

Fairness Challenge Pilot Project

Project Announcement & Invitation for Pilot Courts: July 15, 2024

We know judges and court professionals care about fairness. The bold goal of the [Fairness Challenge Pilot Project](#) is to support this commitment to make courts more fair by enhancing fairness practices. Research shows that it is not enough for courts to produce fair outcomes. Fairness is also defined to include fair treatment and processes, as experienced by the litigants going through the court system. Thankfully, procedural justice research gives a lot of guidance about what litigants expect from their experiences and how to measure improvements.

LaGratta Consulting is seeking four pilot courts interested in making a 9-month commitment to advancing the goal of fairness through enhanced fairness practices. This project will test the impact of concrete judicial practices locally with at least three judges at each pilot court. (Courts with fewer than three judges may also apply if all judges participate). Through a combination of on-site and remote training and technical assistance and peer-to-peer engagement, pilot court judges will be supported in making targeted, research-informed enhancements to their courtroom communications. The pilot will also include litigant feedback and brief self-assessments from participating judges to measure the impact of these improvements.

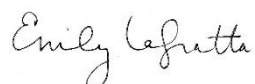
The project will be led by LaGratta Consulting, a national expert in procedural justice and litigant feedback, in conjunction with project consultants and judicial advisors. The project is supported by an award from the State Justice Institute.

A second component of the project, to be announced separately, will offer remote training on procedural justice practices to court professionals nationally. There is no cost to participate in either component of the project, and all required feedback equipment and software for pilot sites will be provided.

Important details about the project and application process are provided on the second page of this announcement. The application is available [here](#), as well as via a link on the project webpage, www.lagratta.com/fairness-challenge-pilot-project.

We hope you will join us in this exciting endeavor! Please reach out with any questions in the meantime.

In partnership,



Emily LaGratta

Founder & Principal Consultant

Fairness Challenge Pilot Project

Anticipated outcomes for pilot courts:

- Enhanced judicial practices in line with procedural justice
- Improved perceptions of fairness among litigants

Key activities driving project outcomes:

- Hosting at least one site visit between October and December 2024 for the purpose of in-person planning
- Completing brief self-assessments at the project start and end
- Participating in remote micro-learning workshops (approx. 1 hour/month)
- Collaborating with project staff to collect ongoing litigant feedback to inform iterative practice improvement (no prior experience or existing equipment is needed)
- Engaging by phone and videoconference with project staff and other pilot courts for ongoing training and technical assistance throughout the pilot period (approx. 2 hrs/month)

Site selection considerations:

- Demonstrated interest in advancing procedural justice goals and practices
- A written commitment from at least three (3) judges to participate fully in the pilot (or for courts with only one or two judges, all must agree to participate)
- Courts with at least one docket with a high percentage of self-represented litigants
- As a group of pilot courts, geographic diversity

Site selection process & timeline:

- **Monday, July 15, 2024:** Application process is announced
- **Friday, August 2, 2024:** Applications are due at 5pm ET
- **August 2024:** Applications will be reviewed by LaGratta Consulting and project partners per the above criteria
- **Early September 2024:** All applicants will be notified

Anticipated project timeline:

- **Planning & Co-Design:** October – December 2024
- **Training & Pilot Testing:** January – June 2025

[VIEW & SUBMIT THE APPLICATION HERE](#)