



Hon. Judge Elsa Alcalá
Hon. Judge Cheryl Johnson
Hon. Judge Cathy Cochran
Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas
Supreme Court Building
P.O. Box 12308
Austin, Texas 78711

August 5, 2014

Dear Honorable Judges Alcalá, Cochran and Johnson:

The Texas Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (TAJIT) would like to take this opportunity to express its gratitude to you and fellow, like-minded justices for your vigorous dissent in the case of *Irving Magaña García v State of Texas*, No. PD-0646-13. We sincerely appreciate and value the sentiments expressed and the comments published in this recent opinion.

We fully concur that failing to provide the services of a qualified and licensed interpreter to a defendant with limited English proficiency (LEP) is the denial of a fundamental constitutional right and is a “stumbling block in the path toward a better criminal-justice system.”

Thank you so much for standing up for the rights of all non-English speaking defendants and litigants. We deeply appreciate your stating this position on the issue and your standing up for the rights of all non-English speaking people in our Texas courts.

Every day the membership of TAJIT and its Board of Directors work diligently to promote the goal of fair language access throughout the courts and to inform the public and the judiciary regarding the vital role of the judiciary interpreter toward that end. By publishing this opinion, we truly believe that you have helped all LEP individuals move a step closer to achieving the goal of equal access.

Respectfully,

Lyda M. Baro, President
Texas Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators