

SPECIALIST CERTIFICATE: LEGAL (SC:L) EXAMINATION INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Table of Contents

The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf	3
RID Legal Certification Test Development Committee	3
RID Psychometrician and Test Development Consultants	3
Legal Certification History and Background	4
Legal Certification Exam Development and Administration	5
Local Test Administrators (LTAs)	5
Test Dates and Sites	6
National Office Testing	6
Eligibility Requirements	6
The Legal Written Test	7
A. Applying for the Written Test	7
B. Notification of Testing	7
C. Declined Written Testing Opportunities	8
D. Cancellations	8
E. At the Test Site	8
F. Test Format	9
G. Results and Retakes	9
H. Requests for Hand-Scoring	10
I. Appeal Process	10
The Legal Performance Test	11
A. Applying for the Performance Test	11
B. Notification of Testing	12
C. Declined Performance Testing Opportunities	12
D. Cancellations	12
E. About the Performance Exam	13
F. At the Site	13
G. What to Expect in the Warm-Up and Testing Environments	14
H. Examination Scoring and Reporting	15
Appendices	
A. Written Exam Outline	16
B. Legal Interpreter Certification Written Exam Sample Questions	17
C. Suggested Reference Materials	19
D. Description of the RID SC:L Rating Scales	21
E. Acceptable Emergency Situations	22
F. Test Development Consultants	23

The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc

The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) is the national, professional membership association dedicated to the professional development of interpreters and transliterators. Founded in 1964, RID has played an active role in establishing a national standard of quality for interpreters and transliterators, encouraging the growth of the profession, educating the public about the vital role of interpreters and transliterators, and ensuring equal opportunity and access for all individuals. RID fulfills its primary mission of encouraging the professional development of interpreters and transliterators by:

- Awarding certification to interpreters and transliterators who successfully pass an evaluation program;
- Mandating a Certification Maintenance Program for professional development;
- Operating the national Ethical Practices System;
- Maintaining a national Registry of Certified Interpreters Membership Directory;
- Publishing a monthly newsletter;
- Providing career information;
- Heightening public awareness about the profession;
- Fostering the development of affiliate chapters to address concerns at the local and state levels;
- Maintaining RID Publications;
- Offering scholarships and awards; and
- Sponsoring a Biennial Convention.

RID Legal Certification Test Development Committee:

Susan Eadie (CA); CSC, CT, SC:L, Chairperson 1992-1995

Shirley T. Herald (AR); CSC, SC:L (1975, 1995)

Lynda Remmel (CO); CSC, SC:L (1980, 1995) CI and CT, Co-Chair 1997-1998

Francis X. Burton (MD); CSC, SC:L

Reginald Egnatovitch (PA); CDI-P, SC:L, Chairperson 1995-1997

Gay Koenemann (Germany); CSC, SC:L, Co-Chair 1997-1998; Chairperson 1997 - 2000

Test development committee dissolved in 2000.

RID Psychometrician

Dr. Joan Knapp, Knapp and Associates

Knapp and Associates is a research and development firm that specializes in the conceptualization, planning and development of assessment procedures and programs designed to measure professional competence.

Joan E. Knapp, president, has a Ph.D. in educational and psychological measurement and research, with 20 years experience in the development of programs to assess professional competence. Dr. Knapp was formerly the Executive Director of Health Credentialing Programs at Educational Testing Service. She has worked with over 30 professional agencies, organizations and boards in a variety of projects concerned with accreditation, program evaluation, certification and licensure.

Dr. James P. Henderson, Columbia Assessment Services, Inc.

Columbia Assessment Services, Inc. is a testing company formed by a group of nationally-respected test developers/psychometricians. The members of the CAS team come from some of the largest testing companies in America, bringing with them extensive experience in the development and administration of virtually every type of certification and licensure examination on state, national, and international levels.

Dr. James P. Henderson is Executive Vice President of Columbia Assessment Services, and currently serves as chair of the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCAA), which is the accreditation body of the National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA). Dr. Henderson also serves as psychometrician to the NCCA. Under Dr. Henderson's leadership, CAS has conducted numerous job analysis and role delineation studies for clients of both national and international scope. Dr. Henderson also has extensive experience in the administration of credentialing programs.

Certification History and Background

One of the first formal tasks which RID set for itself in 1964 was the design and implementation of a national certification system to test the skills, ethics, and professional behavior of interpreters and transliterators. Since 1972, a national performance-based test has been used to certify interpreters. Between 1972 and 1985, RID offered several certificates. Among those were the Specialist Certificate: Legal (SC:L); Comprehensive Skills Certificate (CSC); the Reverse Skills Certificate (RSC); the Transliterating Certificate (TC); the Interpreting Certificate (IC); Oral Interpreting Certificate: Comprehensive (OIC:C); Oral Interpreting Certificate: Spoken to Visible (OIC: S/V); and Oral Interpreting Certificate: Visible to Spoken (OIC: V/S)

In 1988, RID began offering two certificates, the Certificate of Interpretation (CI) and the Certificate of Transliteration (CT), while actively working to develop a valid and reliable test instrument for the evaluation of oral transliterators, interpreters who are deaf or hard of hearing, and interpreters specializing in interpretation in legal settings.

The concept of testing and certification is certainly not unique to the field of interpreting. Numerous other professions, guilds, trades, and fields of endeavor have sought to establish requirements for membership in their particular societies or for credentials to practice that specific craft. The vast majority of these groups have very specific degree requirements and/or academic course work as a prerequisite for reaching the certificate or licensure level. Very few, if any, base the issuance of certificates solely on the basis of demonstrated skills. Likewise, with its test, RID does not issue certificates solely on demonstrated skills. Minimum standards of eligibility must be satisfied and a written test of general knowledge of the field of legal interpreting must be taken and passed by applicants prior to their standing for a performance test. In addition, members imposed a set of ethical standards on themselves very early in RID's history. The association initiated and has maintained a national testing and certification system with which to assist consumers and to build the basis for an ever-improving degree of instruction and performance of interpreters and transliterators.

SC:L Certification Exam Development and Administration

The Specialist Certificate: Legal (SC:L) examination was developed by the RID Legal Certification Test Development Task Force (see page 3) in conjunction with, and under the guidance of Knapp & Associates of Princeton, New Jersey and Columbia Assessment Services in Triangle Park, NC. Please refer to Appendix F for more information about RID's psychometricians.

The RID Legal Certification Test Development Task Force was comprised of RID certified legal interpreters, with expertise in the field. This Task Force donated their time and expertise in an effort to see the new SC:L examination process become reality. The SC:L Written Exam is based on the Test Specifications developed from a National Job Analysis of the Task of Legal Interpreting. The Legal Certification Test Development Task Force prepared, in conjunction with the RID psychometrician, a survey instrument of the perceived knowledge and skills of the entry level legal interpreter. This survey was distributed to more than 200 individuals representing diverse ethnic and geographic distribution across the United States. Survey results were analyzed and synthesized into the Legal Certification Written Test Specifications. An outline of the test content, developed from these specifications, is included in Appendix A.

SC:L certification requires the successful completion of three steps: documentation of eligibility (prior education, training, and experience), a written (knowledge) examination, and a

performance examination. Successful completion of each step is required before entering the next step.

RID maintains sole proprietorship of the SC:L Certification Examination. RID administers the examination nationally according to test administration procedures delineated by the RID National Testing System Policies and Procedures and in accordance with widely accepted test administration guidelines. The RID Legal Certification Examination has been designed to comply with the American Psychological Association's joint technical standards on testing in addition to recognized testing industry standards.

Local Test Administrators (LTAs)

LTAs are RID certified members in good standing (92.02) who are hired as agents of the Association. The LTA is bound by a contract which includes clear admonitions about the safekeeping of all materials and the penalties which may ensue should the contract be breached. LTAs are trained in RID test administration protocol and are compensated for their services.

Test Dates and Sites

Regional Testing Centers (RTCs) have been established around the country. These sites are under contract and are evaluated periodically. Each RTC has a site coordinator who oversees the logistics of the testing room facilities and equipment. The Legal Written Exam is conducted on standardized administration dates, always held on the first Saturday in June and December along with all of RID's written tests.

Locations for these exams are published in *IEWS*. If an applicant wants to test at the National Office site on the June or December date, testing will be held at a nearby location on the standardized administration dates.

Legal performance test dates are set annually and printed in *IEWS*. The NTS Coordinator communicates with the LTAs and site coordinators to determine which dates will best meet the needs of that location. Ten testing centers around the country (2 per region) administer the exam one time per year.

National Office Testing

Applicants/candidates may also schedule to take **any** of the RID tests in the National Office during regular RID business hours, provided all associated fees are paid and all eligibility requirements have been satisfied. Fees must be received in the National Office two weeks in advance of the test to confirm the appointment. Applicants/candidates interested in testing at the National Office must contact the NTS Assistant to schedule. The National Office will not call registrants.

Eligibility Requirements

An individual interested in taking the SC: L Exam must either currently possess a valid legal interpreting certificate issued prior to 1987 or satisfy all of the eligibility criteria in at least one of the following categories:

Category #1 - Possess valid RID certified membership. Successful completion of BA or BS in any field or AA in interpreting. Five years general interpreting experience (post RID Certification) strongly recommended. Documentation of at least fifty hours of legal interpreting/mentoring experience, thirty hours of formal legal training.

Category #2 - Possess valid RID certified membership. Successful completion of AA in any field. Five years general interpreting experience (post RID Certification) strongly recommended. Documentation of at least 75 hours of legal interpreting/mentoring experience. Fifty hours of legal training.

Category #3 - Possess valid RID certified membership. Five years general interpreting experience (post RID Certification) strongly recommended. Documentation of at least 100 hours of legal interpreting/mentoring experience and 70 hours of legal training.

Category #4 - Possess current SC: L (Do not need to re-take the test, but are invited to do so.)

Documentation of training may be in the form of college transcripts, signature(s) of individual(s) offering the training workshop, certificate of completion, etc. Documentation of legal interpreting/mentoring experience should be in the form of an official letter, stating hours and time, from the interpreting service coordinator, court official, or mentor. RID reserves the right to modify the eligibility criteria of all RID certification examinations.

THE LEGAL WRITTEN TEST

A. Applying for the Written Test

To apply for the RID Specialist Certificate: Legal written test, a person must complete and send an application form with payment of appropriate fees, and eligibility documents attached to the National Office six weeks in advance of the published test date (Motion 94.39). Applicants are

not considered registered for a test until all eligibility documentation and fees have been processed at the National Office. Preference for testing location(s) must be indicated on the form. Any request for special accommodation must be noted on the application and supporting documentation attached to the application. National Testing System staff will notify applicants by mail of test availability in their preferred location(s).

Applications and test fees must be received in the National Office at least six weeks prior to the preferred date for the test. 94.39

B. Notification of Testing

Approximately four weeks prior to the test date, applicants will receive a letter confirming the date, time, and location of the test. The name and phone number of the Local Test Administrator (LTA) proctoring the test will also be included. The LTA should be contacted for directions to the site only. All other questions should be directed to the National Office. If the applicant is unable to attend the test session as indicated on the letter of confirmation, s/he must notify the NTS department a minimum of two weeks (10 business days) prior to the scheduled exam. Failure to notify the NTS Coordinator will result in the applicant's forfeiture of all application and test fees (90.36).

Failure to notify the NTS Coordinator will result in the applicant's forfeiture of all application and test fees.

C. Declined Written Testing Opportunities

Applicants for a written exam must contact the National Office in writing by the noted deadline in their test notification letter if they do not plan to attend the exam. RID will schedule every applicant who sends an application to the office unless notified in writing that the applicant does not intend to take the exam. Facsimile, e-mail and regular mail submissions are accepted. It should be the applicant's responsibility to take the exam. If they notify the office in a timely manner that they will not be in attendance, they will be scheduled for the following exam. If they

do not show up for the exam, and did not contact the office by the deadline, they will be required to document an acceptable emergency situation to avoid the forfeiture of fees. (96.07) Failure to notify the NTS Coordinator will result in the applicant's forfeiture of all application and test fees (90.36).

D. Cancellations

Cancellations due to a documented emergency situation as outlined within RID's policy (see Appendix F) will be given special consideration. Upon receipt of documentation and approval by the NTS Coordinator, application and test fees will carry over to the next available test date. Notification of emergency cancellations must be made to the National Office on the business day following the documented emergency. Individuals who have paid the application and test fees and decide that they no longer wish to take the written test will be reimbursed only their test fees. Requests for reimbursement must be made in writing to the NTS Coordinator.

Application fees for both the written and performance tests are non-refundable under any circumstance.

E. At the Site

Applicants must register at least 20 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the test. They must bring a photo ID and their confirmation letter to the test. During registration, applicants will be required to sign in, show a photo ID, verify personal information as indicated on the test roster, and sign confidentiality forms. Demographic information forms will also be available for self-disclosure.

All testing materials — test booklet, Scantron answer sheet, #2 pencils, and note paper if needed — will be provided by the LTA. Once an examination has begun, there is absolutely no talking, signing, gesturing or any communication permitted in the room. LTAs will collect the test booklet and answer sheet from anyone violating this rule and file a formal written report with the NTS Coordinator.

Applicants cannot mark in the test booklet. If they do, they will be assessed a fee of \$25.00 which must be paid to RID before any of their test results can be released. Exams will begin and end on time. No late arrivals will be permitted. Applicants are allowed a maximum of three hours to complete the test. All test-related material and the final portion of the demographics survey must be returned to the LTA before leaving.

Comment forms will be provided for applicant feedback about the test, test administration or site conditions; these forms may be completed later and mailed to the RID National Office or completed at the site and given to the LTA to be returned with the test materials.

F. Test Format

The test consists of 100 multiple choice questions representing the four content areas (domains) below. Applicants are encouraged to answer all questions; unanswered questions will be marked wrong. An applicant must receive a score of 77 or better to pass the test. The expanded outline of the four domains can be found in Appendix A.

- I. Language
- II. Judicial System
- III. Team Interpreting
- IV. Professional Issues

G. Results and Retakes

After the written test session, the LTA is required to immediately send all test material to the national office. Result notification letters are generally issued within ten business days after the tests are received from the test site. Applicants passing the written test are considered “Candidates for Legal Certification” and are eligible to take the legal performance test.

If the applicant does not pass the legal written test, s/he may send in another application form and the appropriate payment in order to register for the written test re-take. No application fee will be charged for a retake of a failed written test and the fee to re-take a written test will be one-half the current fee (95.11). All applicants will receive notification indicating their score in each of the four domains. Those failing the written test must wait six months from the date of test administration (92.59) before they may retake the exam.

The Candidate for Legal Certification is required to take and pass the legal performance test within five years of the date of notification of achieving candidacy status. Failure to achieve certification within the five year time limit will result in the loss of candidacy status. As a result, the applicant will need to retake the legal written test (90.01). If a candidate has not achieved Legal Certification within five years, s/he may schedule and pay for the legal performance test before the expiration of candidacy status. In so doing, s/he will be granted an automatic 45 day extension of candidacy status during which time s/he must take the legal performance test. It is the candidate’s responsibility to secure an available test slot at one of the RID Regional Testing Centers or the National Office within the 45 day extension (93.65).

The Certification Council will consider, on an individual basis, granting up to a one year extension of candidacy to a person who has taken the written test and has been unable to take the performance test during the allotted five year time frame for the following reasons:
A sudden and unforeseeable traumatic, catastrophic, or incapacitating life altering event that disrupts the life of the candidate or immediate family member for a considerable amount of time. (99.17)

No application fee is charged for a retake of a failed written test.

H. Requests for Hand-Scoring

Applicants may file a written request for hand scoring of their test within 30 days of the test date. Written requests must be sent to the NTS Coordinator at the RID National Office. There is a \$15.00 fee for this service. RID reviews the request for hand-scoring, rescores the examination and reports findings to the applicant within 30 days of receipt of request and payment.

I. Appeal Process

The Certification Council (CC) will review appeals related to the administration of the test, such as violations of proper procedure and/or deviation from National Testing System policy, and will attempt to issue a response within 60 days of receipt. Appeals must be sent in writing by certified mail to the NTS Coordinator at the RID National Office. An appeal must be filed within 90 days from the date of notification of test results. If an appeal is upheld by the Certification Council, the test retake must be completed within one year of the date of notification by the CC (94.47). If the test retake is not completed within the year, the candidate will be responsible for the re-application process and fees.

Test appeals will not be considered on the basis of rater decision/judgement. Appeals will be considered on the basis of:

- a. Misinformation regarding testing arrangements (test taker given wrong location, time, etc.)
- b. LTA error (misinformation given to test taker - telling test taker that if s/he chooses option A, s/he must choose option A throughout the test; LTA changing site information without informing test taker, unprofessional conduct, failure to follow guidelines in LTA Manual, etc.)
- c. Equipment malfunction (equipment failure, inappropriate equipment, etc.)
- d. Environmental factors (air conditioning breakdown with temperature in test room exceeding 100 degrees, distracting loud noises, power outage, etc.)
- e. Damaged stimulus materials (lack of complete set of stimulus materials, worn-out tapes, etc.)
- f. Unavoidable catastrophic events (death of an immediate family member, doctor's verification of accident, illness or hospitalization, etc.)
- g. Natural disaster (earthquake, fire, snowstorm, etc.)

**Appeals received after the 90 day limit
will not be reviewed.**

THE LEGAL PERFORMANCE TEST

A. Applying for the Performance Test

To apply for the RID legal performance test, one must complete and send the SC:L application form with payment of appropriate fees to the National Office six weeks in advance of the published test date (94.46). Preference for testing location(s) (site code) must be indicated on the application form. The NTS staff will notify candidates by mail of test availability in their preferred location(s).

Candidates for Legal Certification have five years from the date they passed the written test in which to take and pass the legal performance test (90.01). If a candidate fails to take and pass the legal performance test within the five-year time frame, s/he will be required to reapply for the legal written test and pay all related fees.

Candidates are encouraged to register for preferred test location(s) well in advance, as slots may fill quickly. Testing slots are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Application and test fees must be received in the National Office
at least six weeks in advance of the published test date.**

B. Notification of Testing

Approximately four weeks prior to the test date, candidates will receive a letter indicating their placement on the priority list and confirming the date, time and location of the performance test. The name and phone number of the LTA proctoring the test will also be included.

Upon receipt of the letter, candidates **MUST** notify the NTS Coordinator to check the status of their placement and to confirm their availability to take the test, regardless of their ranking. Three (3) candidates are generally tested in a day; each candidate requires one hour and fifteen minutes to warm-up and the test itself generally takes two hours. Space is in high demand and testing slots are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. The priority list is determined, for the most part, by when an individual's application and payment are received in the National Office. Other factors — such as rescheduled tests, upheld appeals, changes in test site preferences and natural disasters — may affect a candidate's standing on the priority list.

Once a candidate has confirmed with the NTS Office and has been scheduled into a test slot, failure to appear on the confirmed test date will result in forfeiture of all test and application fees.

C. Declined Performance Testing Opportunities

Performance test candidates may decline two opportunities to test before they are moved to the bottom of a prioritized list. The NTS Coordinator will include a notice in the next round of notification letters that indicates that if the candidate does not respond, their status will be changed to “inactive” and they will not be notified of future test dates unless they notify the National Office in writing to indicate a renewed desire to take the test. At this point, the candidate will go back on the prioritized list, at the end, using the date the letter was received as their activation date and, therefore, the date by which they are prioritized. (96.08)

D. Cancellations

Cancellation due to a documented emergency situation as outlined within RID’s policy (Appendix E) will be given special consideration. Upon receipt of documentation and approval by the NTS Coordinator, application and test fees will carry over to the next available test date. Notification of emergency cancellations must be made on the business day following the documented emergency.

Individuals who have paid the application and test fees and then decide that they no longer wish to take the legal performance test will be reimbursed only their test fees. Requests for reimbursement must be made in writing to the NTS Coordinator.

**Application fees for both the written and performance tests
are non-refundable under any circumstance.**

E. About the Performance Examination

The performance examination is presented on videotape, and the candidate’s performance will be videotaped for later evaluation by raters. Test materials will be presented during the examination in the following order:

- the Miranda Warning; be prepared to interpret several renditions;
- a courtroom scene which will include, but may not be limited to, the testimony of a Deaf witness, motions, objections, and a bench conference;
- the qualifying of both a Deaf and a hearing interpreter in which the candidate:
 - a) interprets for a Deaf interpreter and,
 - b) is him/herself qualified by a judge;
- jury instructions for a criminal trial.

Interpretation is expected in the following scenarios:

- **Miranda Warning;**
- **courtroom scene;**
- **and qualifying the interpreter.**

Transliteration is accepted only in the jury instruction scenario.

F. At the Test Site

1. Administration

Candidates should arrive in professional attire, which is appropriately color-contrasted to skin tone. Candidates should not wear white or red, as these colors cause problems for color video equipment. Candidates will be asked to sign forms indicating agreement to maintain confidentiality in regard to testing materials and to use the test tape as a rater monitoring device (92.32). Candidates will also be asked to show a valid photo identification to the LTA.

2. Warm-up Room

Each candidate is scheduled for one hour and fifteen minutes in the warm-up room. This period is primarily used by the candidate to view the various actors and familiarize him/herself with written materials that will assist the candidate in preparing for the test. Actors viewed in the warm-up room are the same people who will appear on the testing materials. Once the candidate has completed the warm-up process, s/he will be allowed up to fifteen minutes between the warm-up period and the start of the test.

3. Testing Room

The candidate may not bring any purses, bags, knapsacks, writing utensils or electronic devices of any kind into the testing room. Water or other drinks will be allowed in both rooms. The candidate may bring notes (limited to one page) relative to the qualifying portion of the exam into the warm-up and test room. These notes must be surrendered to the LTA when the test is completed. They will hence be destroyed. Do not bring any materials which you wish to retain to the exam.

All blank tapes are supplied by the RID. At the beginning of each videotape, candidates will be filmed voicing and signing their social security number twice. Candidates do not give their names. Names or other personal information are not provided to the raters. As candidates proceed through the exam, if there are any significant environmental disturbances (i.e., loud fan that unexpectedly turns on, noises from outside the test room, etc.), the candidate may not turn off the camera or pause the test tape but must immediately get the LTA so that the environmental problem can be corrected by the LTA and be noted on the verification form. Any interruption in test procedure must be noted on the appropriate form.

G. What to Expect in the Warm-Up and Testing Environments

The Miranda Warning:

In the warm-up room, the candidate will view the actor and be provided with a written copy of the Miranda Warning as well as information regarding the charges in the case. There will be no text of Miranda on the video screen and no spoken Warning as stimulus either in the warm-up or the testing room. The candidate will work at his/her own pace— during warm-up and during the test—only from a hard copy of the Warning.

During warm-up, the candidate should practice his/her interpretations of Miranda. The copy of the Warning provided during warm-up is to be left in the warm-up room. The candidate will be provided a large print version in the testing room. Under no circumstances is the candidate allowed to bring personal notes on the Warning into the testing environment. Candidates must be prepared to interpret **more than one** ASL rendition of Miranda.

The Courtroom Scene:

The courtroom scene simulates a criminal trial. While the candidate views the actors for this portion of the test, there is no practice tape. However, in the warm-up room, the candidate will be provided with a copy of the case file. The candidate is encouraged to familiarize him/herself with the contents of this file. The file will not be allowed in the testing room. ***Do not stop the tape during the test. Work at the pace provided by the test materials.***

Qualifying the Deaf Interpreter:

The candidate will have an opportunity to view the Deaf interpreter during the warm-up period. During the test, the candidate will be expected to interpret a judge's questions to the Deaf interpreter as well as the Deaf interpreter's responses to the judge. ***Do not stop the tape during the test. Work at the pace provided by the test materials.***

Qualifying the Hearing Interpreter:

There is no warm-up tape for the hearing interpreter as s/he prepares for the qualifying process. However, sample qualifying questions will be provided to the candidate in written form. The candidate will not need, and may not bring, these sample questions into the testing environment. During the test, the candidate will respond in spoken English to a series of questions asked by a judge. On the test materials, the judge is the same individual who appears in the courtroom scene. The candidate is permitted to prepare personal notes (limited to one page) on his/her own qualifications (educational and professional) PRIOR to the test date and to bring these notes for use during the test. **During this portion of the test, you must stop the tape once a question is asked and restart the tape after you have completed your response.**

Jury Instructions:

During warm-up, the candidate will be provided with a paper copy of the actual set of jury instructions which will be presented by a judge on the test materials. The warm-up videotape for jury instructions provides the candidate with an opportunity to view the presentational style of the judge. However, the warm-up tape is of a judge's bench decision on another case and is not of jury instructions. During the actual test, the candidate will be asked to interpret jury instructions for a case different from the case discussed on the warm-up tape. The candidate is not allowed to bring the jury instructions into the testing room. ***Do not stop the tape during the test. Work at the pace provided by the test materials.***

H. Examination Scoring and Reporting

The test is holistic in nature and not designed as a diagnostic instrument. Raters for the examination are trained to identify performances which meet or exceed the minimum standards. Those candidates whose performances are at or exceed the minimum standard are awarded legal certification. Unsuccessful candidates will be informed which rater(s) (Deaf or hearing) deemed their performance did not meet the established standard for the awarding of certification. For more information on the SC:L rating scales, please refer to Appendix D.

Performance Test Re-Takes

In the event of an unsuccessful test result, the candidate for certification must wait six months from the date of the failed examination to re-test. The re-test is offered at full cost (minus the application fee if within the 5 year candidacy period). All normal application procedures must be followed.

APPENDIX A

Specialist Certificate: Legal (SC:L) Written Test Outline

The following is a detailed outline of the four major content areas of the examination, with an indication (in parentheses) of the approximate percentages devoted to each area.

I. Language (25%)

- A. Legal terms and phrases
- B. Challenges that legal language presents for accurate interpretation (e.g. double negatives, convoluted syntax, rights waiver)
- C. Powerless language forms within the judicial system and implications for the interpreting process
- D. Types of cultural and linguistic adjustments required when working with ASL and English in the judicial system
- E. Interpreting issues arising from the status of linguistic minorities in the judicial system
- F. Strategies for addressing interpreting issues associated with limited/minimal language competence
- G. Interpreting techniques used with consumers with limited/minimal language competence
- H. Strategies/techniques for determining interpretation needs
- I. Implications of age of consumer for the interpreting process

II. Judicial System (40%)

- A. Law enforcement procedures (e.g. interrogations, victim/witness statements)
- B. Miranda Warning
- C. Courtroom procedures and logistics
- D. Criminal judicial system features and processes, from point of initiation through the trial process
- F. Civil judicial system features and processes, from point of initiation through the trial process
- F. Judicial (e.g., juvenile/family court) and quasi-judicial (e.g., administrative hearings, parole)
- G. Laws regulating the right to an interpreter in the federal and state judicial systems
- H. Roles and responsibilities of judicial personnel (e.g., interpreter, district attorney, judge, public defender, bailiff, reporter)

III. Team Interpreting (15%)

- A. Principals and protocol of hearing/hearing team interpreting within the legal realm
- B. Principals and protocol of Deaf/hearing team interpreting within the legal realm

IV. Professional Issues (20%)

- A. State and federal legislation regarding interpreters
- B. Ethical issues related to the interpretation in the legal realm
- C. Liability issues related to the interpretations of judicial proceedings
- D. Models of interpreting

APPENDIX B

Legal Interpreter Certification Written Examination

Sample Questions

The following questions are representative of the questions which will be asked in each of the four content areas on the exam. Successful completion of all sample questions does not guarantee a passing score on the actual examination.

1. An arraignment for counterfeiting is heard in which kind of court?
 - A. Superior Court
 - B. Small Claims Court
 - C. Federal Court
 - D. Municipal Court
2. An interpreter is called to interpret for jury duty, but it is unclear whether the Deaf party will be selected. When should a team interpreter be requested?
 - A. At the first break
 - B. During the polling of the jurors
 - C. Upon impaneling of the Deaf consumer
 - D. At the beginning of jury deliberation
3. During a lawyer-client conference, it becomes necessary for the Deaf and hearing interpreters to confer with the Deaf consumer to determine interpreting needs. The interpreter should:
 - A. ask the consumer to come with them to a private area
 - B. determine that the Deaf interpreter will let the lawyer know what the team will be doing
 - C. ask the lawyer's permission to confer with the client and explain to the lawyer why this is necessary
 - D. ask the consumer's permission for a private conference and discuss why this is Necessary
4. If a court-appointed interpreter discovers that the Deaf consumer has brought his or her own interpreter, the interpreter should:
 - A. inform the court of the situation
 - B. offer to team interpret with the consumer's interpreter
 - C. allow the consumer's interpreter to interpret

- D. ask the consumer to decide which interpreter to use
5. An interpreter who is providing sign-to-voice interpreting realizes that an error was made at the beginning of testimony. The most appropriate course of action would be for the interpreter to:
- A. ignore the error
 - B. correct the error at the end of testimony
 - C. request a bench conference
 - D. explain to the witness that an error was made
6. The district attorney represents:
- A. defendants
 - B. citizens
 - C. the judge
 - D. the jury
7. Which of the following is appointed by a court or employed by a government agency primarily for the purpose of defending indigent defendants in criminal cases?
- A. Public defender
 - B. Prosecuting attorney
 - C. Public advocate
 - D. Guardian ad litem
8. To “voir dire” the jury means to:
- A. instruct it
 - B. impanel it
 - C. excuse it
 - D. question it
9. The Miranda Warning is required at what point in the judicial process?
- A. Upon being taken into custody
 - B. Before being questioned to determine probable cause
 - C. Immediately prior to custodial interrogation
 - D. Prior to being questioned during a criminal investigation
10. A foreign Deaf defendant used only gestures until sentencing, at which time the defendant appeared to use a formal sign language different from ASL. The interpreter should:
- A. notify the court that all prior proceedings have been invalid
 - B. request that a hearing or deaf interpreter familiar with the foreign sign language be called before proceeding further
 - C. notify the clerk that the defendant has changed the communication approach
 - D. suggest that an advocate be called in to explain the needs of the defendant

Answers: 1) C; 2) C; 3) C;
4) A; 5) C; 6) B; 7) A; 8) D; 9) C; 10) B

APPENDIX C

Specialist Certificate: Legal

SC:L Suggested Reference Materials

The following is a list of references that may be helpful in reviewing for the Specialist Certificate: Legal Written Examination. This listing is intended for use as a study aid only. RID does not intend the list to imply endorsement of these specific references, nor are test items necessarily taken directly from these sources.

Advancement Seminars, Inc. "Interpreting in the American Legal System". Videotape. Sign Media, Inc. 1995

Black, Henry Campbell. Black's Law Dictionary. St. Paul, MN: West Publishing Co., 1983.

Frishberg, Nancy. Interpreting: An Introduction. Washington D.C.: RID Publications, 1990.

Gonzales, R.; Mikkelson, H.; and Vasquez, V. Fundamentals of Court Interpreting. Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 1994.

Joos, Martin. The Five Clocks. New York, NY: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1967.

National Center for Law and the Deaf. Legal Rights: The Guide for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People. 4th Edition. Washington D.C.: Gallaudet University Press, 1992.

National Center for State Courts. Court Interpretation: Model Guides for Policy and Practice in the State Courts. 1995.

O'Barr, William. Linguistic Evidence: Language, Power and Strategy in the Courtroom. New York, NY: Academic Press, 1982.

O'Barr, William and John Conley. "When a Juror Watches a Lawyer". Barrister. Vol. 3, Number 2 1978.

Pokorny, Daniel. "Cultural and Psychological Dynamics in Court Interpreting". Interpreting: The Art of Cross Cultural Mediation RID 1985 Convention Proceedings, RID Publications. Marina McIntire, ed.

Seligson, S. The Bilingual Courtroom. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1995.

Seleskovitch, Danica. Interpreting for International Conferences. Washington D.C.: Pen and Booth Publisher. Available through RID Publications, 1978.

Sign Media, Inc. "Interpreting the Miranda Warnings". Videotape. 1992.

APPENDIX D

Description of the RID SC:L Rating Scales

Rating Scales

Due to the unique nature of the legal specialist exam—that is, that it tests for certain behaviors in specific circumstances—the rating scales will not be released in the same manner or to the extent that those for the generalist exam have been released. This decision comes as a result of advice from RID's psychometrician, Linda Althouse, Ph.D., at Columbia Assessment Services (CAS). Dr. Althouse recommends that the descriptors for each behavioral scale not be released as it would tell the candidate the exact performance expected. Therefore, the descriptors cannot be released or the test would be compromised.

Due to the complexity of language used in the legal setting, the degree of sophistication and consistency in usage with both English and ASL are assessed. The following are the headings which comprise the behavioral scales by which candidates are scored (performance exam only):

Miranda Warning, Version I

Syntax
 Nonmanual Markers
 Phrasing
 Neutrality
 Integrity of Message

Miranda Warning, Version II

Syntax
 Nonmanual Markers
 Phrasing
 Neutrality
 Integrity of Message
 Variation in Interpretation

Courtroom Scenario

Syntax
 Nonmanual Markers
 Affect
 Fluency
 Phrasing
 Recovery/Repair
 Legal Terminology
 Bench Conference
 Legal Arguments Between Attorneys and the Court
 Register

Courtroom Scenario

English Production
 Affect
 Fluency
 Phrasing
 Mannerisms

Recovery/Repair
 Objections
 Register
 Integrity of Message

Qualifying the Interpreter Scenario, Deaf Interpreter

English Production
 Affect
 Fluency
 Phrasing
 Mannerisms
 Recovery/Repair
 Register
 Integrity of Message

Qualifying the Interpreter Scenario, Hearing Interpreter

Appearance/Attire
 Register
 Fluency
 Conciseness
 Confidence
 Mannerisms
 Recovery/Repair

Jury Instructions Scenario

Syntax
 Phrasing
 Fluency
 Mannerisms
 Recovery/Repair
 Legal Terminology
 Register
 Integrity of Message

APPENDIX E**Acceptable Emergency Situations***Acceptable emergency situations:*

- death of an immediate family member,
- doctor's verification of accident, illness, or hospitalization, or
- a natural disaster

An individual can appeal denials of acceptable emergency situations through the established appeal procedure if they disagree with the decision regarding their inability to take the tests.

APPENDIX F**Test Development Consultants****Dr. Joan Knapp, Knapp and Associates**

Knapp and Associates is a research and development firm that specializes in the conceptualization, planning and development of assessment procedures and programs designed to measure professional competence.

Joan E. Knapp, president, has a Ph.D. in educational and psychological measurement and research, with 20 years experience in the development of programs to assess professional competence. Dr. Knapp was formerly the Executive Director of Health Credentialing Programs at Educational Testing Service. She has worked with over 30 professional agencies, organizations

and boards in a variety of projects concerned with accreditation, program evaluation, certification and licensure.

Dr. James P. Henderson, Columbia Assessment Services, Inc.

Columbia Assessment Services, Inc. is a testing company formed by a group of nationally-respected test developers/psychometricians. The members of the CAS team come from some of the largest testing companies in America, bringing with them extensive experience in the development and administration of virtually every type of certification and licensure examination on state, national, and international levels.

Dr. James P. Henderson is Executive Vice President of Columbia Assessment Services, and currently serves as chair of the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCAA), which is the accreditation body of the National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA). Dr. Henderson also serves as psychometrician to the NCCA. Under Dr. Henderson's leadership, CAS has conducted numerous job analysis and role delineation studies for clients of both national and international scope. Dr. Henderson also has extensive experience in the administration of credentialing programs.