

# SUZUKI MYERS & ASSOCIATES, LTD.

Mr. Corbin Davis  
Supreme Court Clerk  
PO Box 30052  
Lansing, MI 48909

Re: Michigan Court Rules (proposed MCR 1.111)

July 25, 2012



Dear Mr. Corbin Davis:

Let me introduce myself as a background of this letter. I have been a certified court interpreter since 2003. I am also a member of the Translation Certification Committee of the American Translators Association.

It is a grave concern to me if the court feels that they can hire non-certified interpreter without exhausting all the possible means to hire a certified interpreter. That is what they do now at least about Japanese interpreters. They seldom call me who is the only certified court interpreter in Japanese, they (mainly district courts) just use interpreters whom they know. Another dangerous thing is for the court to think that an interpreter is qualified if they are sent by an agency. Usually an agency of multiple languages doesn't know the level of interpreters, and they just send out whoever they can grab. Training for agency owners on ethics is necessary, I think. So the rules must mention certified interpreters first, and if there is no other way, get a "qualified" interpreter. (Someone who is sent by a translation/interpreting agency does not automatically mean that person is a "qualified" interpreter.) Making a rule less stringent to select a court interpreter is a bad idea – it may look cheaper at that moment, but all the possible errors by non-certified interpreters will end up much more costly and time-consuming for the court and for those who are involved.

I am also concerned with an interpreter hired by police, because that is where a police report is made, which becomes the strongest evidence. In two criminal cases that I interpreted on the defense side, all the interpreters hired by the police as well as the District Court and the Circuit Court were sub-standard (those cases took place in 1995-6 and 2002-3).

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If you need more details, I'd be pleased to tell you more. And please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. My contact numbers are in the end of this letter.

Sincerely,



Izumi Suzuki

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