

WHY A SELF LITIGANTS' ASSOCIATION?

8.99

Nobody knows your case like you do.

All you need to know is how to properly prepare and present your case and you can win, cheaply.

However if you are going to lose your case, you might as well lose it yourself, it's cheaper.

When the only person you can trust is yourself, learn to do it yourself. Your case can be both a learning and a winning experience.

PEOPLE WHO MIGHT FIND A SELF LITIGANTS' ASSOCIATION MOST SUITABLE FOR THEIR NEEDS

The Self Litigants' Association has been established by people who are themselves self litigants to meet the needs of people who:

- prefer to do things themselves so they know it gets done right,
- heard too many horror stories about solicitors,
- find the concept of getting into deep debt for legal costs abhorrent,
- are not illiterate, can speak for themselves and find the concept of being legally represented intellectually offensive,
- have found they have been landed with some legal wrangle or scam and can't see why they should have to pay out money for something which is not their fault,
- have gotten sick of paying expensive professionals who will not disclose their score card and are wrong,
- prefer in case things go wrong to be in charge so when things do go wrong they will know exactly why they went wrong and be able to rectify the problem quickly before the next hearing,
- have had experience in the small claims courts and think they can do it in the big courts,
- find they have a case no solicitor will touch,
- have lost a good case and feel they could have done a better job if only they'd known how,
- have noticed that there is nowhere you can go to learn how to run your case yourself,
- want to start preparing for a future intended action,
- simply want to fully explore a potential action before launching,
- noticing that their solicitor is preparing to bale out or telling them their good case may be hopeless (because the legal aid money didn't come through or has run out),
- are looking for a form of community involvement that beats most anything else,
- want to meet others with the same type of case as them,
- find that solicitors don't teach you anything,
- don't want to have their case hijacked and become unrecognizable,
- have definite ideas as to how they want their case run,
- want to learn all the tricks and make money from winning their case/s and not pay it all back out in costs,
- are looking for a cheaper and better alternative,
- have found all the crims have now got law degrees and charge you to talk to them,
- have been watching too much Judge Judy.

If you have a case which is a winnable case then there is no reason why, if you are a reasonably intelligent person and prepared to learn and do whatever you have to learn and do, you can't win your case. However left to your own devices, you almost certainly won't. With the benefits of the membership of your association your chances should be much improved. If your case is unwinnable, we can't make it winnable. We cannot guarantee you will win your action. But if it can be won, you should win.

As a self litigant you seek to become an expert on your little patch which is of very real interest to you. That is where you are going to make your money (or mitigate your loss if you are on the wrong side of the fence). You should read the appropriate books, find similar cases and precedents (say 10), become familiar with any applicable acts etc. Treat it like your project, like being in business. You might be unlucky. You may not be like some other self litigants who appear to have endless numbers of cases. Your case might be the only one you will ever have in your life, so make it a winner. Meeting other self litigants who have won or who are active and working the same patch is essential if you are to win.

By your involvement with SLA you will meet other self litigants and can learn how to present to win.

You will have the opportunity to borrow games and books pertinent to your action from our SLA library.

You will have the opportunity to utilize and perhaps even sit upon peer panels, where you can bring along your proposed drafts, affidavits, defences, cross claims, pleadings, submissions etc for input and comment by other self litigants and laity. This is the first time this type of service has been available to litigants anywhere in the world to our knowledge.

As numbers grow there may even be a significant number of self litigants who have similar or identical cases to your own. If so you may find you can participate in a cell group of other self litigants who only concern themselves with just your type of case. This also is the first time this type of service has ever been available for litigants anywhere in the world to our knowledge.

As a self litigant you know your case and know you probably need some assistance to get it just right, both in form and substance, and have it tested by a panel of your peers, a number of times, so that you will have all the bases covered and encounter no surprises. You may find it wise to spend a lot of time in preparation, writing letters which you bring for panel testing and gathering extensive evidence and numerous precedents before you launch. Hopefully many of these cases may even be resolved or discontinued before they get to court, saving the court's time. If they do proceed to court they will be conducted in a winnable form by someone who is appraised of all the facts - you.

You do not necessarily have to be a self litigant to join and use the panels or cells. You may be an intending self litigant or just fully investigating whether you should do anything at all. You may care to help by giving of your time and follow interesting cases.

You may not be a self litigant yet but have some vague idea that you might be sitting on top of a potentially profitable action. On the other hand you may feel exposed for some reason. Come along and get involved. Your suspected good cause of action may prove to be winnable and your insights the answer to someone else's prayer. If your problems are in the alternative, then you better get involved.

You may not be a self litigant or even a prospective self litigant but may wish to join as you think it might be an interesting sort of group to be in. You might like meeting people, or believe you should be involved in some form of community service. You may be retired, you may wish to network, you may have won some cases yourself in the past, or you may like meeting and mixing with interesting people and following their cases. You may want to become involved so that you can learn more about the law or whatever. You may like helping people and wrestling with challenging situations. You may also wish to do some voluntary work for the association. You may discover an undiscovered action lies. You may find yourself a potential plaintiff with an exciting case.

Many people are now being approached on the basis that they have money, possessions or property by individuals and institutions out to get it and such people may not know they may have wonderful cases. Don't be a victim, learn your rights (as well as your responsibilities).

Some of the types of areas, concerns and causes of action that are coming through are in building, family, breaches of contract, duty of care, banking disputes, employment, probate, appeals, bankruptcy, trespass, victimization etc. Your situation may fall into more than one cell.

As a self litigant you are responsible for your own actions, you make up your own mind and seek advice and suggestions from many sources. Some people will make sense and others talk nonsense. The self litigant is used to that. The self litigant studies the relevant laws, relevant cases, gathers input from many sources, gleans the gems from the chaff and composes his/her case. The self litigant keeps his hands on the driver's wheel.

Possibly you've been boring your friends and close ones with your matters for years and nobody wants to know. By joining your association you may be able to "contain" your case, run it, win it and recover and then forget it and move on with your life. Remember your friends probably don't want to know and hopefully one day you won't want to know. If this is for you (or someone else you know) then join us. Maybe you can turn all those friends of yours you have been boring for years with your problems to become jealous.

Then again it may be you who is at fault. Involvement with SLA may assist you to clarify your situation and gain a "contained" understanding so that your problems are not invading into other areas of your life, causing you to not be able to relax and enjoy other

Often people who have had their lives smashed to pieces by it being invaded with some crap case will has nothing to do with their business or lives find their private life suffers and they stop going out and life becomes too quiet. We plan to be having some social events, Winner's Dinners. Maybe you will one day be one of our stars.

At a judicial level there has been increasing comment upon the increasing number of self litigants appearing in person before the courts in all jurisdictions, most having no idea how to present nor how to confine their arguments and evidence only to that which is relevant.

Good cases are being lost for the wrong reasons, bad cases are being lost also for the wrong reasons and at greater cost. In some cases the issues are never even reached. The court's time is being wasted, the court administration are being called upon by clueless self litigants looking for hints on how to run their case.

Papers are appearing at the judicial level dealing with the "phenomenon" of the increasing number of self litigants (the number of papers in 97-98 (15) is double what it was for 95-96 (7)). An answer to this growing problem must be found to save the courts from becoming unworkable.

Quasi legal organizations and semi government departments are bending over backwards to get information in the form of brochures and leaflets out there but fear to be seen to be giving legal advice. Such organizations as LIAC (Legal Information Access Centres) have been set up in many libraries. Legal books are available for purchase to the general public. One local library even specializes in law. Much is being done to get the relevant legal information into the hands of the average person. Programmes air on television concerning themselves with legal themes and even showing self litigants actually running their own cases in court. One radio station has a programme of free legal advice on once a week for litigants and prospective litigants.

A properly run Self Litigants' Association can only be a service to the court.

Mix with winners, join your Association for Self Litigants and celebrate the wins in your actions and other people's actions. Make new friends, help others to win, create winners and become a winner.

Our next general meeting date is set for:
this Sunday, 26th September, 1999, 1 p.m.
2nd or 3rd floor, the Hellenic Club, 251 Elizabeth St, Sydney.

For further enquiries, meeting details and membership ring/fax David on 9746 6476 or email to sla@aic.net.au or write to SLA, 34 Tavistock Rd, Homebush, 2140.

(Note: discussion on any legal matters can only take place between members. The only legal advice we can give members of the general public is that we do not give legal advice to members of the general public and you cannot enjoy the benefits of membership, of course,