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## **RID Launches Government Affairs Program *Past President of RID to Serve as Advocate for Interpreters***

**November 17, 2009 – Alexandria, VA** – The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) is pleased to announce the establishment of a new Government Affairs Program to advocate on behalf of professional sign language interpreters at both the state and federal levels. The program will be a part of the RID Communications Department managed by Tina Schultz, Director of Communications, supported by Sarah Fieldhouse, Communications Manager, and Lindsey Walter, Communications Specialist. RID Past President, Janet L. Bailey, CSC, NIC Master, SC:PA, will serve as RID's Government Affairs Representative.

***“Janet is an ideal candidate for the interpreter advocate as she has been in the profession for over 30 years, she served in a leadership capacity for RID, understands the issues impacting interpreters on a daily basis and has a perspective that is fully encompassing of the profession,”*** stated Clay Nettles, RID Executive Director.

***“The field of interpreting has gone through significant changes in recent years,”*** said Janet Bailey. ***“I am excited to work with RID and its members to identify and prioritize current needs. We want to ensure that RID is included in all discussions that lead to laws and regulations that impact an interpreter’s work.”***

The program will include working within the organization and membership to set goals and objectives while strengthening outside relationships with professional organizations, consumer groups, industry partners and government agencies.

Communication will be a key component and will consist of regular articles in RID's quarterly news magazine, *VIEWES*, and RID's monthly newsletter, e-NEWS, as well as personal appearances and town hall meetings at RID regional and state meetings.

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RID is a national membership organization representing the professionals who facilitate communication between people who are deaf or hard of hearing and people who can hear. It is the mission of RID to provide international, national, regional, state and local forums and an organizational structure for the continued growth and development of the profession of interpretation and transliteration of American Sign Language and English. For more information about the organizations, please visit [www.rid.org](http://www.rid.org).

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