

ABOUT PANELS AND CELLS

○ As a Self Litigant you have to be on top of your case at all times.

Each week panels give the self litigant that long sought after opportunity to be able to have their proposed wordings and moves vetted throughout the course of their action (or prior to launching) by other self litigants. The panel process is designed to place you in the strongest position possible, having all bases covered and discovering new angles you may not have seen with an emphasis upon an understanding of proper procedure and appreciating the rules of the court. Self litigants who have been staring at their case continuously for a long time suffer from tunnel vision and develop blind spots. The panel process expands your thinking and opens your eyes to see new possibilities, areas for concern; it can bring new hope and relief. At panels we like to follow your case through like it is our own and we will definitely want to hear what happened at the next panel (with your next proposed response).

○ The court system is adversarial for good reason. Nobody knows the ins and outs of their case like each side does and the judge is the umpire. Panels are the opposite. They are inquisitorial in nature.

The panel experience can be searching, confronting, daunting, harrowing, confrontational. Its inquisitorial nature, as opposed to the court's adversarial system, can be unnerving. At panels you may be castigated, applauded, your arguments dissected, overthrown or accepted. One person may attack you one moment and then give you some excellent suggestions in the next breath.

Panels are not convened to remark upon how impressive your case is and how wonderful your pleadings are. That helps no one. Panels exist to find openings, weaknesses, vulnerabilities, expand your thinking and open your eyes to new angles. You may get torn to pieces, your arguments exposed as baseless and your case hopeless. Fruitcakes can get cooked alive and potential winners taste first blood and detect the faint whiff of success in the panel process while losers confront the inevitable. Panels are where you start to learn whether you are going to sink without trace or ascend into the halls of greatness. Through submitting to panel you may decide to bow out, settle or go full on with all guns blazing. It's all up to you.

One of our sayings is that in the woods (or jungle) you will encounter the bears, the bores and the babes (in the woods). At any panel there may be people whose thinking is fluffy and confused and there will be those who are more articulate and knowledgeable. Some others expect you to be only interested in their case as if yours does not exist and it is your job to help them. Confine discussion of your case particulars to panel. There may also be the know it alls who are convincing windbags and are fundamentally wrong about most things and know lots about nothing and nothing about anything. On the other hand there will be the well informed who don't have to prove a thing, not out to impress and don't care if you listen to them or not.

The current way most people use a solicitor creates an overdependence and leads to lack of initiative in controlling their case. Everyone seems to go through an early stage where their only topic of conversation is their story until they realize they are not an isolated case, that there is a way and their matter can be ended. Most

become more contained, work out some balance, get a strategy and can see the light at the end of the tunnel and by gaining the knowledge start to believe, to believe they can do it. A good self litigant has learned to play their cards close to their chest. The self litigant, by choosing to chart their own course, has to sort the grain from the chaff and separate the gems from the dross and learn fast.

Fortunately no panel decision is binding unless you or both parties decide to be bound by them and signify to that effect (yes, we may find both sides appearing at a panel!). This allows you still to go on to fly your kite in the court.

People too sensitive to submit to panels may prefer to borrow the books, sit upon panel and watch cases go by and confer with others in generalities and keep their own case private.

To panels you bring along enough photocopies of your proposed wordings for the next immediate stage you are up to (or of letters you are proposing) so there will be one for each panel member present. Also have with you all of the other side's pleadings, letters, submissions etc.

We do not want stories, but rather communications, pleadings, letters, and evidence. We are only concerned with the immediate point you are up to now. We do not need to know long histories, strategies, theories, conspiracies or wild imaginings; only what you can prove (if you can't prove it, keep looking for the evidence).

For your minimum 5 to say 30 minutes (depending on how many people are submitting) we will just concern ourselves with analyzing, critiquing, questioning, demolishing and/or amending your double spaced wordings and throw them back at you. You then go home and decide which way you are going to go and what wordings, if any or a mixture, you will use. Bring any relevant evidence but you need not make copies for everyone; (only of your proposed wordings (pleadings or letters)). Try, if possible, to have it in the final form for the court you are in. Identifying details like case number, parties and addresses should not be disclosed. Panel members are not to discuss others' case details with people who did not attend that panel.

All people attending panel should read widely on the relevant topic for their case and maybe at panels people should also be asked to give a sort of address of 1 - 3 minutes on something they read out of a book on the topic relevant to that panel, e.g. a precedent, law, case, principle, a story etc.

Each photocopy for each panel member will be numbered by the panel operators on the night e.g. 1/8, 2/8, 3/8 etc. You get all your copies back and are advised to keep them indefinitely. Perhaps construct your material into nice chronologically ordered plastic cut down pocket presentation folders (most recent always to the front). The various cells and panel operators will be slowly assembling collections of exemplary proven pleadings from either side for others to consider and work from. Panel operators and those submitting should make sure they have enough pens for everyone and a suitable table is needed.

The cost for submitting to panel is to bring either a plate of food or bottle of drink (or \$10, \$5 for the host and \$5 for the panel operators) so panels can be a bit like working parties and everyone gets a feed. No alcohol should be consumed prior to or during panels.

Dress and behave appropriately or the host or cell managers may request that (if others have expressed concern about your manner of dress or behaviour) they would rather you did not reappear unkempt and should dress and act to show you appreciate the opportunity to mix with other people whom normally you would not meet. Don't express by your dress that you don't care what others think of you. You may find that no one will bother with you.

If you are wishing to attend panels and are ready to submit to panels please contact (if they have not contacted you first) both of the panel operators for the relevant panels to introduce yourself and determine time and place of panel meetings. You may care to offer your own place, so then you do not have to travel far and may get some food and drinks left over on a regular basis.

Panels may also be the places where the libraries of relevant books are kept and from which you can borrow. The person whose home it is or who arranges a public venue gets to have possession of and is responsible for that library and ensures that the library rules are observed.

We hope to be commencing a second panel meeting on a weeknight so we need to know which is the best night of the week to start a second panel (Monday is the next best choice). If you have attended panel and would like to volunteer to get a cell started please contact me. You may not be an expert but we have to start from where we are.

Categories of cells and their panels that look like they could form at the moment are:

Appeals	Bad Loans & Investments	Bailment
Banking/finance	Bankruptcy	Building disputes
Class actions	Common Law	Contract
Conveyancing	Corporations Law	Council disputes
Crimes act	Debt recovery	Defamation
Entrapment	Equal opportunity	Equitable Relief
Equity	Family Law	Federal
Illegal contract	Immigration	Insurance
Legislative acts	Marital breakdown	Medical
Negligence	Possessions	Probate
Property	Qui Tam	Recovery
Scams and fraud	Small business	Stress & Depression
Suing solicitors	Tax	Tenancy
Torts	Traffic offences	Trespass and torts
Tribunals	Unfair dismissal	Victimization
Whistleblowers		

A few of these are imminent, some will take a while before they happen, some will blend in with others, others may present themselves.

Each cell should have both a male and female panel operator, who should themselves have or have had actions which are the primary concern of that cell, who equally share responsibility for the management of the cell, its panel, its library and the introduction of new members to that cell. When a new member joins they will be put in touch with the leaders. The panel operators will determine a time and a place for that panel to convene per week or fortnight with reference to what is best for most cell members. There may even need to be two times per week.

Cells by their nature can split and reform on geographic or subdivisional lines should areas of particular attention be required within cells and these

operators and people can move around in their cells as well as visit other cells of interest. With many cells it may be possible for numerous members to have roles of leadership. Most likely cells will evolve in different fashions and develop different cultures. At this stage we can only conjecture what the nature of the cell and panel operation will look like so it should prove interesting as numbers grow.

If you would like to volunteer at this early stage to take responsibility for a panel relevant to your type of case then please contact me and I will put you in contact with others who have a case along those lines.

Panel operators should be competent in their field, good learners, interested in their matter to learn everything about their area. Leadership of a panel may change as more competent people appear and any cell member is welcome to set up another regular panel meeting at a non conflicting time. Hopefully, in time, each cell will have as many as 5 or 6 different panels meeting per week in different places, maybe geographically determined or maybe based on specialities or approaches within that panel. That will be up to the members to organize and demands will alter as new members are continually added to each cell. Some panels in time may become quite specialized and it is expected that in time some real bodies of expertise will develop as well as many successful self litigants.

Members may also find that they have matters which traverse a few cells so it is expected there will be a lot of cross pollination and people may be attending a few panels.

In farther flung geographical areas panels will be more general and not as specific as there are less people there to populate the cells but hopefully no matter in what part of the state or the country you are in there will be a panel and library relevant to your case with people for you to confer with. If you have to travel from one side of the city to the other or travel a great distance to win your case, in the long run, it is well worth it. It is much better to do some travelling (seeing the world) than lose. You may be able to claim for some travel costs.

Country people should support their local chapter panels but may also participate in city panels without necessarily leaving home by emailing or faxing or posting their proposed wordings, including any documentary evidence, to a relevant city panel operator and then ringing at the requested time to have their matter done by phone where they can hear all comments by panel members. A microphone connected to the phone would be needed so panel members can also hear the country member. Unfortunately the country member misses out on learning from others' matters and experiencing a panelist's perspective.

If you have any suggestions please write and submit in final form directive/instructional style wording (like the above is written. i.e. in a form that is ready to go out to everyone, like it is already happening).

Give a man a fish, you feed him for a day, teach him to fish and you feed him for life.

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David Murphy, Self Litigants' Association
Ph/fax 9746 6476
sla@aic.net.au