

# NEWS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2007**

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## **L.A. CITY ATTORNEY ROCKY DELGADILLO TESTIFIES AT JOINT SENATE HEARING ON ADVERSE IMPACT OF COURT INTERPRETER STRIKE**

**LOS ANGELES** – Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo today delivered expert testimony to a joint session of the California State Senate Committee on Public Safety and the Senate Judiciary Committee regarding the negative impact of the ongoing interpreter strike on Los Angeles' criminal justice system.

“As the chief prosecutor for the City of Los Angeles, I know how indispensable our court interpreters are to the administration of justice – providing a crucial service to victims, witnesses and defendants,” said Delgadillo in remarks to the Senate committee. “Without a prompt resolution to the latest labor dispute, I fear an inequitable application of justice whereby individuals lacking English proficiency will be at a grievous and unconscionable disadvantage.”

Due to continued problems with adequate staffing of interpreters in cases held in Los Angeles Superior Court, Deputy City Attorneys have increasingly seen trial dates continued, delayed, or transferred to other jurisdictions.

In one case, a hearing to compel a convicted child molester to register as a sex offender was delayed two months because of the interpreter strike, allowing the defendant the opportunity to move across the state at will without notifying authorities if he was living near a school.

In another matter, the prosecution of a domestic violence case, in which the defendant was habitually violating a court protective order to stay away from the victim, was delayed a week due to inadequate translator services, subjecting the victim to continued harassment.

“I call upon the Los Angeles Superior Court to resolve this matter in a timely fashion so that we may ensure the wheels of justice are once again turning smoothly,” added Delgadillo.

According to statistics provided last month by the United States Census Bureau, there are approximately 8 million more people living in the United States speaking a foreign language at home than six years ago. According to those same statistics, 42% of all Californians and 53% of Angelenos speak a language other than English in the home.

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