

Justice & Diversity

CENTER

Interpreter Project

JDC connects volunteer attorneys with low-income clients who need legal representation. We serve a linguistically diverse population. Our monolingual clients need interpreters to help communicate with attorneys in depositions, at trial, and to complete paperwork. Your language skills are critical in helping these clients access essential legal assistance.

Volunteering with JDC provides the opportunity to work under the direction of a volunteer attorney as well as with opposing counsel.

For beginning interpreters, the Interpreter Project offers an opportunity to have first-hand experience as a legal interpreter, whereas more seasoned interpreters can enhance their skills.

Our clients come to us with different types of legal issues. Most clients are being evicted or need help with a family law matter. For those clients who qualify, we offer pro bono attorneys, as well as social workers and therapists.

Each year, JDC's volunteer interpreters serve 300 monolingual clients. Of those, 80 are receiving full-scope legal representation through the help of a volunteer attorney and volunteer interpreter. Volunteer interpreters serve an additional 220 monolingual clients during our Housing Negotiation Project and Legal Advice and Referral Clinics.

Most of our interpreters speak Spanish, Cantonese or Mandarin, although we also have volunteers for other languages, including Arabic, Russian, Tagalog, Farsi and Tigrinya.

Once you attend our free one-hour Interpreter Project training, we will add you to our volunteer panel. Please email probono@sfbar.org to sign up for the training. Once you're on our panel, you will receive emails of available opportunities for your specific language. Interpreters are free to choose the cases that match their interest and time availability.