Brian Ross

CONFERENCE INTERPRETER · ENGLISH · SPANISH · PORTUGUESE

SIMULTANEOUS AND CONSECUTIVE INTERPRETATION · WASHINGTON, D.C.

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Credentials

- Master's in Interpretation and Translation, Monterey Institute of International Studies (1993)
- Federally Certified Court Interpreter (Spanish), an exam with a 5% pass rate
- Federally Professionally Qualified Court Interpreter (Portuguese)
- Passed the U.S. Department of State's highest-level diplomatic conference interpretation exams in Spanish and Portuguese — the de facto gold standard for diplomatic and technical interpretation, used as a benchmark throughout government and the military and by many Washington-based international organizations
- For 20 years, designed, evaluated and graded these exams for the State Department's Office of Language Services

Languages

- English: A language
- Spanish: very strong active B
- Portuguese: very strong active B

U.S. Government

- Interpreter for the U.S. Department of State Office of Language Services, which provides interpretation for the whole of government, since 1993
- Has interpreted for U.S. Presidents Obama, Trump and Biden, Vice President Harris, Secretaries of State and Defense, and Latin American and African heads of state and ministers
- Assignments have included the White House, the Pentagon, the Departments of Homeland Security, Justice, Commerce and Agriculture, the FBI, the DEA, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network and Voice of America
- Events have included the 9th Summit of the Americas (Los Angeles, 2022), the Nuclear Security Summit (2016), the Counter-ISIL Defense Ministerial (2016), the Chiefs of Defense Conference (2016), the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit and the AGOA Forum (every year since 2008)
- Travel assignments in Latin America and Africa, such as the Lobito Corridor visit (Angola, 2024)
- High-level defense meetings at the Pentagon with the defense ministers and military chiefs of Brazil, Mexico and Peru, and between U.S. Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and their Latin American counterparts

- Live broadcast interpretation of U.S. presidential addresses for Voice of America

International organizations

- International Monetary Fund: World Bank/IMF Annual and Spring Meetings since 2010 (Portuguese booth), including meetings of G-20 finance ministers
- Organization of American States: since 2007, mainly in the English booth from Spanish and Portuguese — Permanent Council, committees and General Assemblies (including Lima, 2021); part of the core team of interpreters for the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights' sessions and hearings
- Pan American Health Organization: Governing Bodies since 2009 (Pan American Sanitary Conference, Directing Council, Executive Committee, Subcommittee on Program, Budget and Administration), English booth; weekly technical meetings in the Spanish–English and Portuguese–Spanish booths on neglected tropical diseases, influenza, Zika, chikungunya, vaccination, noncommunicable diseases, COVID-19 and more
- Inter-American Development Bank: since 2009, in the English booth and in bidirectional booths in any combination of English, Spanish and Portuguese, including sessions of the Bank's Administrative Tribunal
- World Bank: Portuguese and Spanish bidirectional booths
- Inter-American Defense College: two weeks a month in 2008–2011, mainly in the Portuguese booth — seminars on international air and space law, negotiation, military support in disaster relief and civil-military relations

Other clients and programs

- Inter-American Dialogue, including the annual CAF (Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean) Conference since 2016, with former presidents, ministers and experts
- American University moot court competition since 2010 (Portuguese–English, Portuguese–Spanish and Spanish–English booths)
- Drug Enforcement Administration: multi-week international training courses on drug interdiction
- Office of the U.S. Trade Representative: free trade negotiations with the Andean countries, Panama, Mexico and Colombia, including textiles and sanitary and phytosanitary measures
- International Law Enforcement Academy: management courses for Latin American, Mozambican and Angolan law enforcement officials
- International Judicial Academy and U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: seminars on intellectual property, courtroom technology and insurance for judges from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico and Peru
- U.S. Trade and Development Agency, and the Institute of Brazilian Issues (George Washington University) seminars for Brazilian judges and policymakers
- Court interpreter, D.C. Superior Court