

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 14-15**

**Court Interpreting Services  
Vacates Administrative Orders 09-09, 09-04 and 98-12**

**WHEREAS**, the District of Columbia Interpreters for Hearing-Impaired and Non-English Speaking Persons Act of 1987 (D.C. Code § 2-1901 *et seq.*) was established to assist hearing-impaired, non-English, and limited English proficient persons as they participate in proceedings of the District of Columbia Courts; and

**WHEREAS**, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. § 12131 *et seq.*) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 794) require the provision of services or auxiliary aids to hearing-impaired persons in any court proceeding to afford the persons the opportunity to participate in or benefit from the proceeding; and

**WHEREAS**, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d *et seq.*) and the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. § 3789d(c)) have been interpreted to require recipients of federal financial assistance to provide meaningful access to court proceedings by limited English proficient persons; and

**WHEREAS**, the general policy of the Superior Court is to provide interpreting services to all hearing-impaired and non-English and limited English proficient persons participating in court proceedings involving all case types in all divisions of the Superior Court, and to pay the cost for such services, unless such services are waived by the participant;<sup>1</sup>

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS BY THE COURT,**

**ORDERED**, that Administrative Order 09-09 is **VACATED**; and it is further

**ORDERED**, that Administrative Order 09-04 is **VACATED**; and it is further

**ORDERED**, that Administrative Order 98-12 is **VACATED**.

**SO ORDERED.**

**Date: September 19, 2014**

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/s/  
Lee F. Satterfield  
Chief Judge

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<sup>1</sup> The right to a qualified interpreter may be waived on the record by a communication-impaired party if the Court determines that the use of a court interpreter is not necessary to assure complete and accurate communication with the person, the Court has explained the nature and effect of the waiver through a court interpreter and is satisfied that the person is making the waiver knowingly and voluntarily, that the person has consulted with counsel (if any), and that the person will not thereby be deprived of any substantive rights. A communication-impaired person who has waived an interpreter may provide his or her own interpreter at his or her own expense. *See* D.C. Code § 2-1906(b).

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