



WEBINAR

Bananas And Rice: When Culture and Language Go to Court

- a. **Date:** December 10, 2025
- b. **Duration:** 60 minutes
- c. **CLE:** No
- d. **Title:** Bananas And Rice: When Culture and Language Go to Court

e. **Description:**

Have you ever reviewed the government's transcription of calls which directly implicate your client only to later discover significant translation inaccuracies and errors? The phrase "lost in translation" is more than a metaphor—it can profoundly impact our cases. Translation errors may depend upon who transcribes your client's words, their biases favoring law enforcement, questionable skill levels, or a lack of understanding indigenous languages and cultural nuances. This session will equip you with strategies to recognize these translation issues and explore practical strategies to address them.

- f. **Materials:** Written handout materials will be provided to participants.
- g. **Presenter:** **RAFAEL CARRILLO** is a Staff Interpreter at the Federal Public Defenders Office in Las Cruces, New Mexico. He has served as staff court interpreter for the US District Courts in the

Western District of Texas and the District of New Mexico where he became the first Supervisory Interpreter for the District. He has provided language services to federal courts around the country in person and remotely as a provider of the Telephone Interpreting Program (TIP) for over 20 years. Rafael was appointed to the Court Interpreter Advisory Group for the Administrative Office of United States Courts where he helped write the Federal Court Interpreter Orientation Manual and the Bench Card on Interpreting.

Before working for the Federal Courts, he served as a consultant for defense teams and law enforcement agencies that include the Departments of Justice, Homeland Security, and the U.S. Treasury. Other accomplishments include serving as President of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators, the El Paso Interpreter and Translator Association and Centro Latino of Walworth County in Wisconsin. He has dedicated a good part of his life advocating for meaningful language access for all participants in the criminal justice system.