

Deaf Interpreter

- More than 10 years as Deaf interpreter for Deaf/DeafBlind/DeafDisabled individuals
- Fluent in American Sign Language and English
- Interpreted various settings from conferences/workshops, educational environments, legal, medical, theatre, museums/art venues, and 1:1 and group assignments
- Advocates for communication access and cultural equity for Deaf/DeafBlind/DeafDisabled individuals

Systemic Advocacy Coordinator

- Works to address and remove systemic barriers that are prevalent and persistent in all service areas from community based service agencies, government offices, court and legal agencies, education, and medical services
- Provides IFSP/IEP/ITP advocacy services for parents and guardians of Deaf/DeafBlind/DeafDisabled/Hard of Hearing children in special education system

Attorney

- 12 years as a licensed attorney as an advocate for equal access to education, services/programs, theatre, and legal services
- Advocates for language access and communication access for Deaf/DeafBlind/Hard of Hearing/Late-Deafened individuals
- Fluent in American Sign Language and English and Legalese
- Skilled communicator with proven ability to synthesize and present complex information to diverse audiences particularly those whose first language is other than English
- Presents complex information in an interactive approach that encourages audience participation and hands-on learning
- Provides legal services in civil rights and disability rights, estate planning, and legal consultancy in Americans with Disabilities Act.

Interpreting Training

DeafBlind Interpreting Institute March 2020 to August 2020

Deaf Interpreter Professional Training Cohort 6 July 2020 to August 2020

Project Climb August 2020 to April 2021

License & Certificates

Attorney; June 2007 State Bar Association of California License #249932

Domestic Violence Crisis Counselor; September 2006 DeafHope, Oakland, CA

Mediator; April 2006 Community Boards, San Francisco, CA

Employment History

Systemic Advocacy Coordinator **Deaf Counseling Advocacy and Referral Agency, San Leandro, CA** **February 2015 to Present**

- Judicial Council appointee for its Language Access Plan Implementation Task Force to establish equal and qualified language access in all areas of court services
- Legal Advocacy services to Deaf/DeafBlind/Hard of Hearing/Late Deafened clients. Services include documentation, legal counseling and self-advocacy, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) education and consultancy, and accommodations on the grounds of disability consultancy, education, and advocacy
- Partner in interagency collaboration on common issues with the objective of advocating for equal access and full participation in public services and public benefits

Attorney **Law Office of Susan Gonzalez, Esq.** **August 2007 to Present**
Bay Area, California

- Consultant and attorney on estate planning; Created estate planning documents as requested
- Consultant on accommodations and accessibility as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Deaf Interpreter Bay Area, California **June 2006 to Present**

- Freelance interpreter for Deaf and DeafBlind individuals; Settings range from community events, weddings, medical, legal, museum exhibits, theatre, conferences, and workshops

Program Developer **Deaf Counseling Advocacy and Referral Agency, San Leandro, CA** **July 2010 to January 2015**

- Grant writer and funds researcher to support existing and new programs
- Compliance officer for existing grants including monthly, quarterly and annual reports
- Program management to ensure quality service and program performance
- Special Assignment: Temporary Client Support Services Department Manager
- Special Assignment: Temporary Deaf Community Center Coordinator

Educator **San Francisco Unified School District** **September 1993- June 2006**
San Francisco, CA

- Teacher of the Deaf, Grades 3 to 12
- Teacher of American Sign Language as a foreign language
- Curriculum Developer; Program Consultant/ Administrative Assistant
- Supervised and managed classroom staff and volunteers

Education

L.L.M. (Master of Laws) International Legal Studies

Golden Gate University School of Law, San Francisco, CA. May 2007

Juris Doctor

New College of California School of Law, San Francisco, CA. May 2006

Master's Degree Special Education: Communicative Handicapped

California State University, San Francisco, CA. June 1991

Teaching Credentials

California State University, San Francisco, CA. June 1990

University of California, Davis, CA. June 1989

Bachelor of Science Degree Human Development and Education

University of California, Davis, CA. June 1988

Community and Volunteer Background

Board Member; Council de Manos. April 2019 to present

Nationwide cultural and advocacy organization aim at ending injustice for Deaf/DeafBlind/DeafDisabled/Hard of Hearing/LateDeafened Latinx individuals

Board Co-Chair; California Manos de Corazon. October 2015 to August 2018

State-wide cultural and advocacy organization working with Deaf/DeafBlind/DeafDisabled/Hard of Hearing/Late-Deafened Latinx individuals

Board Member; Deaf Hope Hayward, CA. May 2008 to October 2010

Bay Area service organization providing domestic violence and sexual violence services and preventative education

Board Member; California Center for Law and the Deaf, San Leandro, CA. 2007-2008

Bay Area legal services organization performing class action litigation protecting civil rights of Deaf/DeafBlind/Hard of Hearing/Late-Deafened individuals

Advisory Member; American Conservatory Theatre's Deaf Advisory Group, San Francisco, CA. 1999 to 2001

Advisory group advocating for communication access and language access for Deaf/DeafBlind/Hard of Hearing/Late-Deafened theatre patrons

Founder, Board Chair, and Board Member; Deaf Communities Together, Inc., San Francisco, CA. 1996-2001

Bay Area community based organization providing fiscal sponsorship for local emerging Deaf and Hard of Hearing community based organizations

Board Member; Communication Access Network, San Francisco, CA. 1995-2000

Bay Area financial sponsor organization committed to providing funding to local community based organizations to provide communication access for community workshops and events

Advisory Member; Deaf AIDS Center, San Francisco, CA. 1995-1996

Community based organization providing support and educational services to Deaf/DeafBlind/Hard of Hearing/Late-Deafened individuals who were HIV+ or have AIDS