



Why We Are Picketing:

Members of the California Federation of Interpreters in the Bay Area represented by the Pacific Media Workers Guild have been working without a contract for more than a year.

Court interpreters rejected a tentative agreement earlier this year citing two key issues: plans by the courts to implement Video Remote Interpreting and no economic relief.

Interpreters are concerned about the ability to communicate with Limited English Proficient court users without a live interpreter on site; and we're concerned about our ability to serve everyone well from a remote location.

Studies show Video Remote Interpreting is a slower, less efficient method for delivering language services; appropriate only for very limited uses. Yet the Administrative Office of the Courts of California and court administrators want to go ahead with VRI without safeguards to protect accuracy and due process for court users.

They want interpreters to agree to use VRI before any rules are established defining its appropriate use. We have questions such as how the courts will preserve attorney-client privilege, ensure that the interpreter isn't left out of what's happening in the entire courtroom, and much more.

As you know, communication depends on nonverbal cues, the ability to hear all participants clearly and proper technology. The impact of VRI on our working conditions will lower standards for access and quality interpreting, and deprive court users of meaningful access to justice.

Another concern is the dwindling pay. We've gone without a raise or Cost of Living Adjustment for six years now, and we have no wage scale like other employees. A veteran with decades of experience earns the same as a brand new employee.

We are professionals who serve the public but have not been rewarded for our years of service. During the economic downturn, we've all endured increasing costs for health care and pension contributions, furloughs and a rising cost of living.

But the tide is shifting for that state. There's more money in the state budget and millions in surplus money in a separate court interpreter budget, usable only for interpreter services.

We want the Region 2 courts to stop making VRI an obstacle to an agreement. VRI standards and effectiveness will need to be developed by policy makers before implementation can be discussed in contract talks.

We want them to recognize the dedication and unique abilities of our interpreters with professional pay.

Picketing Schedule:

Supporters begin gathering at 11:30 a.m.;
Interpreters to join when court breaks for lunch at noon

Monday, 11/18/2013

Superior Court of San Mateo
400 County Center
Redwood City

Superior Court of Contra Costa
725 Court St.
Martinez

Tuesday, 11/19/2013

Hall of Justice
24405 Amador St.
Hayward

Hall of Justice
850 Bryant St.
San Francisco

Wednesday, 11/20/2013

Hall of Justice
90 W. Hedding St.
San Jose

Hall of Justice
600 Administration Dr. , North and South Entrances
Santa Rosa

Thursday, 11/21/2013

Plaza across Rene C. Davidson Courthouse
1225 Fallon St.
Oakland

Superior Court of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean St.
Santa Cruz

