



additional visual dimension while interpreting. Scholarship from the field of interpreting suggests that mental fatigue sets in after approximately 30 minutes of sustained simultaneous interpretation, resulting in the marked loss of accuracy in the interpretation (Cokely, 1992; Moser-Mercer, et. al, 1998). When an interpreter is not actually interpreting but in the 'off' position, the interpreter is not actually off duty. Rather, the interpreter is actively monitoring the working interpreter's accuracy and making adjustments as indicated. At times, these adjustments need to be made immediately and you might see the team interpreter surreptitiously sign or speak to the working interpreter to adjust the interpretation. At other times, the team interpreter might make a written note and discuss the point with the interpreter at a break. Rarely, and typically during witness testimony by an individual who is deaf, the interpreters might seek permission to confer with each other to adjust the interpretation for accuracy. Since the interpreters are ethically obligated and sworn to interpret accurately, these communications should be welcomed. These modifications are not viewed as a sign of substandard interpreting skill; rather, they are properly viewed as a commitment to the fidelity of the interpretation.

Hence, team interpreting provides the court with an additional measure of security to ensure that the record is accurate and the non-English speaking parties are fully present and able to participate in the proceedings. Spoken language interpreter associations are in accord. According to the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators, "[t]eam interpreting is the quality control mechanism implemented to preserve the accuracy of the interpretation process in any circumstance." ([www.najit.org](http://www.najit.org))