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## Page Formatting and Typeface

To accommodate the needs of those with weaker vision, we use LARGER PRINT throughout the book whenever practical. The text in this book was created using Garamond (size 18). A little bit of page resizing, however, may have happened along the actual book printing process.

## The California Court Interpreter Exam

The Court Interpreters Program CIP aims to ensure access to the courts for those with limited English proficiency or those who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, by enhancing the quality of interpretation and increasing the availability of qualified interpreters in the California courts. Proficiency in court interpreting skills would require a high level of mastery of two languages (one being English) plus specific performance skills in the rules and modes of interpreting. In most US states there are written and oral exams for the profession. This study notes focuses on both.

A language pair MUST include English and a target language. One is expected to possess the ability to accurately and idiomatically turn the message from the source language into the receptor language without any additions, omissions or other misleading factors that alter the intended meaning of the message from the speaker.

"Shadowing" involves repeating a narrative simultaneously in a word-for-word manner using the same language as it is heard, but without the need to transfer from one language to another. Back-translation requires that a

candidate translates English into a foreign language and then later on translates her or his own language version of the passage back into English. To be able to achieve these and other requirements the interpreter must have an excellent short-term memory and be able to speak and listen at the same time. This is the sort of oral language proficiency expected out of an interpreter.

On the other hand, the written exam procedures are often state-specific even though they share highly similar contents and knowledge domains. Basic understanding of the US court system, courtroom procedures and mastery of the English languages are all very important. **One must know the basic courtroom procedures in order to pass the exam.** In fact, correct understanding of the legal procedures can help you pick the correct translation choices (since you will be presented with distracter choices that are obviously wrong). **You are not expected to be as competent as a legal assistant in terms of legal skills. HOWEVER, you will not survive in the courtroom if you have no understanding of the very basic legal theories.** This study notes is not specific to a particular interpreter exam. In other words, you can use it to prepare for any US based interpreter exam. Use this study notes for exam prep purpose TOGETHER WITH other resources. Never rely on a single resource for guaranteeing exam success.

## Table of Contents (2013 Revised Edition)

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTIES, TRADEMARKS AND COPYRIGHTS	1
CONTENTS UPDATE	1
PAGE FORMATTING AND TYPEFACE	2
	3

<b>THE CALIFORNIA COURT INTERPRETER EXAM</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS (2013 REVISED EDITION)</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>LEGAL BASIS</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>QUALIFICATIONS</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>DEFINING TRANSLATION</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>DEFINING INTERPRETATION</b>	<b>11</b>
The interpretation process	11
Roles of the interpreter	11
When an interpreter may need to provide interpretation service	12
What can the interpreter do in court	13
What an interpreter should NOT do	13
About gestures	14
<b>RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT</b>	<b>16</b>
Overview	16
Key rules	16
Assignment and compensation	19
Objectivity and Professional Detachment	19
<b>RULE OF CONSTRUCTION</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>LEGAL FOUNDATIONS</b>	<b>21</b>
Source of Law – a brief overview	21
Types of law	22
Stare Decisis	23
Case Law and Procedural Law	23
Criminal Law VS Civil Law	24
Contract Law	25
The Statute of Fraud	28
Contract Interpretation	29
ADR	30
<b>ELEMENTS OF A CRIME</b>	<b>31</b>
The MPC	31
Actus reus	31

Causation	32
mens rea	32
Strict liability	32
Types of crime	32
The use of force	33
Intoxication and Insanity	34
Homicide and Manslaughter	35
Larceny, Robbery, Burglary & Trespassing	35
Trafficking VS Kidnapping	36
Crime Investigation & Interrogation	36
<b>CRIMINAL CASE SPECIFIC TERMINOLOGIES</b>	<b>38</b>
Arrest	38
Booking and bail	38
Own recognizance	38
Arraignment	39
Preliminary hearing	39
Pre-trial motions	39
Presumption of innocence and beyond a reasonable doubt	40
Trial by jury	40
Cross examinations	41
Other terms	42
<b>CIVIL CASE SPECIFIC TERMINOLOGIES</b>	<b>43</b>
Demand Letter and Complaint	43
Depositions	43
Settlement, Motion to dismiss, Trial and Appeal	43
Third party liability / negligence	44
Restraining order	44
<b>INTENT</b>	<b>45</b>
Original intent VS intention	45
General intent and specific intent	46
<b>PRIMARY VS SECONDARY AUTHORITIES</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>THE US CONSTITUTION AND THE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>48</b>
Overview	48
Statutes and Amendments	51
In the context of judicial proceedings...	52

<b>JUDICIAL DECISION MAKING</b>	<b>54</b>
The body of precedent	54
The US Court System	55
The California Court System	57
Jurisdiction and Venue	58
The Appellate Process	59
Procedural protections	61
<b>LEGAL OPINIONS AND CITATION</b>	<b>62</b>
Overview	62
Citing Judicial Opinions, Constitutions, Statutes and Regulations	64
<b>TYPES AND METHODS OF TRANSLATION</b>	<b>67</b>
Overview	67
Types	67
Pitfalls	68
<b>ENGLISH GRAMMAR STRUCTURE AND RULES</b>	<b>70</b>
Defining “grammar”	70
Overview of verb forms and tense	71
Verb forms	71
Active and Passive Verb Forms	72
Conjugation	73
Simple Present	73
Present Continuous	75
Present Perfect	75
Present Perfect Continuous	76
Simple Past	77
Past Continuous	78
Past Perfect Continuous	79
Simple Future	79
Future Continuous	80
Auxiliary Would	81
Main and Subordinate Clauses	81
Gender	82
Plural Forms VS Possessive Form	83