

Janis Palma



CANDIDATE STATEMENT

I am always honored to serve NAJIT, its members, and the judiciary interpreting and translating professions. I have been a NAJIT member since it was called CITA (Court Interpreters and Translators Association) back in the 1980s, which I joined soon after becoming a federally-certified English-Spanish interpreter. I have served on several committees and on the board, which I consider to be an essential part of my contributions to our growth as a profession and the recognition of the critical role we play in our country's system of justice. I am a former staff interpreter, where I held the position of Supervisory Interpreter for a few years, and am currently an independent contractor, which gives me a broad perspective about the exigencies and challenges of both worlds. I am running for the board one more time because I bring with me a historical memory and an experience that I feel can benefit the association at this juncture. It will be my pleasure to work side-by-side with the outstanding members of the board that have already been elected or are running in this election, to continue to serve the best interests of NAJIT's members and the Association.

BIO

Janis Palma is a professional English-Spanish interpreter and translator with over 43 years of experience working as both staff and independent contractor in state and federal courts, as well as for private clients in conferences on a broad spectrum of topics. She is certified by NAJIT, the U.S. Courts, and is a Texas Master licensed interpreter. She holds a Ph.D. in Language Studies, a Master's in Legal Studies (MLS), and an M.A. in Caribbean History and Literature. Janis Palma has been a volunteer with the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT) since 1986 and was awarded a Life Membership in 2006. She has presented at conferences, taught, written, and published extensively on subjects related to interpreting, language access, and language rights. Her research interests are mainly focused on the intersection between language, law, and interpreting in legal contexts. She is currently working towards a second PhD in Rhetorics, Communication and Information Design, where she plans to develop a new line of research into the rhetorics of justice and language access in the United States.