



April 15, 2019

Dear Colleagues:

It is with great sadness that I share the news that Richard Zorza, the driving force behind the creation of the Self-Represented Litigation Network, died over the weekend. His family announced his death on Sunday on [Richard's health blog](#).

Richard's vision and creativity were unrivaled. It is futile for me to try to capture what he meant to SRLN or the access to justice movement. Instead I rely on [Richard's words](#), the words of partner organizations that have honored him in recent years, including the Legal Services Corporation, the National Center for State Courts, the American Bar Association and so many others, as well as the many individuals such as you, who are the access to justice reformers and champions, working each day to close the justice gap through reform so that every person gets the legal help they need, when and where they need it, and in a format they can use. [Please visit the SRLN page to read various resolutions that have been passed and to share your remembrances.](#)

Richard's family will decide in several weeks when a memorial service will be scheduled. They ask no flowers please (Joan's asthma) but notes may be sent to his wife Joan Zorza, 10450 Lottsford Road #5014, Bowie, MD 20721 or joan@zorza.net. Joan may not be able to respond quickly.

In closing, I reflect on a personal level about the absolute wonder for me that it has been to be Richard Zorza's friend, mentee and colleague. Talking with Richard was like engaging in an infinite data pool with a constantly iterative algorithm spinning and shaping ideas to advance justice. Talking with Richard was freedom writ large. Talking with Richard required one to innovate and integrate simultaneously. I believe that Richard's daily metric was whether he had produced a good idea. Indeed, my young children even understood that -- upon hearing the Skype ring on my computer late at night, they would call to me and say, "it's Richard calling with a new idea!"

May the legacy of Richard always be calling you with a new idea, because so long as we have new ideas, we have hope.

Best to all,

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