

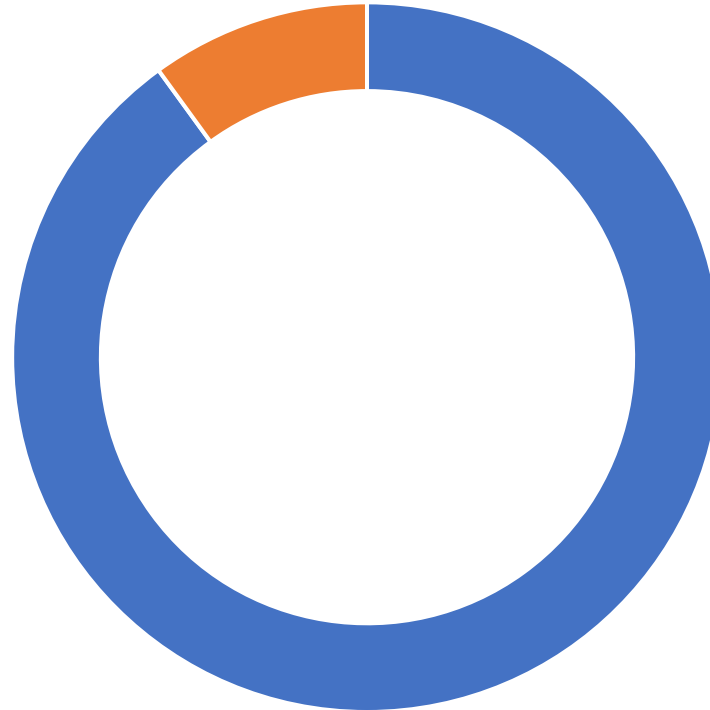
Increasing Community Voice in Judicial Administration

Self-Help Center
March 10, 2023



Self-Represented
Litigants are the Majority
of Our Court Users

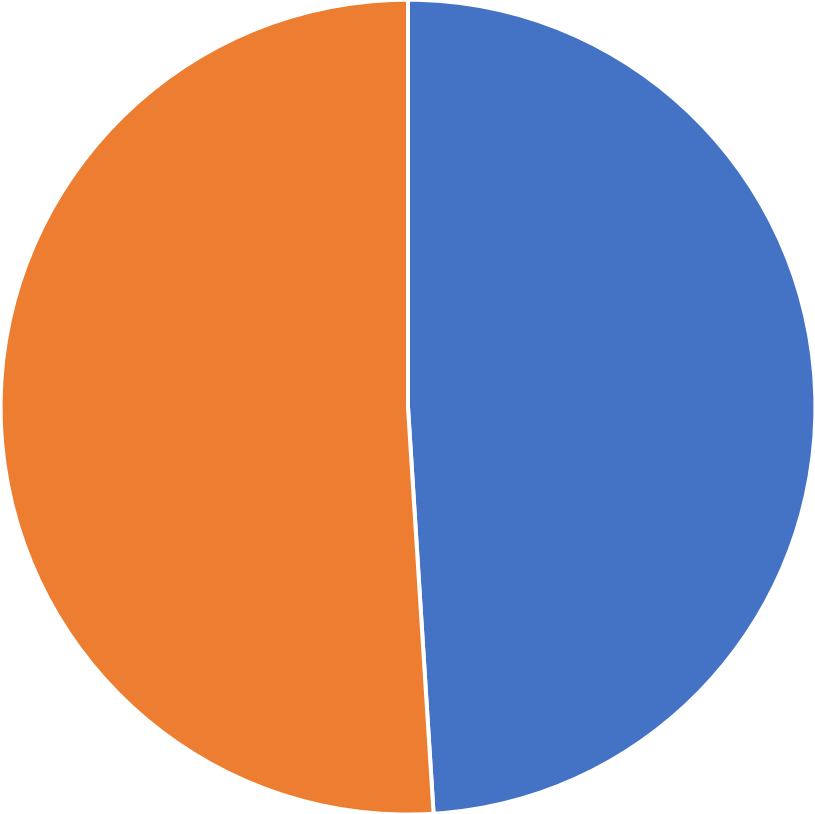
Civil Cases in District Court, Calendar Year 2022



■ One or both parties are self-represented

■ Both parties have counsel

Other Misdemeanor Cases in Justice Court, Calendar Year 2022



■ One party self-represented ■ No party self-represented

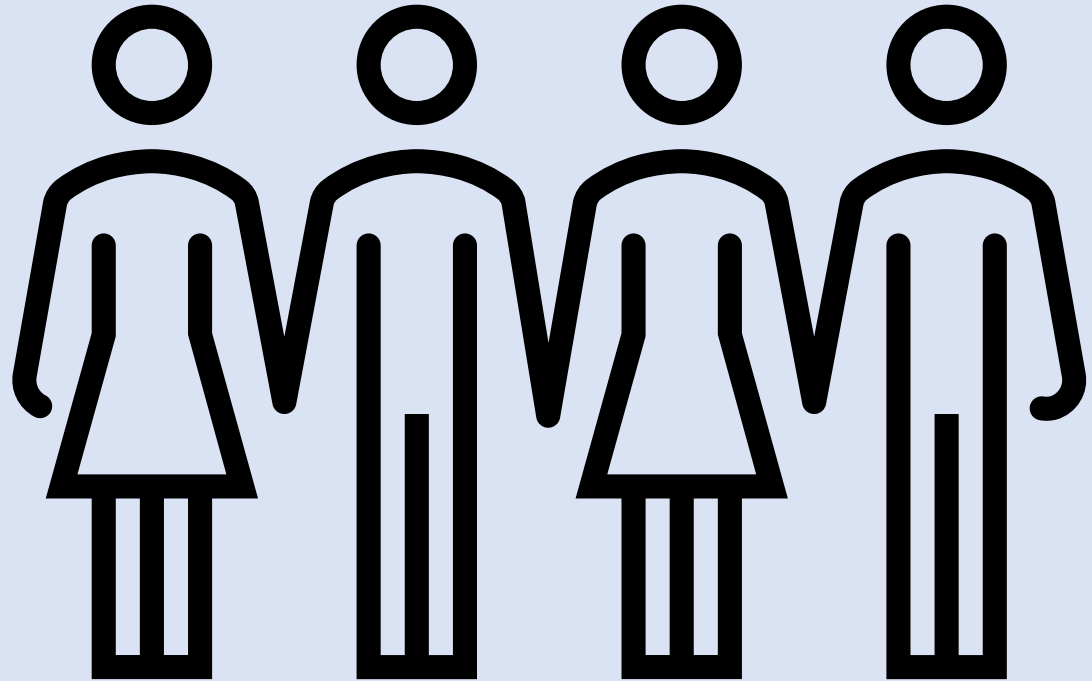
The background of the image is a complex, three-dimensional maze. The maze is constructed from light gray, rectangular blocks that form a series of interconnected paths and dead ends. The perspective is from an elevated angle, looking down into the maze, which creates a sense of depth and complexity. The lighting is soft, casting subtle shadows that emphasize the three-dimensional nature of the structure. In the lower-left portion of the image, there is a white text overlay that reads: "For self-represented litigants, navigating the legal system is like trying to get through a maze". The text is in a clean, sans-serif font and is positioned over the maze pattern. At the bottom of the image, there is a solid orange horizontal bar that spans the width of the frame.

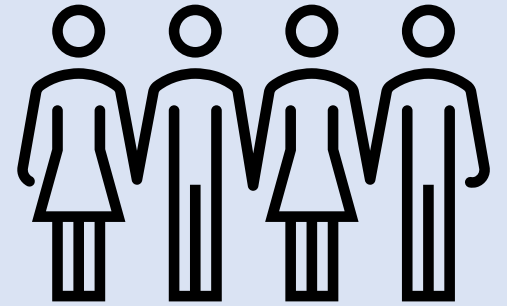
For self-represented litigants,
navigating the legal system is like
trying to get through a maze



**Voices of Self-Represented
Litigants are Typically Neither
Heard nor Considered
in Court Administration**

The Judiciary
is Run By
Committee





- Uniform Fine
- Ethics Advisory
- Family Law and Children
- Judicial Branch Education
- Court Facility Planning
- Judicial Outreach
- Resources for Self-Reps
- Language Access

- Guardian Ad Litem
- Model Civil Jury Instructions
- Model Criminal Jury Instructions
- Pretrial Release and Supervision
- Court Forms
- Judicial Fairness and Accountability
- Working Interdisciplinary Network of Guardianship Stakeholders

Could a self-rep perspective be helpful on these committees?

- Uniform Fine
- Ethics Advisory
- **Family Law and Children**
- **Judicial Branch Education**
- **Court Facility Planning**
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- **Working Interdisciplinary Network of Guardianship Stakeholders**

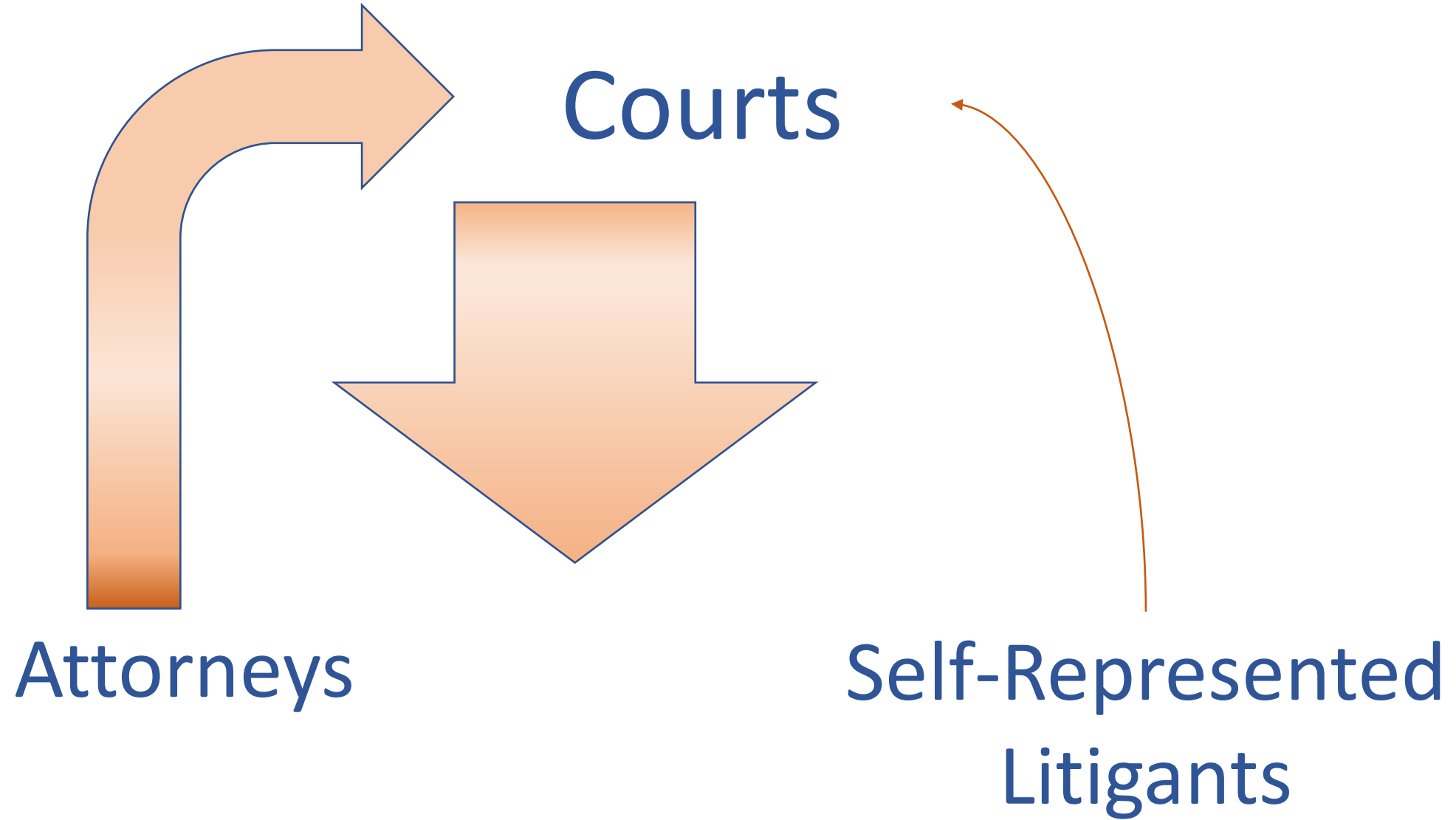
Committees with lawyers



- Uniform Fine
- Ethics Advisory
- **Family Law and Children**
- **Judicial Branch Education**
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Committees where self-reps are welcome

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How can we work with
self-represented litigants?

Self- Represented Litigants versus Helpers

- **Helpers**
- Groups, agencies, orgs, clinics
- See people who encounter problems
- Frequently provide support and guidance to Self-Represented Litigants

- **Self-Represented Litigants**
- Individuals
- Directly see problems
- Frequently receive support and guidance from helpers



Examples of helpers

- front counter clerks
- community-based agencies
- social services agencies
- city and county libraries
- homeless shelters
- community action agencies
- independent non-profits
- legal clinics

Ways to
engage
helpers

Individual meetings

Larger convenings

Other outreach

Surveys



Possible survey questions

- How does your community engage with the court?
- How would they prefer to engage with the court?
- What is challenging about engaging with the court?
- What issues does your community face when engaging with the court?
- Might you have interest and comfort in helping us improve?
- Do people from your organization have time to help us improve?
- What logistical concerns do you have about this?
- Are there aspects of the in which you would like to have your community's voice to be heard?