

Voter's Guide

WASCLA Election for the Board of Directors

2010

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Candidates (listed alphabetically by last name)

Abukar Ali

Candidate for a Board Position in the following categories:

1st and Only Choice: Interpreter or Translator

In one or two paragraphs, please describe your interest in joining the WASCLA Board of Directors.

As practicing interpreter I have first hand experience the importance of language access for many LEP Families and how difficult it is to grasp with, when you see LEP customer not being seen for their appointments just because they don't speak English or there is no an interpreter available for them. This prompted me to seek the board position of WASCLA since it's the only organization working to improve language access for many bilingual Washingtonians.

Please describe your professional experience with language access issues:

I am certified Somali interpreter since 2002 both social and medical. I also worked East African Community Services as a case manager for elderly refugees from Somalia and now Director of GlobePoint Cultural Link, start up interpretation and cultural consulting firm

How many years, and in what capacity, have you been involved with language access issues?

I was involved the issues of language access in many capacities as an interpreter, employee of CBO and also marketing and recruitment of the profession

Please add any other relevant information that you would like to share with the WASCLA membership regarding your nomination to the WASCLA Board of Directors:

I believe if elected to the Board I will contribute WASCLA to reach its potential and I will bring in many years of experience not only in terms of interpretation but also ways to expand the scope and the reach of language access

Kristi Cruz

Candidate for a Board Position in the following categories:

1st Choice: Representative from the Legal Field

2nd Choice: Member at Large

In one or two paragraphs, please describe your interest in joining the WASCLA Board of Directors.

I am interested in joining the WASCLA Board of Directors to assist WASCLA in achieving its goal of improving access to services for LEP persons in Washington State. WASCLA, as a collaboration of many stakeholders, provides a unique opportunity to learn from each stakeholder's perspective, share resources and best practices, and to effect change on a large scale. I know that WASCLA is at a critical stage in its development with these elections and in becoming an independent entity and I hope to provide some continuity to the ongoing work of WASCLA through this time of change and opportunity.

My interest in joining the Board of Directors also stems from my involvement with WASCLA over the past two years. During this time, I have participated on each committee and work group that WASCLA currently has in operation and hope to continue that involvement through participation on the Board.

Please describe your professional experience with language access issues:

My work on language access began when I worked as an American Sign Language Interpreter and continues today in my work as an attorney at the Northwest Justice Project. I began working as an ASL interpreter in 1992 and continued in that role until 2008. As an interpreter, I worked in education, medical, social services, and eventually legal settings. In that role, I witnessed the many barriers that deaf individuals have in accessing services because of their disability and the lack of understanding by service providers on how to work with interpreters. While working as a legal interpreter, I became interested in pursuing a law degree with the goal of working in the field of language access, although at the time I applied to law school I did not know exactly the shape that work would take. I first learned of WASCLA in 2008, when I applied to be an intern for the Northwest Justice Project, working on the WASCLA project. The goals of WASCLA and the work that WASCLA does provided the perfect avenue to continue my involvement with language access on a larger scale. Through that internship, I learned the value of a the coalition’s approach to addressing barriers for LEP individuals within a collaborative approach. Since that time, I have become a staff attorney at the Northwest Justice Project working on a language access project. As part of that project, I have remained involved with WASCLA including being involved on the WASCLA Interim Advisory Committee, the state conference planning committee, the Interpreter Directory committee, the RX Translation work group, and the Schools work group. In addition to my involvement with WASCLA, I work on client cases that involve language barriers and provide educational outreach regarding the legal requirements to provide access to services for limited English proficient individuals.

How many years, and in what capacity, have you been involved with language access issues? I have been involved with language access since 1992 in varying roles. As I stated above, I worked as an ASL interpreter from 1992 – 2008. In 2009, after graduating from law school, I became a member of the Washington State Bar Association. As an attorney, I continue my involvement with language access through WASCLA, the National Language Access Advocates Network, educational seminars to law students and other attorneys regarding language access laws, and through my independent work at the Northwest Justice Project on language access cases.

Please add any other relevant information that you would like to share with the WASCLA membership regarding your nomination to the WASCLA Board of Directors:

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Gillian Dutton

Candidate for a Board Position in the following categories:

1st and Only Choice: Member at Large

In one or two paragraphs, please describe your interest in joining the WASCLA Board of Directors.

I have been involved with WASCLA since the very first meeting at the Summit sponsored by the Department of Justice in 2005. I am applying for a position on the board because I am excited to see the organization become independent and wish to provide some continuity with WASCLA's earlier work. As a lawyer by training, now teaching at Seattle University Law School, I look forward to continuing to work on language access and to encouraging law students to become involved in the issue.

I believe my broad work in language access will help the organization continue to be inclusive for the many different individuals and entities who are involved in working to improve services for Limited English Proficient individuals in Washington State.

Please describe your professional experience with language access issues:

I worked as a lawyer for Evergreen Legal Services starting in 1988 in Yakima Washington where I became involved in a lawsuit that culminated in the Reyes consent decree. This decree details the interpretation and translation requirements that are to be provided to LEP individuals by the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). I worked in Yakima for six years and then came to Seattle to teach a law school clinic representing immigrants and refugees. I currently am an Assistant Professor of Lawyering Skills at the Seattle University Law School and direct the Externship Program at SU.

Throughout my career I have worked on language access issues with the following agencies: DSHS, Social Security Administration, Department of Health, Department of Labor and Industries, Employment Security Department. Administrative Office of the Courts, Department of Education, Division of Children and Family Services, and numerous hospital and clinic associations. I have also worked with interpreter and translator organizations in both the legal and medical fields. Finally, I have experience in working with national organizations and the Department of Justice to increase access to LEP individuals.

How many years, and in what capacity, have you been involved with language access issues?

I have been involved in working on language access issues for 22 years (see above) and have worked with individual clients and on both individual and impact cases. I have written articles on the subject of language access, have taught on the issue in a law school setting and have presented at numerous conferences. For the last 4 years I have helped organize the WASCLA annual summit and have worked to coordinate the monthly conference calls and smaller meetings and task forces.

Please add any other relevant information that you would like to share with the WASCLA membership regarding your nomination to the WASCLA Board of Directors:

I am happy to be nominated to a term of any length and am happy to assist in any other way with the organization if not elected to the Board.

Danielle Eidenberg-Noppe

Candidate for a Board Position in the following categories:

1st and Only Choice: Representative from the Education Field

In one or two paragraphs, please describe your interest in joining the WASCLA Board of Directors.

In more than twenty years of work as an educator in the state of Washington, I have witnessed the inaccessibility of our education system for limited English speaking families. Without improved language access in education, families will continue to experience less than optimal communication with their children’s schools, and therefore inadequate involvement in the education of their children – the single most important factor that can contribute to student achievement.

I would like to join the WASCLA Board of Directors in order to help generate increased language access in Washington’s schools so that families and students can become full participants and contributing members of their school communities. I also hope to help raise the awareness of school districts and the general public about the needs of families and students.

Please describe your professional experience with language access issues:

I have worked as a K-12 educator in Washington State for the last 20 years. I developed, coordinated and taught intergenerational oral history and audio arts programs for recent immigrant and refugee students of all ages as well as English as a Second Language for elementary and secondary students in the public school system. Following my teaching positions, I worked for several years as the Family Involvement Coordinator at Neighborhood House, an agency serving Seattle’s low income communities which are predominantly recent immigrant and refugee families. Currently I work as an Education Ombudsman for the Office of the Education Ombudsman, an agency within the Governor’s Office that serves families of K-12 students in school districts across the state.

How many years, and in what capacity, have you been involved with language access issues?
20+ years as an educator, Program Director, and Education Ombudsman.

Please add any other relevant information that you would like to share with the WASCLA membership regarding your nomination to the WASCLA Board of Directors:

The Office of the Education Ombudsman (OEO) gathers data about the concerns we hear from the diverse families we serve. Based on the concerns we hear, greater language access is clearly an important need for families across the state, and therefore a critical goal for our agency’s work. If selected to serve on the WASCLA Board of Directors, I hope to continue developing strategies by which OEO can help to increase language access for families in the state.

Carla K. Kelley

Candidate for a Board Position in the following categories:

1st and Only Choice: Interpreter or Translator

In one or two paragraphs, please describe your interest in joining the WASCLA Board of Directors.

Through my daily personal and professional experiences, I am reminded of the growing need for community services, the barrier that exists for access to such services due to the limited language proficiency of certain populations, and the ultimate need to remove these barriers. For this reason, I am interested in serving on the board of an organization that will improve access to community resources for populations with limited English proficiency.

Please describe your professional experience with language access issues:

Language access issues are a daily part of my professional experience. I have lived and worked with populations of limited English proficiency for more than twenty years. As a Certified Medical and Social Services Interpreter, I provide language services in diverse arenas such as: Hospitals, doctors' offices, medical and dental clinics, school districts, the King County Library System, the King County Bar Association's Bilingual Legal Clinic, conference interpreter in local churches, etc. In all of the different arenas that I work, people with limited English proficiency would not have access to very important community resources such as: public access to free library resources would remain undiscovered by those who are limited in English, children of parents with limited English would inadvertently miss out on vital information concerning their child's academic progress, or disciplinary action against their child, etc. without language services provided by interpreters.

How many years, and in what capacity, have you been involved with language access issues?

Certified Spanish Medical Interpreter 2004 - present

Certified Spanish Social Services Interpreter 2007 - present

Staff Church Interpreter for Camino Del Rey Church 2005 - 2009

Kent School District Spanish Interpreter 2003 - present

Kent School District ESL/ELL Para-Educator 2005 - 2007

King County Library System Bilingual Story Time Presenter 2009 - present

King County Library System Spanish Early Literacy Facilitator 2009 - present

Sole Proprietor of cKelley Language Services 2004 - present

Please add any other relevant information that you would like to share with the WASCLA membership regarding your nomination to the WASCLA Board of Directors:

It is my belief that as a new board member of WASCLA I would provide a well-rounded, fresh perspective to a very vital organization. I come to you with a variety of professional experiences, and excellent personal and professional references (references available upon request). I am a graduate of the University of Washington with a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish, with a Linguistic focus.

Thank you for your sincere consideration.

Magdalena (Maggie) Labori

Candidate for a Board Position in the following categories:

1st Choice: Representative from Healthcare Field

2nd Choice: Interpreter or Translator

In one or two paragraphs, please describe your interest in joining the WASCLA Board of Directors.

I attended in the WASCLA conference in 2007 and most recently in 2009 I participated as a panelist. I am impressed with the caliber of members and the passion that everyone has towards improving Language Access.

My interest in joining the WASCLA Board of Directors is to provide any type of assistance or expertise in order to serve our LEP population in a better manner and to collaborate and learn from others within the organization.

Please describe your professional experience with language access issues:

I am a Spanish Interpreter/Translator and I run the Interpreter Services Program at the hospital where I work. When I was hired I was told that I needed to create the Interpreter Services Program because it didn't exist yet and I have successfully fulfilled that commitment. I did many hours of research and I reached out to other hospitals who offered very helpful information. I am also a Member of SAIL - Seattle Area Interpreter Leadership - which is an informal group of Coordinators, Managers, Directors and Physicians from hospitals throughout greater Seattle. SAIL members meet once a month and we share issues, news, education opportunities for interpreters, problem solving and overall support to each other with regard to language access.

How many years, and in what capacity, have you been involved with language access issues?

I began working as a Spanish Medical Interpreter and Translator in 2003. I was a freelance interpreter while I worked fulltime as a Registrar at Overlake Hospital. After obtaining my DSHS Certificate and gaining about 6 months of experience as a Medical Interpreter I began working at the Kent Community Health Center aka, HealthPointe as the in-house Spanish Interpreter/Translator (2005-2007). In my work at the clinic I noticed that there were sometimes gaps within language access, not due to a language barrier, but because culture brokering was necessary. I was able to help the clinical staff be more aware that if a patient was not being compliant that it is not always the patient being difficult, but rather a misunderstanding. A prime example of this was a patient who kept being referred to the nurse for Diabetes Education, she wouldn't take her insulin pills and she was getting to the point where the doctor was going to have to put her on insulin shots. Most of my family member have diabetes and as a child we grew up hearing that diabetes causes you to lose your limbs and possibly your eye sight so in essence a diagnosis of diabetes was pretty much a death sentence. After our session with the patient I explained to the nurse what I was raised to know about diabetes as a Hispanic. The nurse was receptive and the following week the nurse asked the patient about what the patient's understanding of Diabetes was - well unfortunately the patient had a similar idea and she

felt defeated once she was given the diabetes diagnosis and figured “what’s the point” so she didn’t take her insulin pills, didn’t watch what she ate, etc., etc. The nurse was then able to tear down that barrier and help reassure the patient that there was hope. This patient wound up losing 40 pounds, not needing any insulin shots and completely getting off her insulin pills. This experience taught me that language access is not only providing an interpreter, but also providing guidance to open doors between a healthcare provider and the LEP patient.

Currently I have been overseeing the day to day operations of the Interpreter Services Program within the hospital I currently work at since 2007. I would say my experience with Language Access issues is about 4 years within the professional realm. As a child I saw many issues with Language Access as I was often called upon to interpret for family members. I did the best I could, but I always felt very nervous and uneasy and it also made me uncomfortable to address my elders and be in a “more powerful” position than them – in other words here I was a kid and usually I was subservient, but when asked to interpret I was actually the one in charge.

Please add any other relevant information that you would like to share with the WASCLA membership regarding your nomination to the WASCLA Board of Directors:

I humbly offer my assistance and hope to make a difference and do a good service to WASCLA, it’s members and the LEP community.

I do not have a formal education or a degree of any sort. I am highly motivated and intelligent individual. I was a Claims Adjuster and Fraud investigator for nearly 10 years and this job has taught me the invaluable skills of breaking things down to get to the heart of the matter, problem solving, determination and drive.

I have a DSHS Certification as a Medical Interpreter, Social Services Interpreter, I have a Bridging the Gap Medical Interpreter Training, I have completed all of the core classes and advanced classes through the Interpretation Certificate program at Bellevue College, I have also completed all of the core classes through the Translation Certificate program at Bellevue College and I am attending the first of three Advanced Translation courses through BC this winter quarter. I am also going to transfer all of my credits for these courses to Pierce College Fort Steilacoom in order to obtain my Associate in Language Interpreting. Thereafter I will seek a Bachelor Degree.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Ping Lau

Candidate for a Board Position in the following categories:

1st Choice: Member at Large

2nd Choice: Interpreter or Translator

In one or two paragraphs, please describe your interest in joining the WASCLA Board of Directors.

As a Certified Cantonese Court Interpreter, Certified Mandarin Medical and Social Services Interpreter, and Chinese translator, Ms Lau also brings along valuable technical consulting experience in engineering and computer modelling from the Arctic oil industry and armed forces.

In addition to technical support experience as a microcomputing consultant, her background in training includes presenting a series of information technology seminars to petroleum engineering professionals, meteorological data and air dispersion modelling workshop for military officers, as well as being a teaching assistant in general mechanics and electromagnetic theory during her computer and electrical engineering studies at Rice University. She is a master of science degree candidate in environmental quality engineering.

She is currently working towards the improvement of communication within the language access community in Washington. She aims to make effective use of her technical skills to enhance efficiency, transparency and accountability. She looks forward to creating more training opportunities and having well qualified professionals being valued for their certification, education, experience and the fine quality of their work.

She is an associate member of the American Translators Association (ATA). As an active member of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters & Translators (NAJIT), she is currently serving as a volunteer coordinator for the community and government relations committee, in a relief effort to provide interpreters and translators for the American Red Cross headquarters in DC, as well as the hospital ship USNS Comfort off the coast of Haiti.

Please describe your professional experience with language access issues:
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How many years, and in what capacity, have you been involved with language access issues?
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Please add any other relevant information that you would like to share with the WASCLA membership regarding your nomination to the WASCLA Board of Directors:
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Nancy Leveson

Candidate for a Board Position in the following categories:

1st Choice: Interpreter or Translator

2nd Choice: Member at Large

In one or two paragraphs, please describe your interest in joining the WASCLA Board of Directors.

As I worked my way into the interpreting field over the last seven years, one thing that struck me time and time again was the amazing number of strong leaders that we have working for better language access here in Washington State. I, as an interpreter, have benefitted greatly from all that has already been accomplished in support of interpreting as a profession in Washington State. (Not to mention benefitting from having some excellent teachers and mentors!) I admire WASCLA as an organization because it unites these types of efforts by leaders in various fields, creating a powerful synergy. I believe that this union of different backgrounds and perspectives is a key element to be able to effect change that truly addresses the needs of LEP individuals.

I have been involved with WASCLA for the past year and a half, starting with my attendance at the 2008 Summit, and I have been continually impressed not only by the quality of work that WASCLA does, but also by the energy and passion that people bring to the table. I would like to serve as a member of the WASCLA Board of Directors because I believe in the importance of this work and I want to do my part to contribute to it. I believe there is still much work to be done to raise awareness about interpretation and to improve the quality of interpreting services available to LEP individuals in all settings. As an interpreter, I am particularly concerned about the lower respect, compensation, and expectations that all too often correspond to interpretation in non-legal settings. I believe that this must be improved if we want to ensure that experienced, qualified interpreters stay in the field and that quality interpretation is available across all settings.

Please describe your professional experience with language access issues:

I have worked as a professional Spanish interpreter for the past two years in medical, social services, and legal settings. Prior to launching my career as a paid interpreter, I volunteered as an interpreter for the Red Cross Language Bank beginning in 2003, along with volunteering to interpret for other organizations whenever I could find an opportunity. I studied both interpretation and translation at the Translation and Interpretation Institute at Bellevue College, completing the Certificate of Translation program in 2008 and the Certificate of Interpretation program in 2009. I hold the Washington State court interpreter certification, along with both the medical and social services interpreter certifications from DSHS.

From 2005 to 2008, I worked for DAWN (Domestic Abuse Women's Network) as a bilingual domestic violence advocate, first in a volunteer capacity, and eventually in a staff role. As a bilingual advocate, I provided direct services to Spanish speakers in their native language. However, because a significant portion of the work involved connecting clients with legal, medical, and social services resources to meet their diverse needs, I experienced first-hand how language access issues added an additional barrier to the already limited resources available.

How many years, and in what capacity, have you been involved with language access issues?

I have worked with LEP individuals in a variety of environments and capacities in the Seattle area for the last nine years. Those experiences include work as an educator for Spanish-speakers, as a bilingual advocate in the domestic violence field, and as an interpreter in medical, legal, and social services settings.

Prior to the interpreter and bilingual domestic violence advocate work mentioned above, I taught ESL to Spanish-speaking students at Centro Latino (a non-profit organization in Tacoma) from 2002 through 2003. I have also volunteered over the years as both an interpreter and a direct service provider with a variety of organizations that provided Spanish speakers with services such as tax preparation, citizenship applications, computer classes, and Spanish literacy classes.

Please add any other relevant information that you would like to share with the WASCLA membership regarding your nomination to the WASCLA Board of Directors:

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Eliana Lobo

Candidate for a Board Position in the following categories:

1st Choice: Representative from Healthcare Field

2nd Choice: Interpreter or Translator

In one or two paragraphs, please describe your interest in joining the WASCLA Board of Directors.

I'm grateful that a slot was created for interpreter/translators. When I noticed that no one had applied, I was chagrined and felt that one of us needed to step up and take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to give feedback and help improve utilization of interpreter services. Washington state will continue to grow its diversity, as will the rest of the country. We are all facing financial hardship. We still have however, our combined intellectual capacity and will to make solid improvements to the system!

Please describe your professional experience with language access issues:

I began as a Spanish and Portuguese medical interpreter in 1980, at a regional trauma center in Providence, Rhode Island. Today I supervise medical interpreters in a regional trauma center in Seattle, Washington. In between I have been an ESL and Portuguese instructor. I've supervised a team of Spanish and Portuguese translators for a law firm involved in tobacco litigation in Latin America. I've consulted for various institutions educational, medical, financial and legal on cultural competency issues in testing and assessment, as well as in their respective translations. I've done the same for Scholastic magazine. I have been trained as a Medical interpreter Trainer and have authored manuals for training interpreters in video remote interpreting currently in use at Harborview Medical Center.

How many years, and in what capacity, have you been involved with language access issues?

I have worked as both a medical and legal interpreter since 1980. I am certified in the state of WA for medical and legal. I am certified in the states of NY and NJ as a legal interpreter. I have been a translation supervisor as well as an interpreter supervisor. I have also been a language instructor to immigrants and refugees (ESL), second language instructor to college students (Portuguese Teaching Fellow at Brown University), and English languages instructor to professionals in São Paulo Brazil.

My first Master's degree was obtained at Brown University. The M.A. was in Bilingual Education, and granted June of 1982. My first full time employment was as a Spanish and Portuguese medical interpreter at R.I. Hospital (now the Hasbro Trauma Center) beginning in August 1980.

Please add any other relevant information that you would like to share with the WASCLA membership regarding your nomination to the WASCLA Board of Directors:

I welcome the opportunity to work with others desirous of improving language access for all citizens of the state of Washington.

Louise Morehead

Candidate for a Board Position in the following categories:

1st and Only Choice: Interpreter or Translator

In one or two paragraphs, please describe your interest in joining the WASCLA Board of Directors.

I have been translating and interpreting in the US Northwest since leaving France where I lived for 30 years. Little by little, medical interpreting has become my bread and butter, so to speak, along with WA Court Registration in French, teaching languages, and earning my MA in Psychology, as a clinician, at Antioch University - Seattle. I was delighted to discover ATA, NOTIS, and WITS during the 2005 ATA Conference in Seattle, and realized the importance of a professional organization in maintaining standards, providing continuing education, as well as information about what's going on in the T&I world.

Now I feel ready to step beyond simply gaining skills and information; I would like to take an active part in shaping the profession in ways that have become apparent to me during 8 years in the field. Managing 3 professions does not help to calm my mind when I witness unmet need, nor does it discourage me when I become aware of the enormity of some challenges that must be met. Rather, each of my professions informs the others and provides perspective as I realize that in order for a professional body to function properly, each of the many strata within the system - from LEP, patient, or end user, through the interpreter or translator, all the way through the one or several administrative actors to the provider and to that party's administrative venue - at each level of action, care must be taken to match skills, awareness, and appropriateness with need, and pertinent guidelines are a must.

The WASCLA mission - as it currently appears to me- seems to provide the most likely venue for thoughtful and studied service to the profession in its many aspects. The nature of combining contributions from multiple related fields and sources by seeking Board members from various origins and related activities displays wisdom in creating policy and provides a sound foundation for action towards language access.

Please describe your professional experience with language access issues:

My professional experience in interpreting began with an application for the DSHS Certification Exam in 2002. Aside from the experience I'd had in caring for my family and

myself under the French national health system, the only training I had at the time consisted of the impressions I gathered from reading the questions on the DSHS exam. At the time, I had no idea that professional organizations existed in the Northwest. My original awareness of the importance of ethical action and professionalism came almost entirely from my graduate studies in Mental Health Counseling; now, these two professions and my job as a language and ESL instructor inform and enlighten each other.

As I began accepting medical interpreting jobs through agencies, I realized how valuable my multi-cultural skills and awareness gained in mental health counseling could be in providing not only an oral interpreting of content, but also delivering the provider's message in a contextually practicable manner. My target language - as many others - is used as a *lingua franca* by most of the LEPs I serve, and these same patients and clients may struggle when hearing perfect syntax and European pronunciation of already unfamiliar medical terms. I have made it a priority to insure that each message - whether it originates with the provider or with the LEP - is transmitted in a culturally appropriate and apprehensible manner, so that all the messages that I have had to interpret have been fully understood by the end of a session.

In court and legal interpreting, less cultural adaptation - sometimes none - is permitted. It has been clear to me that some LEPs have left the courtroom without fully understanding what has occurred. In the court and legal venues, ethical training has seemed more abundant and available than in the medical area. Informing my actions by referring to my own experiences as a litigant in foreign courts, and my subsequent mental health practices is not sufficient. But in both cases, medical and legal, the ethical portion of an interpreter's actions does not end as the separate parties leave the room and as such, complete respect for the privacy of the LEP as well as of the legal actor and medical provider is the chief governing standard for ethical action.

How many years, and in what capacity, have you been involved with language access issues?
3/29/2002 DSHS Medical Interpreter Certification. On-going interpretation in widely varied medical and social environments since that time.

June 2008 WA Court Registered Interpreter of French. On-going interpretation and translation in the legal and court environments since that time; telephone conference host for French-American law enforcement efforts including multiple participants on each pole; some telephonic interpretation for litigations.

May/June 2005 to Present First large-scale conference mission as a simultaneous interpreter for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Aids Research Conference, Seattle. Since that time, many conferences with or without partner backup: Seattle International Sustainable Change Conference; Children's Hospital researcher conference on cleft palate surgery; Microsoft - multiple host conferences with French, European, North African delegations for purposes of banking, internal and international security, French domestic and European Community governance issues, public education tools and updates, live webinars.

January 2003 to December 2006 Antioch University - Seattle, Masters of Psychology with prolonged clinical internship including therapy for foreign-language speakers and working with interpreters in clinical settings; multiple multi-cultural and cross-cultural studies in developing awareness of ethnicity and appropriate treatment modalities.

2003 to Present North Seattle Community College, instructor of ESL and French in Continuing Education.

1990 to 2001 Tours, France. Remedial language instructor for all secondary levels.

2005 to Present Freelance translator. Translated materials include: packaging and labeling in food, pharmaceutical, and cosmetic industries; toys and online games for children; pharmaceutical testing and protocols; aviation litigation and equipment description; court, legal, and civil status documents and certificates; website translation.

Please add any other relevant information that you would like to share with the WASCLA membership regarding your nomination to the WASCLA Board of Directors:

I am particularly interested in attracting the attention of as many persons working as interpreters in the healthcare and court-legal fields as possible in order to increase knowledge and awareness of the prevailing cultural and legal factors that North Americans and especially US stakeholders and participants have built into our healthcare and legal systems.

Being able to speak two languages does not make a person an interpreter, and being an interpreter does not guarantee competence in the field. Many persons working as interpreters and serving the public today are not aware of the foundational laws and practices that govern the way practitioners and legal authorities must act and speak to end users.

While I try to enhance my awareness of need on the part of the LEPs and legal clients whom we interpreters and translators serve, I also realize that the person and function of the interpreter and translator must also be carefully considered and served. When we hear of an abusive act or major mistake in conduct committed by an interpreter or translator, I wonder if that person has ever had access to the training and understanding that would have helped avoid the situation. I wonder from what cultural or behavioral context the particular act and the beliefs that permitted it stem, and if the interpreter in question has ever had the chance to compare foundational culture and behavior with what prevail in the US.

As I write, I realize that much of the training I receive in conduct and behavior for medical interpreting comes from articles published in rare agency newsletters. But suppose I didn't work for that agency, didn't have time to read the newsletter, didn't have a chance to question, comment and receive feedback on the impressions I take away after reading. Or suppose I can interpret well, but reading English poses a problem. If I'm an isolated interpreter, I may have no idea that I can receive such training, or where I can get it.

I have also encountered situations in which the emotional or physical well-being of the interpreter was not taken into account, either by the requestor-provider, or by the interpreter him- or herself through proper self-care and self-management. Being front-row witnesses to tragic situations including loss of life or limb, failure of medical procedures, criminal acts, shouting matches that must be interpreted between LEP and authority - all these solicit our brains, minds, and bodies in ways we rarely suspect. Lack of debriefing after tense or critical interpreting sessions, lengthy sessions with no breaks for personal needs or meals, high-level conferences where nerves are solicited with no possibility for back up - if a person spends enough time in the interpreting profession, she or he will encounter such situations. Effects of lack of sleep on brain function and voice production,

healthy self-care and oral hygiene: we are highly specialized professionals and want to be considered as such. I want to talk about what goes along with this and how we can enhance skills and capacities and in so doing, our profession.

May I briefly note the isolation in which many translators work. While interpreters - especially freelancers - seem to be on the go and may have the opportunity to meet other interpreters on the job, their relative isolation as private contractors is small compared to the translator who receives jobs over the Internet and works at home. Access to professional standards is equally important for translators; access to information on local, national, and international industry regulations is necessary but not always available. Translators need to be informed of such things as changes in pharmaceutical and cosmetic reporting and translation standards, language reforms among countries where our target languages are used, regulated changes in syntax and spelling, and generally, what's going on in the translation field. Listserv access can be helpful, if we can get it. Pertinent information gathered by an active group and disseminated would be a wonderful help for translators.

As far as I can see, all this concerns language access and professional awareness.

Jonas Nicotra

Candidate for a Board Position in the following categories:

1st Choice: Representative from the Education Field

2nd Choice: Interpreter or Translator

3rd Choice: Individual with Relevant Experience

4th Choice: Member at Large

In one or two paragraphs, please describe your interest in joining the WASCLA Board of Directors.

I am interested in joining the WASCLA Board of Directors because I believe that I can contribute for the advocacy of LEP people. I believe that everyone should have equal access to services no matter their language proficiency. Being an immigrant myself, I believe that my personal and professional experience can be helpful to the greater good.

Please describe your professional experience with language access issues:

As a professional freelance translator / interpreter, I have been involved in the medical, legal, educational, and social services field.

Since I have a Master in Adult Education and TESL (Teacher of English as a Second Language) endorsement, I have taught / tutored ESL (English as a Second Language) to immigrants and refugees.

I have taught English at Seattle Central Community College and at the Everett Community College as well. Next Spring, I plan to start a class at the Everett YMCA where I am a member.

How many years, and in what capacity, have you been involved with language access issues?

As a translator / interpreter, I have been involved with language access issues since 1993 in the Northwest. Some of the work has been pro bono.

As a teacher / tutor, I have been involved since 1994. Most of my work as a tutor working with refugees and immigrants was done as a volunteer.

Please add any other relevant information that you would like to share with the WASCLA membership regarding your nomination to the WASCLA Board of Directors:

When I was a member of the MSM HIV Prevention Planning Committee (MHPPC - a special task force for the CDC.) representing region 3 - Office of HIV Prevention & Education Services Washington State Department of Health - I always advocated the importance of language issues for the minority groups in order to have proper access to the services available to the public.

Now that I am a member of the region 3 Planning Council and the Program, Care, Prevention, and Consumer Committees, I continue to promote the importance of language issues for the LEP clients.

William L. Plumley

Candidate for a Board Position in the following categories:

1st Choice: Representative from the Social Services Field

2nd Choice: Interpreter or Translator

3rd Choice: Member at Large

In one or two paragraphs, please describe your interest in joining the WASCLA Board of Directors.

With current working experience in a variety of interpreting and language access settings, I bring practical insight and input to the group as we support the LEP communities in our State and as we advocate not only for language access for our LEP communities but also for interpreters as professionals to have the opportunity to earn living wage jobs. Especially during these critical times economically, we need strong advocacy in Olympia to continue to show the need for language access in our communities. I look forward to working together with WASCLA to support the language access needs in our State whether or not I am selected to serve on the WASCLA Board.

Please describe your professional experience with language access issues:

I have worked in several settings with language access issues as a volunteer in the community and as a key component of several employment settings. Since becoming DSHS Certified in Spanish in both Social Services and Medical, I currently contract with the local hospital and clinics, the school, the DSHS office through the cumbersome brokerage system, the abuse shelter, in a variety of volunteer settings in the community, and although I am not court-certified, the local district court frequently calls me to interpret.

Last year, I taught Interpreter Training at Peninsula College Forks Extension with 12 students completing the course, one of whom has become DSHS-certified and others are working towards certification.

This past quarter, I taught Conversational Spanish at Peninsula College Forks Extension and I am scheduled to teach it again next quarter. Many local people recognize the value of being able to communicate with people in the local LEP community as is shown by the number of people who take the classes offered.

I teach ESL as a volunteer as our LEP community members seek to learn English and work towards citizenship.

How many years, and in what capacity, have you been involved with language access issues? In 1979 when I was 15, our family returned to the United States from three years in Guatemala. Ever since then, wherever I have lived there have been people who needed informal interpreting whether in communicating with neighbors, reading mail in another language, composing a letter to a friend from another language and culture, spontaneously in public with a stranger who could not request assistance in English in a store, and at times in religious services interpreting so that LEP members could participate more interactively.

Later, as an adult in a variety of employment settings, Spanish fluency and cultural sensitivity have always been valuable tools on the job whether with direct customer service or by telephone.

After becoming a Certified Spanish Interpreter, a new marketable skill became an enhancement to employment and contracting opportunities, especially in medical, social services, and educational settings.

Please add any other relevant information that you would like to share with the WASCLA membership regarding your nomination to the WASCLA Board of Directors:

As a Certified Spanish Interpreter, I take very seriously the responsibility of interpreting according to the Interpreter's Code of Ethics and I adhere to it so as to provide concise, clear communication without adding to nor taking from the content of the speaker.

As an advocate for people in our LEP communities and for us as professional interpreters, I advocate very vocally and boldly so as to ensure language access is available.

I keep very clear boundaries between my two roles as (1) impartial interpreter who renders exactly what the speaker says into the target language regardless of my personal opinions of the topic. As an example, in a medical setting if the topic is abortion, my personal views are not communicated in any way whether spoken, by body language, by deliberate change of tone of voice, nor by any other demonstration of my own thoughts and opinions. (2) as an advocate for interpreters, I boldly signed the union card with AFSCME as I believe that we as interpreters need support to help us professionally.

On another note, I boldly advocate for immigration reform so that people who seek to feed and clothe their families can have the means to do so legally. While immigration reform *per se* is not part of interpreting, when our own US Border Patrol through less than up-front methods entraps people who appear in court to resolve a simple traffic infraction and deport them leaving behind their children who are US Citizens, my advocate role is incited to action by contacting the appropriate parties in government to promote immigration reform so that our LEP communities can someday follow the American Dream which many of our own ancestors did as immigrants from faraway lands.

P. Diane Schneider

Candidate for a Board Position in the following categories:

1st Choice: Interpreter or Translator

2nd Choice: Individual with relevant experience

3rd Choice: Representative from the Law Enforcement

4th Choice: Member at Large

In one or two paragraphs, please describe your interest in joining the WASCLA Board of Directors.

I have, for many years worked to promote language access for persons who need services and are limited in their ability to speak English. It has been my continued passion without regard for the positions I have held. I believe that this challenge requires cooperation and coordination between diverse stakeholders in order to enhance this access with the most efficient use of resources. I have earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration which has assisted me in collating skills I learned on the job with current practices in policy and procedural development as well as identifying issues which are common to various stakeholders.

Please describe your professional experience with language access issues:

I have taught English as a foreign language abroad in Greece. I have travelled fairly widely throughout Europe, Mexico, Chile, Peru where I observed closely how cultural differences can impact the ability to obtain services beyond the challenges of language alone.

I am certified by the State of Washington as a court interpreter in the Spanish language and was in the first group of interpreters certified by the state.

I worked for many years for DSHS and later DOC providing services to clients many of whom had limited English (and often not Spanish-speaking) and gained insights into the challenges faced by persons attempting to access services who are not only unfamiliar with the system, but also have limited comprehension of English.

After Hurricane Katrina, I was loaned to FEMA by my agency and deployed to East Biloxi, MS. where one function I performed was to give an orientation into the role and ethics of language interpreters to Vietnamese lay persons who were contracted to assist applicants seeking disaster assistance.

I currently work on call as a court interpreter in the State of Washington.

I am the Washington State President of the National Latino Peace Officers Association which has a special interest in language issues related to provision of law enforcement services.

**How many years, and in what capacity, have you been involved with language access issues?
I have been certified as a court interpreter since 1992.**

I completed the Institute for Court Interpretation at the University of Arizona in 1987.

Prior to receiving interpreter training, I was involved in language access issues most of my life being involved in assisting persons who could not communicate well enough to navigate systems of government. I have worked in public service since receiving my undergraduate degree. As such I have had many opportunities professionally to assist and observe the challenges faced by persons with limited English proficiency.

Please add any other relevant information that you would like to share with the WASCLA membership regarding your nomination to the WASCLA Board of Directors:

I worked for over 20 years for the US Department of Justice Community Relations Service and became familiar with many federal regulations relating to language access while facilitating resolution of conflict issues between persons who perceived the conflicts to have implications relating to race, color, or national origin.

Ann Wennerstrom

Candidate for a Board Position in the following categories:

1st Choice: Representative from the Legal Field

2nd Choice: Member at Large

In one or two paragraphs, please describe your interest in joining the WASCLA Board of Directors.

I became interested in WASCLA as a law student in a clinic at Northwest Justice Project, advocating for health benefits for immigrant clients. We students helped prepare for the 2006 WASCLA conference in Ellensburg. I loved my involvement with WASCLA: I wrote an annotated bibliography of resources on intercultural communication and helped plan and run a workshop on intercultural communication at the conference. It was a thrilling experience to see such a dedicated group of people fighting for the same issues of language access that my own clients faced every day. I have continued to be involved with WASCLA as much as I can.

My interest in joining the board of WASCLA stems from a sense of history and pride in how the organization has developed. One aspect of WASCLA that interests me particularly is that we can be a center for sharing resources on language access, at our conferences, on our website, and through our members. I especially appreciate the multi-disciplinary quality of the WASCLA membership, which connects people with many interests and areas of expertise.

Please describe your professional experience with language access issues:

After being a student of languages and a world traveler in my college years, I chose to become a teacher of English as a Second Language. For over 20 years I taught English to immigrants and international students. I also worked as an advisor and teacher-trainer in this field. I enjoyed these activities because I interacted on a daily basis with people from almost every culture of the world. I tried to help people improve their language skills and increase their access to resources in the U.S.

When I went to law school, my goal was to continue working on issues that effect immigrants. I took classes and clinics in immigration law, human rights, and other relevant areas. I worked to chip away at the many injustices that immigrants often face, especially when their English is limited. After law school I worked for a year at the King County Bar Association as Program Manager for the Newcomers Resource Project. In that position, I helped organize interpreters and pro bono representation for low-income immigrants in need of legal assistance.

How many years, and in what capacity, have you been involved with language access issues? I have been involved with language access issues for over 25 years, as a teacher of English language and as an attorney who focuses on immigrants' legal rights. I have worked on wage claim law for Latino workers whose bosses refused to pay them; I have worked on asylum and other immigration cases; and I have worked on benefits law for elderly and disabled immigrant clients. I am also interested in elder law and how it affects those with limited English.

Please add any other relevant information that you would like to share with the WASCLA membership regarding your nomination to the WASCLA Board of Directors:

I see WASCLA's work on language access as a two-way street: In one direction, WASCLA can help limited English speakers to increase their access to society's resources. At the same time, WASCLA can help mainstream English speakers become more aware of their responsibility in language access. Ultimately, I value intercultural understanding as the basis of a healthy and peaceful society.
