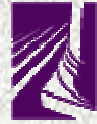
## Impact – Courts



WASHINGTON  
COURTS

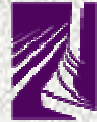
- **Availability of state \$\$ - *reduced local interpreter costs***
- **Better availability of all interpreters through coordinated scheduling**
- **Better availability of qualified interpreters (especially certified and registered)**
- **More uniform interpreter payment rates and invoicing / payment process**

## Impact – Courts (cont.)



WASHINGTON  
COURTS

- **Improved language access for LEP and Deaf / HH persons**
- **Incentive for courts to use certified and registered interpreters**
- **Incentive for interpreters to become certified / registered**
- **More consistent / coordinated court practices for providing spoken language and ASL interpreters.**



WASHINGTON  
COURTS

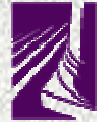
# **The Landscape of Court Interpreting and Language Assistance in Washington State is Changing. . .**

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED  
<http://www.cartoonbank.com>



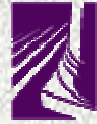
*"Never, ever, think outside the box."*





**“The art of progress is to preserve order amid change and to preserve change amid order.”**  
*(Alfred North Whitehead)*

**“Change is inevitable, except from vending machines.”** *(American Proverb)*



WASHINGTON  
COURTS

# Questions?

## Contact Information – LAP / Funding



- **Karina Pugachenok, Interpreter  
Program Analyst**
- **[karina.pugachenok@courts.wa.gov](mailto:karina.pugachenok@courts.wa.gov)**
- **(360) 705-5315**

# Contact Information – Interpreter Program (Certif. / Registration)



- **Tina Williamson, Interpreter Program Assistant**
- **[tina.williamson@courts.wa.gov](mailto:tina.williamson@courts.wa.gov)**
- **(360) 705-5279**

# Contact Information

**Washington State  
Administrative Office of the Courts**

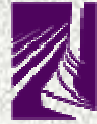
**1206 Quince St SE**

**P O Box 41170**

**Olympia, WA 98504-1170**

**(360) 753-3365**

**FAX: (360) 586-8869**



WASHINGTON  
COURTS

**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR INTEREST AND  
YOUR HELP!**