

# *Rockin' the Profession*

## *"Panel Discussion on Laws Relation to Interpreters "*

### *Mara Simmons*



#interpretersrock2019



June 20-22,  
2019



[www.arkansasrid.org/rock2019](http://www.arkansasrid.org/rock2019)

Mara was born in Mexico City, Mexico to a Spanish father and a Costa Rican mother. From a very young age Mara's education was in a bilingual setting traveling to various parts of the world thus experiencing the different countries and cultures first-hand.

Mara graduated from the American High School in Mexico City and went on to Fani Anitua College for girls where she continued to study bilingual education, art and world culture.

She has served as served as the Director of the Office of Court Interpreter Services for the Arkansas Supreme Court Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) since 2002. She is a State Certified Spanish interpreter. The AOC Interpreter Services oversees the training and certification of judicial interpreters, training of court personnel, interpreters, and coordinating all requests for spoken and sign language interpreters for all Arkansas State Courts, as well as dealing with all interpreter matters.

Mara has served on several national committees including three years on the Executive Committee for State Courts Consortium for Language Access in the Courts and also served on the Language Access Division of National Center for State Courts which principal duty is the development of national policies regarding language access issues in the courts.

Mara is credited with establishing one of the top court interpreter programs in the nation. She has acted as an advisor for states who are establishing their interpreter programs.

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*Workshop  
Description*

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### Workshop/Course Description:

Panel Discussion on Laws in Relation to Interpreters This plenary workshop panel discussion will focus on federal and state laws related to interpreting. Applicable laws to be discussed are: ADA - Jeff Prail, Licensure & HIPAA - Ray James, Arkansas Court Interpreting Law (Act 1325) - Mara Simmons, and the Arkansas Educational Interpreting Standards - R. Jared Hogue. The panel will consist of individuals who will each report on one of the above laws or state requirements.

(Presented in ASL and English) Friday June 21 @ 9-12 pm