



**A major federal criminal agency was finding that communication barriers between Mexico and the US were severely hindering efforts to curb the reign of aggressive drug cartels along the border. In order to more effectively coordinate the countries' bilateral efforts, the agency called on TransPerfect to provide accurate simultaneous and consecutive interpretation services. By supplying skilled interpreters who meet stringent criteria and pass thorough background checks, TransPerfect supports the agency's ongoing efforts to facilitate border communication and bring the drug-traffickers to heel.**

## The Client

The Department of Justice's Criminal Division (CRM) develops, enforces, and supervises the application of all federal criminal laws except those specifically assigned to other divisions. The CRM and the 93 US Attorneys have the responsibility for overseeing criminal matters under the more than 900 statutes as well as certain civil litigation. With a stated mission of ensuring fair and impartial justice through the support and supervision of federal criminal law, CRM attorneys prosecute many nationally significant cases. In addition to its direct litigation responsibilities, the CRM also formulates and implements criminal enforcement policy and provides advice and assistance.

## The Challenge

The CRM had been working with the Mexican Government and several Texas state officials to coordinate efforts to protect the border from increasingly aggressive drug cartels. After the escalation of a disagreement between two major drug gangs and the murder of government officials who had been working to end the Mexican drug lords' distribution of illicit drugs on US streets, it became clear that improved communications would be vital to bringing the illegal activities to an end.

The CRM required professional interpretation assistance to help coordinate measures to protect those taking positions at the government offices in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico and its sister city Laredo, Texas. To help bring an end to this dangerous situation, the CRM team, which was operating and meeting covertly, needed assistance to break through the communication barrier between the bordering governments.

## The TransPerfect Solution

Engaged by the US Attorney's Office in Houston, TransPerfect was first called upon to assist with simultaneous interpretation for a meeting. Having demonstrated the integrity of our services, we were directed to the CRM, and discussions began regarding the support it would need. Because of the case's sensitive nature, any interpreters hired would need to meet specific criteria. Among other things, they had to be certified speakers of Mexican Spanish with US citizenship and no criminal backgrounds. Drawing from a global network of over 4,000 highly skilled linguists, TransPerfect immediately set out to assemble a team of simultaneous and consecutive interpreters qualified to complete the task. Coordinating two offices along with the necessary linguists and technical equipment, our team performed flawlessly to the highest satisfaction of the CRM.

As it proceeds with other covert operations, the CRM continues to rely on TransPerfect to support the Mexican and US governments' communications, regain the border, and end the reign of the drug cartels of Nuevo Laredo.

