



NATIONAL PRO SE DAY

SPEAK FOR YOURSELF | SEPTEMBER 25

September 15, 2019

Your Honor:

In recent years, courts across the country have formed commissions to consider and address the access to civil justice challenges of people who cannot afford, or who choose not, to retain attorneys to represent them in their legal disputes. Individually and collectively, we at Pursuing Justice Foundation have been involved with this population of litigants for many years, predating the existence of these commissions. We've attended, either in person or "virtually," meetings of some of these commissions and the American Bar Association's Equal Justice Conferences.

Through this work we have earned a unique perspective on the experiences of the self-represented. We've heard about the victories, and we've heard the cries of people who have lost their faith in the fairness of the justice system. Certainly, some difficulties stem from nonlawyers' lack of legal training and education (something we address every day through this Foundation and LawYou America, LLC), but others point to problems within the judiciary.

To advance access to civil justice, Pursuing Justice Foundation created National Pro Se Day. The cornerstone of the day is the publication of statements to the courts by self-represented litigants. We believe their voices being gathered, broadcast, heard, and respected are essential to keeping access initiatives on the right path.

We therefore request that, on September 25, 2019, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Eastern time, all judicial branch employees visit PursuingJusticeFoundation.org/NatIProSeDay to watch, listen, and read the stories that these pro se warriors want and need to share.

All statements are prepared by the pro se people themselves. If they felt strongly enough to put their own time and effort into writing and recording their statements, then these are messages the judiciary should receive.

Thank you for your consideration. For more information about Pursuing Justice Foundation, Inc., and National Pro Se Day, please visit PursuingJusticeFoundation.org or contact the undersigned at srenner@pursuingjusticefoundation.org.

Very truly yours,

Sherri L. Renner

SHERRI L. RENNER, J.D.

President

Pursuing Justice Foundation, Inc.