



Introductory slide

**Wanted:  
a method by which to test the  
qualifications of interpreters**

- ▶ **Founded in 1995**
  - 4 original members
    - 2 provided tests
    - 2 provided \$\$\$\$

The founding states for the Consortium were New Jersey, Minnesota, Washington and Oregon.  
[http://www.ncsc.org/Web%20Document%20Library/EC\\_StateInterpCert.aspx](http://www.ncsc.org/Web%20Document%20Library/EC_StateInterpCert.aspx)

## Consortium for Language Access in the Courts

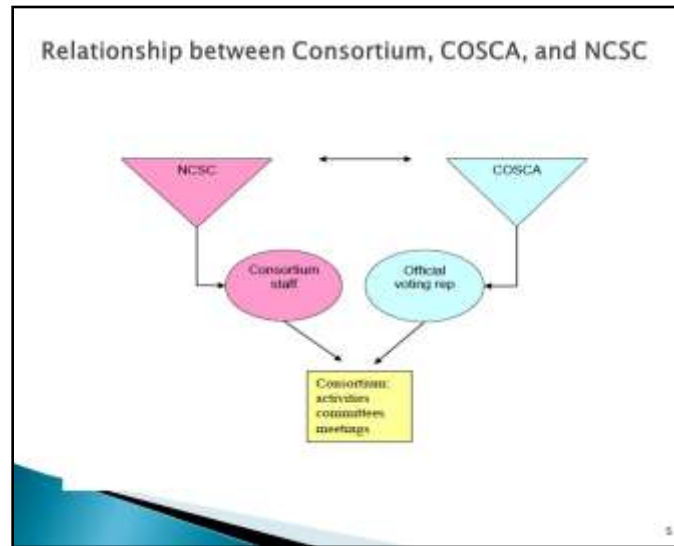
*formerly - Consortium for State Court Interpreter  
Certification*

- ▶ Voluntary collaborative enterprise
- ▶ Recognized as important government innovation by the Harvard/Kennedy School of Government
- ▶ Original focus was on testing
- ▶ Evolved into a “best practices” network

It is a voluntary enterprise which has gained importance throughout the nation; although testing was its original focus, the Consortium constantly grows and changes to meet the members’ needs.



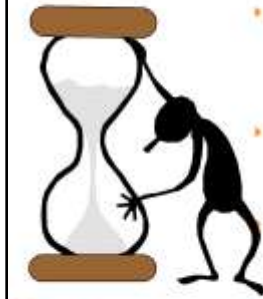
It has grown from 4 to 40 members; as you can see the geographic size is quite large due to the size of the country but members are able to collaborate through the use of technology quite effectively.



The Consortium for State Court Administrators is the signatory on the Agreements (similar to EULITA constitution) who then assign an official voting representative to work on Consortium matters.

[http://www.ncsc.org/Web%20Document%20Library/EC\\_StateInterpCert.aspx](http://www.ncsc.org/Web%20Document%20Library/EC_StateInterpCert.aspx)

## Primary Concerns of Members:



- Determining the qualifications of interpreter candidates
- Expanding the pool of qualified interpreters
- Improving the distribution of qualified interpreters
- Cost of interpreter services

This slide is self explanatory

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**Resources:**  
For all members

- ▶ Maintains an e-mail listserv
  - Share policy documents
  - Court forms
  - Rules
  - Statistics



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## Resources:

For all members

- Provides technical assistance to members
  - create, modify, and maintain interpreter testing and training programs;
  - Educate policy makers/ establish committees;
  - Adopt a Code of Professional Conduct;
  - Provide mandatory minimum training for all interpreters;
  - Offer education for judges and lawyers about working with interpreters.

This slide is self- explanatory

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## Resources: For all interpreters

- ▶ Sponsors court interpreter training annually



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## Resources:

For all interpreters

- › Comprehensive overview documents for candidates who are preparing to take the Consortium's written and oral examinations;

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These materials are available for sale on our website.  
[http://www.ncsconline.org/D\\_Research/CIPEK-ENG.asp](http://www.ncsconline.org/D_Research/CIPEK-ENG.asp)  
[http://www.ncsconline.org/D\\_Research/CIPEK.html](http://www.ncsconline.org/D_Research/CIPEK.html)

## Resources:

Individual members have developed resources that are freely shared with other members, including:

**CHAPTER 8**  
Model Code of Professional Responsibility  
for Interpreters in the Judiciary

- ▶ Codes of professional responsibility for interpreters in the judiciary



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This publication is available on our website

[http://contentdm.ncsconline.org/cdm4/item\\_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/accessfair&CISOPTR=162&REC=12](http://contentdm.ncsconline.org/cdm4/item_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/accessfair&CISOPTR=162&REC=12)

## Resources:

Individual members have developed resources that are freely shared with other members, including:

- ▶ Bench cards and bench books to help judges make the best use of interpreters in the courtroom;

Members only webpage

## Mission

- ▶ *inspire and enable its members to promote equal access to justice in courts and tribunals by eliminating language barriers for persons with limited English proficiency*

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### 10 Key Components to a Successful Language Access Program in the Courts

These standards of practice illustrate ten key behavioral and professional aspirations of the Consortium's members.

1. **Clear Purpose:** Promote access to justice in courts and tribunals by eliminating language barriers for persons with limited English proficiency.
2. **Leadership:** Receive active support from top judicial and court administration leaders for the mission and goals of the language access program<sup>9</sup>.
3. **Consortium membership:** Actively participate in the governance and committees of the Consortium for Language Access in the Courts (Consortium), and strictly adhere to the security, confidentiality, and test administration and rating standards articulated in the membership agreements.

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## NEXT STEPS

- ▶ INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIVES
- ▶ INCREASED MEMBERSHIP



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The Consortium is looking to expand its existing membership to allow other entities and other countries to become members; we are looking to expand from being only a state court interpreter certification examination entity to a Consortium for Language Access in the Courts – as indicated by our recent name change and the changes that are being considered by the Executive Committee. We hope that this process is not as daunting as the Waterloo steps nor does it become our Waterloo.

Looking forward to future collaboration with all interested parties.



Please visit us on the web  
Thank you

Any Questions?



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