

**APPENDIX D**

**Letter from Chief Justice Ricky Polston  
to the Hon. Ronald N. Ficarrotta  
then-Chair of the Court Interpreter Certification Board  
May 6, 2013**



## Supreme Court of Florida

500 South Duval Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1925

RICKY POLSTON  
CHIEF JUSTICE  
BARBARA J. PARIENTE  
R. FRED LEWIS  
PEGGY A. QUINCE  
CHARLES T. CANADY  
JORGE LABARGA  
JAMES E.C. PERRY  
JUSTICES

THOMAS D. HALL  
CLERK OF COURT

SILVESTER DAWSON  
MARSHAL

May 6, 2013

The Honorable Ronald N. Ficarrotta  
Chair, Court Interpreter Certification Board  
800 East Kennedy Boulevard  
Room 122-Annex  
Tampa, Florida 33602

Dear Judge Ficarrotta:

As you may know, last fall I designated a team to represent Florida at a National Summit on Language Access. The team gained beneficial information and insight from the Summit and ultimately prepared a report that includes recommended actions to improve language access services in the Florida courts for persons with limited English proficiency. A copy of the team's report is enclosed for your review and information.

An essential component of the team's recommendations is that the judicial branch designate a body to serve as a language access advisory committee for the purpose of advising the Supreme Court on language access policy issues. At Conference on March 20, 2013, the Court approved the Court Interpreter Certification Board to have the responsibilities of a language access advisory committee. The Court also approved the Board to address the other recommendations contained within the team's report, which may require coordination with the Florida Court Education Council, the Trial Court Budget Commission, the Commission on Trial Court Performance and Accountability, the Standing Committee on Fairness and Diversity, or other committees and organizations.

The Honorable Ronald N. Ficarrotta

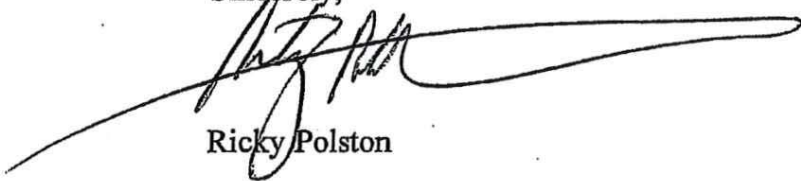
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Lisa Bell, who provides staff support to the Board and also served as a member of the Florida team at the National Summit, will assist the Board in developing a work agenda that incorporates the Board's new responsibilities.

On behalf of the Supreme Court, I thank you and the other members of the Court Interpreter Certification Board for your ongoing efforts to improve the quality and accessibility of language access services in the Florida courts.

Sincerely,



Ricky Polston

RP/lmb/dgh

Enclosure

cc: Lisa Bell, Office of the State Courts Administrator