

# LANGUAGE ACCESS FOR LITIGANTS

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## A word from Interpretation Services

Coche:  
Car- Stroller  
Prenda:  
Clothes- Jewelry  
Carro: »»  
Car- Carriage  
Coger:  
To Grab-To pick up- To have sexual Intercourse  
Polvo:  
Dust-powder- to have sexual intercourse  
Torta:  
Cake- Sandwich

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## The 71 million Dollar Word

»» Intoxicado

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## Fly naked?



In 1977 Braniff International Airways put out an advertisement to promote the leather seats. However, the campaign slogan "Fly in leather" was translated literally as "Vuela en cuero". In some Spanish speaking countries that is the equivalent to say "Fly naked"

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## A simple color



Brown

Spanish has many words for brown. Brown hair is "castaño", brown skin and brown sugar is "moreno", brown bears are "pardos", other brown animals are "marrón", and yet the word "café" is the generic word for brown and it also means coffee

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## A Simple Illness



Constipado:

Constipated  
Congested

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# A simple meal

Dasayuno (Breakfast) First meal of the day  
Almuerzo (Lunch)  
Cena (Dinner)

In Colombia, you might be served a meal after breakfast called "medias nueves o media mañana". However in some parts of Mexico, around that time you will be served "almuerzo" (Brunch). Of course in many Spanish speaking places Almuerzo means lunch, but not everywhere. In many parts of Mexico, lunch is called "la comida", but go over to Cuba, Puerto Rico, Colombia and Peru and "la comida" means supper not lunch. To confuse matters even further "la comida" is also the word for "food".

Even though Ecuador borders both Peru and Colombia, supper isn't called "la comida" there, but rather "la merienda". In nearly every other country, "la merienda" is a snack.

# RULE 1.1 COMPETENCE

## Thoroughness and Preparation

[5] Competent handling of a particular matter includes inquiry into and analysis of the factual and legal elements of the problem and use of methods and procedures meeting the standards of competent practitioners. It also includes adequate preparation. The required diligence and preparation are determined in part by what is at stake; major litigation and complex transactions ordinarily require more elaborate treatment than matters of lesser consequence.

# RULE 1.4 COMMUNICATION

- a.A lawyer shall:
  - 1 promptly inform the client of any decision or circumstance with respect to which the client's informed consent, as defined in Rule 1.0(e), is required by these Rules;
  - 2 reasonably consult with the client about the means by which the client's objectives are to be accomplished;
  - 3 keep the client reasonably informed about the status of the matter;
  - 4 promptly comply with reasonable requests for information; and
  - 5 consult with the client about any relevant limitation on the lawyer's conduct when the lawyer knows that the client expects assistance not permitted by the Rules of Professional Conduct or other law.
- b.A lawyer shall explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation.



## Language Access for Self Represented Litigants

“The barriers to access faced by self-represented LEP are far greater than those that must be overcome by litigants with only one of those two sets of burdens. It is hard enough for self represented litigants to navigate a lawyer oriented system, and LEP litigants to navigate an English-speaking system”

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## Alaska

The Alaska Court System has a family law self-help center website and helpline. The helpline is provided in several languages. In addition, they provide videos about domestic violence protective order process in Spanish and Yup'ik and several videos on topics in divorce and custody cases in Spanish and Tagalog. Alaska also uses bilingual language assistants in the court to provide customer services in other departments

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## California

The judicial branch in California has an online self-help center available in several languages. California also has several other resources for self represented litigants, such as videos on requesting and responding to a domestic violence restraining order, that are available in several languages

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## Connecticut



Connecticut Judicial branch in partnership with the New Haven Legal Aid Assistance Association, created two videos to help self represented litigants with divorce cases (approximately 85% of which involved at least one self-represented party in 2010-2011) The Videos are narrated in English, Spanish and Polish languages

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## Minnesota



The Minnesota Judicial Branch's online Self Help Center includes a "language links" tab that takes the user to a separate page to obtain translated court forms and other legal resources in various languages. Also in Minneapolis, Minnesota, call for justice created a list of pro-bono interpreters and translators. The list represents 13 languages

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## Ohio



The Supreme court of Ohio translated 27 common court forms into 5 major languages. The translated forms cover a wide range of topics from "general information about domestic violence protection orders to appoint a minor's guardian to a defendant's waiver of a jury trial"

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## Fayette County, Kentucky



A pilot program provides 24/7 access to an interpreter for petitions related to domestic violence. Petitioners complete a bilingual form which is translated by the interpreter. The interpreter completes the official legal form in English and "files it" with the court. Interpreters also translate the judge's order and instructions, as needed, into the petitioner's native language.

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## Georgia



Remote Interpreting  
Funding  
Language Access for Victims of Domestic Violence

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