



Case Study Law and tribunal hearings

The toughest aspect of legal assignments is interpreting the subtleties in legal cross examination, often spoken in elongated sentences. Although legal jargon itself can be relatively straightforward, the ultimate test comes when a legal term in English doesn't have an established translation in Chinese. In the legal sector the interpreter's linguistic abilities, professionalism and judgement must be flawless.



Neutral party

A TOP LAW FIRM FROM THE UK

One of the UK's top law firms hired KL Interpreters for a three-day tribunal hearing on a contract dispute between a European investor and a leading Chinese company. This assignment presented two major challenges. First, our interpreter was hired by the legal team of the European claimant on behalf of both parties. During the hearing, our interpreter had to remain neutral and be seen as neutral. This meant, among other things, making sure that conversation only took place when there were members of both legal teams present. Second, the defending Chinese company hired a UK solicitor who was fluent in Chinese. He intervened with our interpreter whenever he felt the interpreting wasn't helping his client. The issue of his undue interference was raised. The panel of judges ruled against his conduct. Our interpreter continued unaffected until the end of the case.

Quality wins

A TOP LAW FIRM FROM CHINA

One of the top ten law firms in China hired an interpreter from us for a week-long hearing on a contract dispute between a ship-owner in Europe and a shipbuilder in China. There was one claimant and three defending parties. The Chinese witnesses often gave evidence in fragmented sentences with confused logic. Interpreting accurately without asking for clarification too frequently was a delicate balance to maintain. Also cross-examination went into great technical detail. There was an interesting twist too. One of the defending parties brought their own interpreter to the hearing, but the inferior quality of their interpreting was obvious. After agreement between the two legal teams, our interpreter was asked to take over.

Contract 'all at sea'

London, as an international legal and maritime hub, is one of the leading arbitration centres. KL Interpreters was hired by a top international law firm to interpret for the arbitration of a contractual dispute between a Chinese shipbuilder and a buyer overseas. Our interpreter made extensive preparation by reading through hundreds of pages of legal documents to become familiar with not just the contractual language and witness statements, but also shipbuilding terminologies. Our interpreter also received special training from the company on court procedure so we could ensure our precision and neutrality, two crucial elements for legal interpreting.