



RTCNYC Tool 12.4.3

ESSENTIAL TRAININGS FOR RTC ATTORNEYS

The Right to Counsel NYC Coalition recommends that all attorneys providing right to counsel representation receive the following trainings in **essential skills, methods, history and context**, ideally in their first 6 months of practice.

- History of the Tenant Movement
 - Plus Right to Counsel - campaign history and the work of the RTC Coalition
- How to work with interpreters and the rights of LEP (limited English proficiency) tenants and related ethical issues
- Working with tenants who have mental health issues (covering legal, clinical and social aspects and related ethical issues)
- Attorney/Client relationships, including communications with clients and explaining court proceedings to non-lawyers, conducting tenant centered intake, and how to provide tenant centered legal representation.
 - Intersection of legal issues and social issues, cultural humility, holistic representation
- Crisis intervention and de-escalation
- Structural racism and Implicit bias
- Gender bias and discrimination
- Organizing 101, including working with tenant organizers (especially in buildings) and movement lawyering approaches
- Politics and Economics of Housing
- Vicarious trauma and self-care and time-management

The Coalition also recommends that all attorneys receive training in the following areas of **substantive housing law and practice**:

- Housing 101 and Rent Regulation
- Holdovers
- Non-Pays
- Negotiations and Stipulations
- Repairs and Harassment Cases
- Client Interviewing/Intake
- Rent Subsidies

- Case investigation and legal research tools
- Trial Advocacy
- Legal writing
- Motion Law and Practice
- NYCHA Practice
- Legal Ethics for Housing Advocates
- Public Benefits and Arrears Assistance
- FHEPS
- Post-Judgement and Post-Eviction
- Impact litigation and advocacy
- Navigating the Shelter System
- Single Room Occupancy
- Virtual Litigation

Finally, the Coalition recommends the creation of an **orientation/training for new clients** on the attorney-client relationship, court processes, client's rights and what to expect from your attorney, client's responsibilities, GALs etc. This could be a short video or a plain language booklet and it could be created by the Coalition for all the legal services organizations to use. Also, organizing groups and other community organizations could incorporate this into the Know Your Rights trainings