

**Self Represented Litigation Network
Projects and Activities Being Planning for 2007-2008**

I. Core Ongoing Operational Projects

A. www.selfhelpsupport.org Website

This website will continue to provide core informational and networking support for innovators. It already has over 1,500 pieces of content, and almost 2,000 members nationally and internationally. The website is the critical ongoing tool for innovators.

B. Mentoring Support

The mentoring and Networking program puts new innovators in touch with those that can assist and support them in their efforts.

C. Network Support

This core activity includes the maintenance and enhancement of the leadership network with its working groups, expert support, advocacy, funding support, and public relations and outreach. This activity provides concrete support and networking for state innovators, and leads the development of additional resources

II. General Projects

A. Judicial Education Conference, Curriculum and National Bench Guide

Already in initial planning, this fall 2007 conference will take an “educate the educator” approach, will likely take place at Harvard Law School, and will have a limited cost to participants. It will focus on self represented litigant issues in the courtroom, on judicial education, and on judicial leadership with respect to the issue.

The National Customizable Judicial Curriculum will be designed so that state judicial education systems can easily integrate it with their new judge training. It will take advantage of video materials developed in the research process and the California contract.

The National Customizable Judicial Bench Guide will be based on the almost completed SJI-funded California Benchbook. It will be designed to be used in cooperation with the Judicial education conference, the national curriculum, and state level new judge training.

This work will take advantage of the resources of Judicial Education Working Group, which has been extensively involved in work on the new proposed language on the issue for the ABA Model Code of Judicial Conduct. The work will provide a vital tool for states to build and transform judicial education and judicial practices for the self represented.

B. Best Practices in Self Represented Litigation Innovation—Second Generation

The groundwork is being laid for a second generation of Best Practices Materials, with a second edition likely to include additional Practices, Resources, Models, and Key Contacts.

The Best Practices Document is already proving highly effective at encouraging adoption and enhancement of innovations, and at providing a structure for long term statewide planning.

C. Next Generation and Train-the-Trainer Approach

The Train the Trainers program is in the process of formation and will take different forms depending on the state of learning and diffusion, and may include national training gatherings, online webinars and conference calls, and special sessions at national conferences. The core idea will be to build state and local training and leadership capacity in the Best Practice Areas. There will be a strong focus on materials development and follow up networking.

- Self Help Office Direction – Training Skills to Develop New Directors and for Directors to develop staff
- Forms – Training to develop skills in training forms design, forms program promotion, forms quality, document assembly integration, and electronic filing
- Unbundling – Training to develop trainers for marketing and practice management training to attorneys, and for promotion within court and bar
- Courtroom Services – Training to develop skills for promotion and program development of courtroom support services such as facilitation attorneys, immediate orders, etc.
- Strategic Planning – Training and leadership development, supported by new materials, on overall approaches for change in services, programs, and structures.

The programs will take full advantage of the various Self Represented Litigation Network Best Practices Groups, which have together developed the current Network Best Practices, and are extensively involved in Best Practices promotion and training. The trainings will help states and courts build long term internal training and innovation capacity.

C. Funding Resources Materials and Presentations – Second Generation

Following the completion of the Federal Funding Report and the State Funding Study, there will be need for additional advocacy and planning materials. Possible materials to be developed include:

- More Detailed Guides to Existing Federal Programs

- Tools to Assist in Application
- Strategies for Increasing Federal Resources
- Making the Case for Increasing Federal Funding
- State and Local Collaborations in Support of Funding Strategies
- Model Materials

This will take advantage of the resources of the Funding Group, which is already developing a federal funding guide and conducting a survey of funding. The materials and networking will be the unique toolset for bringing in external resources.

D. Futures: System Change Profiles and Problem Assessment Analysis

Planning is underway for several components to assist in long term transformation of access to justice efforts for the self represented. Among them:

- Futures Profiles of successful collaborations for access,
- Materials designed to lay the foundation for integrating individualized problem assessment in the self represented litigation assistance programs of courts.

Some of this work will be conducted by Harvard Law School students. The studies will also take advantage of the Systems and Problem Assessment Groups in the Futures Cluster of the Network. These products will provide major tools for transformative vision building at the concrete practical level.

III. Research Projects

A. Compliance Study

John Greacen, who is coordinating the 2006-2007 Research and Toolkit Projects of the Network has been working with Professor Tom Tyler of NYU on developing ideas for a longitudinal study of the relationship between court activity in support of access for litigant to long term compliance with ultimate orders. Professor Tyler is responsible for the seminal work on public trust and confidence, and this project would build on this work. This work could lead to new techniques for improving compliance throughout the system.

B. Service of Process Study

California and Maryland have begun discussing protocols for a study aimed at identifying difficulties associated with service of process by self-represented litigants and identifying potential solutions. Many courts report that barriers to service present a major problem that has high costs in both efficiency and access to justice. This work has the potential to make a major contribution to solving those problems.

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