

# Accessing South Dakota Courts

9-11 a.m. CT Friday, Oct. 10, 2025

Online at [sd.net](https://sd.net) and at SDPB in Sioux Falls and Rapid City

## Overview:

- This free training is designed to help South Dakota journalists cover state courts and will be relevant to students and members of the public interested in accessing the judicial system.
- South Dakota Unified Judicial System judges and staff will explain how the state court system works and how to access court documents and attend hearings.
- The session will be held in person at SDPB in Sioux Falls (601 N. Phillips Ave.) and Rapid City (415 Main St.) and at [sd.net](https://sd.net). It will be archived at <https://sdpb.org/youtube>, where previous training sessions can be viewed.
- It will be interactive, so raise your hand or text questions to 605-223-1797.
- The training is free, but please [RSVP for the in-person sessions](#) (QR code).



## Schedule (Central time):

8-9 – In-person registration, coffee, pastries

9-9:05 – Welcome:

- Cara Hetland, SDPB director of radio and journalism content
- Carson Walker, South Dakota News Watch CEO

9:05-10:30 – Training:

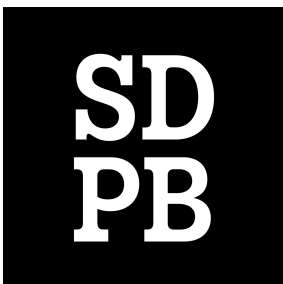
- Second Circuit Judge Jon C. Sogn
- Second Circuit court administrator Karl Thoennes
- Seventh Circuit Presiding Judge Robert Gusinsky
- Pennington County clerk of court Amber Watkins
- Unified Judicial System public information officer Alisa Bousa

10:30-10:40 – Updates to [South Dakota Crime Reporting Guide](#) (QR code): Walker, Hetland, Watkins and Bousa



10:40-11 – Q&A on journalism-specific questions

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