



ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES INTERPRÈTES DE CONFÉRENCE
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONFERENCE INTERPRETERS

Date: Saturday, 16 February 2019

Time: 10:00 am - 4:30 pm

Address: International Civil Aviation
Organization (ICAO) Headquarters

999 Robert-Bourassa Boulevard

Montréal, Quebec

Fees:

AIIC Members: \$150.00

non-AIIC: \$200.00

To register, please contact: s.vo@aiic.net

LETTER OF THE LAW

*A workshop on legal interpretation in a bijural and bilingual
context*

Saturday 16 February 2019, Montréal



TRAINER: PROFESSOR LOUIS BEAUDOIN, LL.L, TRAD. A

Professor Louis Beaudoin is a law graduate of Université de Sherbrooke and a practicing jurilinguist and legal translator for over 30 years. He has served as lecturer at the universities of Laval, McGill, Sherbrooke and Ottawa where he led courses on the drafting of judgements and legal translation for the past 25 years. He regularly holds specialized workshops on French-language drafting of legal texts tailored to judges, language professionals and lawyers in Canada and abroad. Professor Beaudoin served as an expert consultant at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Tanzania, where he oversaw the translation and revision of major judgements.

COURSE OBJECTIVE:

To learn ways of achieving idiomatic, fluent and accurate legal interpretation, free of unwanted influence of the other language within a bijural (common law and civil law) and bilingual context (French and English); to explain and understand specific notions and particularities of the common law and civil law systems; to examine French and English legal terminology and languages, with respect to vocabulary, syntax and style, whilst considering specific issues and restrictions inherent to the translation and interpretation of legal content.

TARGET AUDIENCE:

This course is open to all practicing conference interpreters who may or may not have experience working in a court setting. This hands-on and interactive workshop is especially geared to interpreters who work at legal conferences, judicial hearings and at various instances of the Federal Court of Canada.



CONTENT



The course begins with a methodical review of the major principles that guide an interpreter in rendering legal content from English into French, with particular emphasis on the following:

- 1) The “sacredness” of terminology of the law.
- 2) The importance of adhering to concepts and notions of the legal system of the source language.
- 3) The significance of word choice, or *le mot juste* in the target language.

Specific issues that are inherent to legal translation and interpretation will be explored, in particular:

- 1) The interpreters’ dilemma in translating words and notions when there is no exact equivalent in the target language (asymmetrical drafting of the French and English versions). To what extent can creative licence be used in legal interpretation?
- 2) An interpreter’s leeway in drawing inspiration from the text of the applicable law, rather than the text of the translation, when the latter is found wanting (hierarchy of legal sources).
- 3) The problem of “importing” notions from a foreign legal system (French civil law) into a text that pertains to common law.

How does one make use of sources such as dictionaries, lexicons and terminology banks effectively and with discernement?

Participants will be asked to interpret and translate excerpts of texts, whilst adhering to the spirit and conventions of the target language (through either deeper understanding or distance from the French) following presentation of case scenarios.

In the second half of the workshop, focus will be placed on certain terms that are problematic, such as translation of the preposition “under” in a legal context, as well as translation of the expression “in court”, etc.

A review of the rules and honorifics that apply in addressing parties to the proceedings and during a hearing will be discussed. Lastly, specific terms and notions pertaining to intellectual property will be examined.

The morning session on theory will be followed by an interactive session in the afternoon, during which participants will be asked to draw from actual work experience to submit questions, issues and scenarios for group discussion.

With Professor Beaudoin, participants will practice problem solving by applying the theories and notions discussed and using the recommended resources. This exercise will strengthen one’s capacity to use the right tools and reflexes to interpret and translate in manner as fluent and idiomatic as possible.



Teaching Material:

- * Lecture and presentation of theory
- * Practical exercises
- * Internet searches (conducted as a group)
- * MEERTENS, René, *Guide anglais-français de la traduction*, 5ième edition, 2015
- * BEAUDOIN, Louis, *Les mots du droit: Lexique analogique juridique / Legal Thesaurus*, 3ième édition, 2008.

