



**MOCK TRIALS: LAWYERS NEEDED
AUG 12 & 13 – Half Day blocks**

Summer Institute on Courtroom and Legal interpreting

Dear Lawyer:

The Association of Sign Language Interpreters of Alberta (ASLIA) is offering a professional development opportunity for interpreters to develop skills in legal settings. This 5-day workshop will focus on an overview of the criminal, family, and civil courts, the terminology and processes embedded in these areas, skill development activities facilitated by Deaf and hearing interpreter educators and lawyers, and culminating in mock trial experiences. We have 26 interpreters participating from across Canada.

To this end, we are seeking lawyers who are willing to participate in mock trials. These mock trials are based on materials used in BC, and provide context and detail in order to guide you. If you are available to participate, you will be taking the role of either a defense lawyer or representing a Crown prosecutor. The trials will include Deaf accused and Deaf witnesses, and require the use of teams of sign language interpreters.

The time commitment is either a morning or afternoon, or should you wish, we would be happy to have you all day for one or both days. Judge Brown has also worked with us to secure Judges to work these mock trials that will take place in the Calgary Court Centre.

We are able to offer a very small honorarium, based on this cost-recovery workshop. If you are interested in this experience, and/or have an articling student or colleague who may want to learn from this unique experience, we would like to hear from you.

The dates of the mock trials are:

August 12 – AM/PM: Assault - Deaf accused, two witnesses

August 12 – AM/PM: Sexual Assault – Deaf accused, Deaf victim/Witness

August 13 – AM/PM: Impaired Driving, Refusing to Blow, Assault – Deaf accused, Police officer and 2 witnesses;

August 13 – AM/PM: Custody matter – Deaf parents, Deaf witness, Social Worker.

As part of the five days of training, three days will be in the classroom, and our two presenters for these days are Nigel Howard and Deb Russell. We have included their bios below.

Nigel Howard is an instructor at both Department of Sign Language Interpretation at Douglas College – Coquitlam Campus and Department of Linguistics at University of Victoria. He has worked as a Deaf Interpreter for nearly 25 years in medical, mental health, legal, theatre, community, and conference

settings – locally, nationally and internationally. Additionally, Nigel provides workshops, training and presentations on varying topics around the world ranging from Deafhood and Global Diversity in Deaf Culture to Deaf Interpreter training to Medical/Legal interpreting. He is one of the team of interpreters on the Vancouver Police Department list and has interpreted in almost all levels of the legal system. Nigel is a member of WAVLI, AVLIC, CIT, RID and WASLI (North America Representative). He is also part of the Board of Editors for the International Journal of Interpreter Education (IJIE).

Debra Russell is an ASL-English interpreter and interpreter educator from Calgary, Canada. Her interpreting practice spans thirty years and is community-based in a range of medical, legal, mental health and employment settings. Deb’s dissertation examined the use of consecutive and simultaneous interpreting in legal contexts, which has led to significant changes in practices in legal interpreting throughout North America. In 2012, Dr. Risa Shaw and Deb facilitated a two-day, pre-conference workshop focusing on legal interpreting. Deb has presented throughout North America and in other countries about legal interpreting and has been a Legal Mentor for the DOIT Centre’s Legal Interpreter Training. In addition to her teaching, she maintains an active research program with current projects that focus on Deaf Interpreters, legal interpreting, and mediated education settings for Deaf children. Deb is a founding member of AVLIC and ASLIA (formerly ACRID), and a member of CIT, RID. In 2011 she was elected President of WASLI. She is also the Open Forum Editor for the International Journal of Interpreter Education (IJIE). Deb is also a dedicated student of yoga and loves to travel.

Participants were required to complete a number of pre-reading assignments in order to ensure that all participants have a common knowledge base and are prepared for the work. This reading focused on topics including, but not limited to, an overview of the Canadian legal system, overview of criminal, civil and family law, relevant professional association documents, as well as Demand-Control Schema and Consecutive Interpreting. We can share this material to you, should you wish to see it.

If you can help out, or have further questions, we would love to hear from you.

Sincerely,

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