

# ***Contrasting Court and Conference Interpretation***

	<b>Court Interpretation</b>	<b>Conference Interpretation</b>
<b>Professional recognition</b>	Relatively new a profession in the United States, partially resulting from increased attention to minority rights after the Civil Rights Movement.	Wider world recognition, in particular since Nuremberg trials after WWII.
<b>Working conditions</b>	Underestimation of interpreter specialized skills result in deficient working conditions. As the profession evolves and skill recognition improves, interpreters are allowed more time to prepare for each assignment, team interpreting, and other improved conditions to preserve the quality of interpretation. However, many interpreters are still relegated to a clerical status with little recognition as professional interpreters.	Over many years, several international groups have worked to protect conference working conditions. Team interpreting and documentation to help in the preparation of the interpreter are standard in this industry. However, interpreters spend a significant amount of their time educating clients and negotiating working conditions.
<b>Speaker sophistication</b>	Frequent speakers in the court setting are attorneys and other professionals, but, speakers from an unsophisticated background can include anyone from a wide cut of society who enters a court room.	Average speaker sophistication is higher than that in court. Specialized jargon of conference speakers and attendants represents a significant challenge for the interpreter.
<b>Interpreter qualifications and preparation</b>	The interpreter must have a superior command of source and target languages, the ability to think and speak fast in both languages, and the capacity to change within the same language to either formal or casual registers as needed.	The interpreter must be able to reach a high level of specialization in a relatively short period of time before each assignment. An interpreter may be very competent in one topic and inadequate in others.
<b>Interpreter's objective</b>	Although not expected to give a word-for-word translation, the interpreter is bound by the oath to produce legal equivalents from source to target language to the best of her/his ability.	The main objective is to allow the audience to follow the speech closely. The interpreter focuses on keeping the target language message as clear as possible.
<b>Public speaking</b>	The interpreter is expected to be inconspicuous and not deliver her/his own speeches.	Sometimes the interpreter is expected to be a public speaker to deliver an effective message. Other times, the interpreter must also be inconspicuous.
<b>Time and effort in preparation</b>	General preparation is expected before passing certification exams. For specific assignments usually very little preparation is allowed. Good professionals depend on self-monitoring and ongoing professional training.	Interpreters can invest a lot of time, money and effort on pre-conference research (i.e. hiring experts, buying books, preparing glossaries, etc.) Preparation for a one-day conference could take several days.