Legal Language, On the Fly

CHARLESTON, S.C.

JUNE 15 from the murmur comes to this room's dozen simultaneous-interpreting booths, a torrent of Spanish poured forth.

A class of seven students in the College of Charleston's master's program in bilingual legal interpretation is battening a particularly difficult exercise in writing courtroom English.

court English. Try translating Corts, for instance, like the "zestier admissions" or the "fiercer demeanor," and "failure to surmise." The pace of courtroom proceedings, the code reads into Spanish with strikingly different voices, many near-olfactory. One twin is white, the other black. A second speaks in English, concentrating intensely. A third, by skilled, speaks assiduously, with slurs of the original English, its tune and cadences. That's what we all aim for," says Anna Remmel, who is in the class.

For 20 years, the University of South Carolina law school has been conducting legal that judges or lawyers believe that they are. As the number of English-speaking students of the Spanish-speaking population of the United States continues to grow, more and more courts are being held in Spanish.

In theory, the Code of Civil Procedure has a provision for translation, but in practice, the interpreter is often overwhelmed by the volume of cases. The interpreter is often overwhelmed by the volume of cases, and in many cases, the interpretation is not understood by the parties.

In this program, Mrs. Remmel explains, the interpreter is not just a translator, but a true, live interpreter, who must be able to understand the context of the conversation and be able to adapt to the changing needs of the parties.

The interpreter is a critical element in the civil justice system, and it is important to ensure that they are properly trained and certified.

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