

NSRLP Strategic Planning

April 2015 –
December 2015



**THE NATIONAL
SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS PROJECT**
Research, Resources, Dialogue & Collaboration



Windsor Law
University of Windsor

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Our mandate and its meaning

The primary mandate of the NSRLP is bringing forward the voice of the justice system “outsiders” (SRLs, RLs and the public).

Going forward, this means challenging the negative stereotype of SRLs, deepening our understanding of the impact on SRLs (and others) of current barriers to A2J, and advocating for public involvement and engagement in A2J reforms.

The NSRLP has credibility because of the 2013 National Study and will continue to develop and support new research, and generate new data points to inform the debate.

The NSRLP will work to facilitate constructive dialogue between justice system insiders and outsiders and through collaboration with key groups.

Carrying out our mandate

In 2015 this mandate can be advanced by:

- 1. Seeking greater visibility with government actors*
 - Continuing relationships with provincial Justice depts
 - Establishing a relationship with DOJ (federal)
 - Building on relationships in provincial Justice depts to connect at ADM and Minister level
 - Increasing awareness among public representatives
 - Reaching out to newly appointed judiciary for whom SRLs are the “normal” situation in their courtrooms
- 2. Highlighting the lack of public engagement in reform and loss of public confidence in the justice system*

- Conducting an “audit” of public/ SRL participation in reform efforts (for example via Law Societies)
- Supporting continuing development of CASSLS
- Further building the Speakers Bank and SRL database
- Proposing and facilitating dialogue initiatives

3. *Increasing awareness among the public (“I’m a A2J advocate”)*

- Putting a human (SRL) face on the A2J crisis
- Highlighting the “fall out” from the A2J crisis
- Connecting with leaders of groups for whom A2J is a particular challenge

4. *Identifying more “champions” willing to support the NSRLP mandate (“Responsible insiders take A2J seriously”)*

- Members of the profession
- Members of the judiciary
- Policymakers
- Recognizing innovations and best practice (eg Access to Justice All-Stars)

5. *Highlighting potential “solutions” based on empirical data*

- Building on research findings
- Building on new research outcomes
- Promoting other evidence-based solutions
- Promoting innovation and best practice

6. *Increasing law student involvement in the NSRLP and developing the lawyers of the future*

- Building *Bring a SRL to Law School Day* into a national event
- More SRL speakers in law school classrooms (via Speakers bank)
- Consulting to law schools on the development of SRL Coaching Clinics