



American Alliance of Professional Translators and Interpreters

ADVOCATE - EDUCATE – CONNECT

July 12, 2021
Clerk, California Supreme Court
350 McAllister
Room 1295
San Francisco, Ca. 94102

RE: *Helen Lee vs Young Hee Kim, Supreme Court No. TBA 2*
Civil No. B295665/303317 Sup. Ct. Case No. BC 5636

Amicus Curiae Letter of
The American Alliance of Professional Translators and Interpreters
in Support of Petition for Review

Dear Chief Justice Tani Gorre Cantil-Sakauye and Associate Justices:

The American Alliance of Professional Translators and Interpreters (AAPTI) submits this letter as amicus curiae in support of the petition for review of appellant Young Hee Kim.

AAPTI urges the Court to review this case and, in all future cases, enforce the following laws, codes and rules which ensure the use of certified or registered interpreters in all legal, and med-legal cases:

- 1) FEDERAL COURT INTERPRETERS ACT:28 U.S. Code § 1827 - Interpreters in courts of the United States
- 2) Government Code §68580 (c)
- 3) Government Code §68560
- 4) Government Code §68561
- 5) Government Code §68562
- 6) Government Code §68564
- 7) Judicial Council of California Rule 984.2
- 8) Judicial Council of California Rule 2.893
- 9) SB1160
- 10) California Code of Regulations, Title8



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AAPT is a California-based nonprofit association of certified, registered, and licensed interpreters and translators in the legal and medical fields across the country. Our mission is to promote professionalization and advancement of translators and interpreters for the benefit of the profession and the community we serve. We stand by meaningful language justice.

In 1990 the Chief Justice of California cleared the path for the Judicial Council Advisory Committee on Court Interpreters to improve the quality of interpreter services provided to the courts. Currently, there are more than 2,500 certified and registered interpreters in roughly 96 languages on the Master List of the Judicial Council of California; more than 2,000 medical interpreters certified by the Commission for the Certification of Healthcare Interpreters (CCHI) and the National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters (NBCMI); and close to 1,000 interpreters certified nationwide by the Federal Courts of the United States. Additionally, there are 950 certified sign language interpreters and 292 Administrative Hearing Certified interpreters in the state of California.

Last year AB2257 was signed into law in California. It recognized the following classifications of professional interpreters and translators:

"...Interpreting services means: Services provided by a certified or registered interpreter in a language with an available certification or registration through the Judicial Council of California, State Personnel Board, or any other agency or department in the State of California, or through a testing organization, agency, or educational institution approved or recognized by the state, or through the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters, National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters, International Association of Conference Interpreters, United States Department of State, or the Administrative Office of the United States Courts."



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Interpreters who are not certified, registered, or licensed (wherever certification/registration/licensing is available) are either unable or unwilling to pass the required examinations.

We thank you for defending the right to language access and due process of all individuals in all court proceedings.

Respectfully,

Esther Maday Hermida
President of the Board of Directors
AAPT