

Curriculum: Access to Justice for the Self Represented (SRLN & NCSC 2013)



The following modules are designed to assist judges in handling cases involving self-represented litigants (SRLs). They contain tools and techniques for judges to operate their courtrooms effectively, comply with the law, maintain neutrality, and increase access to justice while overseeing cases involving SRLs.

These modules are based on the Self-Represented Litigation Network (SRLN) Judicial Curricula which were prepared for the November 2007 conference Access to Justice for the Self-Represented at Harvard Law School. The original curricula, developed by National Center for State Courts (NCSC), the American Judicature Society, and the National Judicial College with funding from the State Justice Institute, are available on our [Conference: Harvard Judicial Leadership Conference \(SRLN 2007\)](#) page. The

modules below were prepared by the National Center for State Courts' Center on Court Access to Justice for All with funding from the Public Welfare Foundation.

A series of video tutorials from the original curriculum is also available and can be made accessible to judges by request -- for more information, please contact us at info@srln.org.

[Introduction to the Curriculum](#)

Module A. Judges, Ethics and the Self-Represented - The Law Today

This module reviews the law governing the judicial role in managing cases involving self-represented litigants (SRLs).

[Module A. Guide](#)

[Module A. Materials](#)

Module B. Making the Courtroom Work - a Quick Techniques Overview

This module looks at ten key techniques that can be used as tools by judges to ensure that SRLs are able to present their case.

[Module B. Guide](#)

[Module B. Materials](#)

Module C. Starting the Self-Represented Case - Setting the Right Foundation in the Courtroom

This module covers the critical steps for judges and court staff to set the stage and focus litigant expectations at the start of every hearing.

[Module C. Guide](#)

[Module C. Materials](#)

Module D. Getting Facts in Self-Represented Cases - Approaches and Techniques

This module examines techniques for getting to the facts in self-represented cases. By providing a roadmap that breaks the hearing into basic segments and explaining the purpose of judicial questioning, the judge ensures that litigants are able to follow the process.

[Module D. Guide](#)

[Module D. Materials](#)

Module E. The Decision and Beyond - Barriers, Decision and Preparation

This module focuses on how to apply the “engaged neutrality” approach to the section of the hearing in which the decision is reached.

[Module E. Guide](#)

[Module E. Materials](#)

Last updated on September 24, 2020.

Year published: 2013

Document Author:

- Richard Zorza
- NCSC
- Self-Represented Litigation Network

Topics

[Judicial Ethics Trainer of the Trainer Materials / Curricula Courses & Trainings](#)

Regions

[United States](#)

Print

Table of Contents