

# Best Practices in Handling Cases with Self-Represented Litigants

July 21 - 24, 2025  
Seattle, Washington

Tuition: \$1,979  
Conf. fee: \$549



## In the last decade, self-representation has increased exponentially.

Self-represented litigants now appear on court dockets in almost every case possible including civil, criminal, felony, domestic relations, traffic, misdemeanor, small claims, probate and administrative cases. Self-represented litigants pose a special challenge for the judge presiding over the case because they are often not familiar with courtroom procedures and evidence rules.

Specific sessions will address managing cases involving sovereign citizens, people with high-conflict personalities, individuals with mental illness as well as domestic violence cases. Judges will learn techniques for improving communication, maintaining decorum and neutrality as well as ensuring procedural fairness and balancing ethical obligations.

This course uses discussions groups and role-playing exercises to assist judges in developing actionable plans that address the specific issues they often see in their courtrooms.

**“The role playing sessions were my favorite part of the course. It was so much fun to interact with the other judges this way, and I learned a lot about how I can improve in handling “difficult” litigants.”**

- Recent Participant

## More info:

[www.judges.org/courses/srls/](http://www.judges.org/courses/srls/)

### Objectives

- Recognize when an indigent SRL party may be entitled to court-appointed counsel in criminal and civil cases.
- Move a SRL party civil docket expeditiously;
- Recognize the limits on your ability to assist a SRL; and
- Supply methods and strategies to ensure that SRLs have proper access to the justice system.

**“This course was an invaluable learning opportunity. As a new ALJ, I had the chance to learn not only from the knowledgeable instructors, but also from judicial classmates with decades of experience.”**

- Recent Participant

Established in 1963, the NJC is a nonprofit organization and the only educational institution in the U.S. that teaches judges of all types from across the 50 states, Indian Country and abroad.

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