

# A DIALOGUE ON SELF-REPRESENTATION

# CIAJ

Canadian Institute  
for the Administration  
of Justice

Listening. Learning. Leading.

**BILINGUAL WITH SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION**

Audience: Judges • Legal professionals • Self-Represented Litigants • Academics • Not-for-profit

Thursday, November 16, 2023 | Online Program

## Overview

The Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice (CIAJ) and the National Self-Represented Litigants Project (NSRLP) have partnered to present a dialogue event on self-representation in the Canadian legal system. The objective is to ensure that justice system stakeholders are better able to understand each other's experiences and the implications for the system at large.

The day-long conference will bring together self-represented litigants, members of the judiciary, practitioners, and academics for a series of conversations exploring the practical challenges presented by the growth of self-represented litigants within the Canadian justice system. The program will be held virtually on November 16, 2023.

This online seminar is open to all members of the legal profession, and to self-represented litigants.

*\*Participation in this program is approved under Section 41 (1) of the Judges Act.*

 **REGISTRATION FORM**



## Chair

*Jennifer Leitch*  
Executive Director,  
National Self-Represented  
Litigants Project



Participation in this program is accredited in provinces where CLE requirements for lawyers are mandatory.

## START TIME ACCORDING TO DIFFERENT TIME ZONES IN CANADA

**PT:** 8:00 am **MT:** 9:00 am **CT:** 10:00 am **ET:** 11:00 am **AT:** 12:00 pm **NT:** 12:30 pm

NOTE: The time zone used in the program is Eastern Time

## AGENDA

- 10:45 – 11:00 am** LOG IN AND ONLINE PROGRAM SET UP
- 11:00 – 11:30 am** WELCOME REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION TO THE WORK OF THE NSRLP  
*Chair*
- Jennifer Leitch, Executive Director, National Self-Represented Litigants Project
- 11:30 am – 12:45 pm** Panel | [Establishing a Dialogue Between the Judiciary and Self-represented Litigants](#)  
*Moderator*
- Jennifer Leitch, Executive Director, National Self-Represented Litigants Project
- Speakers*
- The Honourable Justice Peter Lauwers, Court of Appeal for Ontario
  - Meg Holden, self-represented litigant, family law; Professor, Simon Fraser University
  - Debra Catherwood, self-represented litigant, family law
  - Miray B. Cheskes-Granovsky, Deputy Judge, Small Claims Court, Toronto
- 12:45 – 1:30 pm** Presentation | [Thinking Like a Non-lawyer](#)  
*Speaker*
- Dr. James Greiner, The Honorable S. William Green Professor of Public Law; Faculty Director, Access to Justice Lab, Harvard Law School
- 1:30 – 2:00 pm** LUNCH BREAK
- 2:00 – 3:00 pm** Panel | [When the Opposing Party is a Self-Represented Litigant: Lawyers' Ethical and Professional Responsibilities](#)  
*Moderator*
- Meg Holden, self-represented litigant, family law; Professor, Simon Fraser University
- Speakers*
- Faisal Bhabha, Associate Professor, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University
  - Lauren Wihak, Partner, McDougall Gauley LLP

**3:00 – 3:15 pm**

**BREAK**

**3:15 – 4:30 pm**

**Panel | Lessons from Administrative Law: How Self-Represented Litigants Fare in Tribunals?**

*Moderator*

*Speakers*

- Christine O’Doherty, Lawyer & Executive Director, CIAJ
- Misha Buchholz, A/Director, Registry Operations, Administrative Tribunals Support Service of Canada
- Arlène Gaudreault, Past President & Member, Association québécoise Plaidoyer-Victimes
- Jérôme Lavoie, Team Leader & Navigator, Administrative Tribunals Support Service of Canada
- Ann Quigley, Administrative Judge, Tribunal administratif du travail

**4:30 – 5:00 pm**

**Reflections On The Day: Where Do We Go From Here?**

*Moderator*

*Speakers*

- Jennifer Leitch, Executive Director, National Self-Represented Litigants Project
- Faisal Bhabha, Associate Professor, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University
- Misha Buchholz, A/Director, Registry Operations, Administrative Tribunals Support Service of Canada
- Debra Catherwood, self-represented litigant, family law
- Miray B. Cheskes-Granovsky, Deputy Judge, Small Claims Court, Toronto
- Arlène Gaudreault, Past President & Member, Association québécoise Plaidoyer-Victimes
- Meg Holden, self-represented litigant, family law; Professor, Simon Fraser University
- The Honourable Justice Peter Lauwers, Court of Appeal for Ontario
- Jérôme Lavoie, Team Leader & Navigator, Administrative Tribunals Support Service of Canada
- Ann Quigley, Administrative Judge, Tribunal administratif du travail
- Jana Saracevic, self-represented litigant
- Lauren Wihak, Partner, McDougall Gauley LLP

**5:00 – 5:15 pm**

**CLOSING REMARKS**

*Chair*

- Jennifer Leitch, Executive Director, National Self-Represented Litigants Project

## YOUR MULTIDISCIPLINARY AND BILINGUAL LEGAL NETWORK FROM COAST TO COAST

CIAJ is a non-profit, independent organization that links individuals and institutions involved in the administration of justice across Canada. Its work is multidisciplinary and wide-ranging. Collaborating with governments, courts, tribunals, professional associations, law schools and law firms, CIAJ sponsors and conducts conferences and specialized seminars and prepares comprehensive papers and reports. Its services are offered in both official languages.

### BECOME A MEMBER AND:

- Save up at least \$150 on every in-person program and earn CPD hours
- Watch most webinars for free (non members pay 45 \$ per webinar)
- Become part of a bilingual and multidisciplinary legal network across Canada
- Contribute to improving the justice system

<https://ciaj-icaj.ca/en/membership/>

## Contact us

Please contact us for more information about our organization, the benefits of membership and how you can assist us with our mission.

**Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice**  
5950, Chemin de la Côte-des-Neiges, Office 450  
Montréal, Québec, Canada  
H3S 1Z6

Tel: 514 -731-2855  
Email: [ciaj@ciaj-icaj.ca](mailto:ciaj@ciaj-icaj.ca)



[www.ciaj-icaj.ca](http://www.ciaj-icaj.ca)

