



NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF
SOCIAL SECURITY CLAIMANTS' REPRESENTATIVES

ESTABLISHED 1979

EXPANDING THE VISION

NOSSCR's Annual Social Security Disability Conference
May 17-20, 2020 | Hyatt Regency Chicago | #NOSSCR2020

Program Overview

SUNDAY MAY 17

8:30am - 3:00pm: SSI Pre-Conference Boot Camp ([separate registration](#))
11:00am - 5:00pm: Conference Registration Open
1:00pm: Conference Sessions Begin
3:30 - 4:30pm: Opening General Session
4:45 - 5:45pm: Circuit Roundtables
7:00pm: NextGen Mixer
7:30pm: Dine Arouds

MONDAY MAY 18

8:00am - 5:00pm: Conference Sessions
5:15pm - 6:15pm: Circuit Roundtables
7:30pm: NextGen Dine Arouds

TUESDAY MAY 19

8:00am - 4:00pm: Conference Sessions
4:15pm - 5:30pm: Closing General Session
6:00pm - 7:00pm: President's Cocktail Reception
7:10pm: White Sox Baseball Game (*add-on to conference registration*)
8:00pm: NextGen Cruise ([separate registration](#))

WEDNESDAY MAY 20

8:00am - 11:20am: Conference Sessions
11:20am: Conference Sessions End
12:00 - 3:00pm: Volunteer Day of Service (*add-on to conference registration*)



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SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2020

8:30am-3:00pm

SSI Pre-Conference Boot Camp

Additional Registrations Required, \$150

[Click here for more information](#)

11:00am-5:00pm

Conference Registration Open

1:00pm-5:00pm

Exhibit Hall Open

1:00pm-2:00pm

Workshops: Choose one from the following:

A. Social Security Disability Law for Beginners

Jessica Davis, Esq.

David Kapor, Esq.

This presentation seeks to provide the basic information, tools, and resources needed for new attorneys or seasoned practitioners who are considering, or have recently begun practicing in, the area of Social Security Disability law. We will provide an overview of the most significant rules and regulations (where to start), the administrative process/timeline, the 5-Step Sequential Evaluation, and the common forms and filings needed throughout the course of the claim. Finally, attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions and obtain information from the perspectives of a practitioner with over 40 years of experience in representing claimants, and new attorney.

B. Turbocharge Your Federal Court Briefs to Victory

Lisa McNair Palmer, Esq.

This session will provide you with tactics for writing and polishing your federal court briefs to maximize your chances of winning. Learn how to spot arguments that will win and how to spot arguments that are a waste of time. We will also discuss using forms and checklists to improve your writing, so your briefs are as persuasive as possible.



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SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2020

2:00pm-2:15pm

Break

2:15pm-3:15pm

Workshops: Choose one from the following:

A. First Timers' Session

Barbara Silverstone, Esq., Executive Director

Alan Polonsky, Esq., President of the Board of Directors

If this is your first NOSSCR conference or if you are a new member, you are cordially invited to learn about NOSSCR and how to make the most of your conference experience. Meet your Board representative, NOSSCR's President, and Executive Director.

B. Beyond the Basics: "Dealing with Common SGA Fact Patterns and Strategies for Dealing with Them"

Mark Bronstein, Esq.

Linda Landry, Esq.

This session will assume basic familiarity with the regulations and POMS on SGA and its impact on SSDI benefits. We will focus on situations that advocates may encounter in several contexts: initial claims with recent work activity; advising clients on back to work efforts; and dealing with SSA initiated work reviews and terminations that often result in overpayment. We will work through case examples that illustrate problems and potential solutions.

3:15pm-3:30pm

Break

3:30pm - 4:30pm

General Opening Session

Alan Polonsky, NOSSCR President: Opening Remarks

Barbara Silverstone, NOSSCR Executive Director: The Advocate's Perspective

Stacy Cloyd, NOSSCR's Office of Government Affairs: Washington Update

Tom Sutton, NOSSCR Board Member and Third Circuit Representative: *Lucia* Update

Attorney Sutton recently argued Cirko o/b/o Cirko v. Commissioner of SSA before the Third Circuit. The court held that plaintiffs may raise Appointments Clause claims in federal court without having exhausted those claims before the agency.

4:45pm-5:45pm

Regional Updates— Circuits 1, 2, 5, 6, 9 and 10

These sessions will focus on local areas of concern. Led by your circuit board representative, participants will learn about case law and recent policy updates that affect their practice and discuss ways to implement these changes into their practice. Topics may include how centralized scheduling is being implemented in your area, how the ALJs implement the five-day rule, and how ALJs are weighing medical evidence and interpreting the new code of conduct, as well as relevant local federal court decisions. Practice tips to speed processing of cases can also be discussed.



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SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2020

PAC Information Meeting

NOSSCR Members Only

NOSSCR members may hear from NOSSCR's PAC Board and Office of Government Affairs about what the PAC is doing to strive for improvements in the disability programs and how you can be involved.

7:00pm

NextGen Mixer

Please join the NOSSCR Next Generation (NextGen) Committee for a mixer, location to be determined. Some refreshments will be included, but attendees will be responsible for the purchase of additional food and beverage(s).

7:30 pm

Optional Dine-Arounds

No need to eat alone! Join other attendees for a night of casual dining and fun with some new and some familiar faces! NOSSCR will make reservations at a few local restaurants for evening dinner. Sign-up sheets will be posted on NOSSCR's message board in the registration area. Sign up for your dinner during check in on Sunday afternoon. Meet new people, try a new cuisine and explore Chicago! Each attendee will be responsible for paying for his or her meal costs.

MONDAY, MAY 18, 2020

7:00am-5:00pm

Conference Registration Open

7:00am-5:00pm

Exhibit Hall Open

7:00am-8:30am

Networking Breakfast

Enjoy your continental breakfast while networking with your colleagues.

8:00am-9:00am

Workshops: Choose one from the following:

A. Checklist of Questions for Vocational Experts and the Post Hearing Brief to Clinch a Win

David Ferrari, Esq.

Learn how to get VEs to talk about the sources they use for job numbers and how to set the case up for appeal after the hearing with a post hearing brief. Using the 2017 VE Handbook and SSR 96-9p rights to lead an ALJ to issue a favorable decision. We will review real check lists of questions to ask!



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B. Hearing Preparation Begins the Moment You Meet Your Client

Adam Meunier, Esq.

This program will aid practitioners in identifying issues, advising the client and developing the evidence all with the goal of succeeding at the hearings level. It will also aid practitioners in ensuring client satisfaction as well as gaining the trust and respect of judges.

C. Title II Work Incentives

Raymond Cebula, Esq.

Edwin Lopez-Soto, Esq.

The SSDI program provides some complex and older set of work incentives for recipients who wish to attempt a return to work. SSDI work incentives tend to be a bit more difficult to navigate and often require more assistance than those allowed SSI recipients. Recent "adjustments" to certain work incentives give rise to being more cautious when counseling new workers, however, work can still pay and should be encouraged. As public legal services become more limited, we must step up and assist our former applicants with these important issues.

9:00am-9:15am

Break

9:15am-10:15am

Workshops: Choose one from the following:

A. ERISA and Long-Term Disability: What Every Social Security Law Practitioner Needs to Know

Mark DeBofsky, Esq.

Martina Sherman, Esq.

This session will highlight similarities and differences between the Social Security disability program and private disability insurance focusing on medical criteria, vocational issues, and the interplay between Social Security and private disability benefits. The emphasis is on utilizing practice experience gained from handling Social Security claims to presenting and winning claims under private disability policies (group and individual disability).

B. How to Handle Your Appeals Council Appeals

Stephanie Imbesi, Esq.

This presentation will help practitioners who are not currently handling Appeals Council appeals to identify the best cases for appeal. The presenter will walk you through the appeal process, including drafting the Appeals Council brief.

C. Smart, Prepared and in the Way: How to Make it Hard for SSA to Deny Your Client's Disability Claim

Kevin Liebkemann, Esq.

Richard Weishaupt, Esq.



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This session will focus on ADLs, treatment, behaviors and character issues that are often seized upon to deny claims and reject medical evidence. It will address common beliefs that adjudicators rely upon to cast doubt on credibility of claimants and provider reports, how to anticipate them and counter them at hearings and attack them on appeal.

10:15am-10:45am

Coffee with the Exhibitors

Please use this time to visit with our many exhibitors and see how they can improve your practices.

10:45am-12:15pm

Workshops: Choose one from the following:

A. Defeating the Top 10 Vocational Witness Alternative Facts

Charles Martin, Esq.

George Piemonte, Esq.

This presentation is designed to discuss how to cross examine the vocational witness to expose and combat their favorite misstatements, fabrications, and untruths about jobs and the requirements of jobs. Additionally, this presentation will provide sample cross examination questions and how and when to use them.

B. Apples to Apples: A Review of Functional Capacity Evaluations

Angela Wilson Pennisi, PT, MS

William Reynolds, Esq.

Functional Capacity Evaluations (FCEs) offer an objective assessment of a client's ability to perform physical work. Learn how to differentiate among proprietary programs, how your evaluators can correlate the results with additional objective examination data, as well as how to assess the strengths and weaknesses of an FCE report.

C. Fibromyalgia and Auto-Immune Clients: How to Get Past ALJ Immunity!

Jeffrey Rabin, Esq.

Lori Siegel, MD

This session will focus on the various rheumatological conditions that are hard to diagnose and hard to prove for disability purposes. Discussion will include SSRs 12-2p and 16-3p along with how to work with these often-challenging clients.

12:15pm- 1:30pm

Lunch (on your own)

1:30pm-2:30pm

Workshops: Choose one from the following:

A. Get Out of My Way! How to Prevent Your Client from Sabotaging Their Own Case

Ronald Belluso, Esq.



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Come to this session to learn practical tips and tricks to overcome pre-hearing conduct such as medical non-compliance, working, and substance abuse which can reduce the odds of winning. Attendees will learn how to educate and steer their clients away from questionable conduct including talking over judges, body language and attitude before the ALJ to win more cases.

B. SSI Work Incentives

Raymond Cebula, Esq.

Edwin Lopez-Soto, Esq.

The SSI program provides a modern approach to the return to work process; one that relies not on SGA but upon a simple set of calculations that will determine the amount of SSI payable each month while a recipient. While fairly simple, the exclusions and deductions allowed by SSA from earned income cannot fail but to make the beneficiary better off, cash wise, at the end of each month of work. Creativity abounds when running through the work incentives and can truly allow exceptional results. The continuity after SSI cash is lost due to earnings will also allow a continuation of Medicaid health benefits using a variety of special programs. As legal services and other publicly funded legal services continue to become extremely limited, the poorest recipients are often left with no one to turn to for assistance. It will remain up to us to help this group of clients climb out of poverty through work.

C. Administrative Fees: How to Get Paid for Winning Your Case at the Administrative Level When the Fee Agreement Isn't Enough

Mary Meadows, Esq.

Scott Smith, Esq.

There is more to getting paid than using the statutory fee agreement in Social Security cases. What happens when circumstances such as a prior representative, a remand from federal court (if you used a two-tier fee agreement), objections to the fee by the client. prevent your fee agreement from being approved? This program will focus on helping you obtain and keep the fee you earned.

2:30pm-2:45pm

Break

2:45 pm-3:45 pm

Workshops: Choose one from the following:

A. The Art of Establishing Credibility

Nancy Mogab, Esq.

This program is designed to help the beginner and intermediate practitioner build and establish the claimant's credibility using prehearing and post hearing briefs that lay out medical and vocational evidence that is supported by the exhibits and your client's testimony. Assisting your client in understanding their medical conditions and providing a language they can use to convey their symptoms to medical providers helps obtain better medical documentation and testimony at the hearing. It also builds a positive working relationship with the client. The program will also touch on similar techniques in presenting vocational testimony.



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The pre and post hearing briefs will provide a strong foundation for trust with the ALJ that addresses the concerns presented in the evidence.

B. Federal Court Attorney Fees

Heather Freeman, Esq.

Cody Marvin, Esq.

Avoid Traps for the unwary in seeking federal court attorney fees. This session will cover fees under the Social Security Act and the Equal Access to Justice Act, including: necessary documents, contract language, EAJA offsets, recent case law, district/circuit specific issues, EAJA seizures, interaction with administrative level fees, determining the available attorney fee, difference between determining the EAJA fee and a reasonable attorney fee under the Social Security Act, and getting payment issued.

C. My Client Is or Was in Jail. Now What?

Alan Polonsky, Esq.

Representing the rightfully or wrongly incarcerated addressing issues involved in determining when, if ever, the client is entitled to or eligible for benefits, benefits to family members while incarcerated, restarting benefits upon release, as well as practical issues regarding that representation including conduct of the hearing.

3:45pm-4:00pm

Break

4:00pm-5:00pm

Workshops: Choose one from the following:

A. A Musical Journey on How to Win Cases

David Chermol, Esq.

The Honorable David Hatfield

Two former senior trainers for OGC and OHO offer you a presentation like you have never seen before. It is a musical (yes, a musical) journey on how to set up your cases to win more often and to build in appeal issues. The presentation will focus on creative ways to continue to use the Lucia decision and fight SSR 19-1p. In addition, we will go over specific techniques you can use during VE cross-examination in order build in more appeals. Other nuggets will be sprinkled in regarding how to use Agency policy in order to generate better results for your clients. This will be an unforgettable presentation.

B. Using Data and Technology to Build a Successful Disability Practice

Maren Miller Bam, Esq.

The purpose of this presentation will be to teach practitioners tips and tricks to increase the efficiency of their law practice. The session will include blast marketing techniques, social media, text messaging and video chatting for your business, equation-based scheduling tips, and strategies to build and track ME, VE, and ALJ data.



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C. 50 Things Every Claimant's Representative Should Know

Tom Krause, Esq.

There are hundreds of things that every representative should know. We will cover some of the most important ones here. In addition, a representative must continuously relearn what he or she learned before. This session will try to cover as much material as possible in as short a time as possible. This session is part review of the basics and part clarification of common misunderstandings.

5:15pm-6:15pm

Regional Updates—Circuits 3, 4 & DC, 6, 7, 8 and 11

These sessions will focus on local areas of concern. Led by your circuit board representative, participants will learn about case law and recent policy updates that affect their practice and discuss ways to implement these changes into their practice. Topics may include how centralized scheduling is being implemented in your area, how the ALJs implement the five-day rule, and how ALJs are weighing medical evidence and interpreting the new code of conduct, as well as relevant local federal court decisions. Practice tips to speed processing of cases can also be discussed.

PAC Informational Meeting

NOSSCR Members Only

NOSSCR members may hear from NOSSCR's PAC Board and Office of Government Affairs about what the PAC is doing to strive for improvements in the disability programs and how you can be involved. This is a repeat of the session presented at 5:00 pm.

7:30pm

NextGen Dine-Arounds

No need to eat alone! Join other NextGen attendees for a night of casual dining and fun with some new and some familiar faces at a local restaurant. Meet new people, try a new cuisine, and explore Chicago. Each attendee will be responsible for paying for his or her meal costs.

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2020

7:00am-8:30am

Networking Breakfast

Enjoy your continental breakfast while networking with your colleagues.

7:00am-5:00pm

Exhibit Hall Open

7:30am-8:00am

Business Meeting

Open to All NOSSCR Members



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Hear from NOSSCR's president about several initiatives for the future.

8:00am-9:00am

Workshops: Choose one from the following:

A. A Blueprint for Winning! Using Strategies and Techniques Provided by Social Security Ruling 16-3p to Win at Hearings

Luis Gracia, Esq.

Tina Ehrenkauf, Disability Advocate

This presentation will provide attendees with specific strategies, techniques and methods to successfully apply the principles behind Social Security Ruling 16-3p at hearings. From preparing clients to cross-examining Medical Experts and crafting legal arguments to present to ALJs, this seminar is dedicated to helping practitioners make the most of their representation at hearings.

B. Not Material: Best Practices for Representation of Clients with a History of Substance Abuse

David Camp, Esq.

Steven Weiss, Esq.

Current or recent drug or alcohol use can make a disability claim more challenging, but this session will focus on best practices for representation of clients with a history of drug or alcohol use, with tips for maintaining effective attorney-client relationships, developing the record, making effective arguments, cross-examination of medical experts, and use of SSR 13-2p to win cases. Hear from both private and legal services attorneys accept and wins cases with active substance use.

C. The Broad Scope of "Moderate" under the Paragraph B Criteria and Ensuring Appropriate Consideration/Articulation of the Paragraph B Criteria Findings in the RFC

Katie Brinkmeyer, Esq.

The classification of "Mild" or "Moderate" with respect paragraph B criteria for the applicable listings in Section 12.00, Mental Disorders can make or break your case because moderate classification of any of the paragraph B criteria earns a corresponding limitation in the RFC. However, moderate is much broader in scope that most of us realize. Moreover, once an element in the B criteria gains "moderate" status, it warrants a corresponding limitation in the RFC.

9:00am-9:15am

Break

9:15am-10:45am

Workshops: Choose one from the following:

A. 7 or More Principles: Ethics in the World of Social Security Disability (and some bonus strategy tips, too!)

Paul Burkhalter, Esq.

Timothy Tripp, Esq.

Advocating for Social Security Disability claimants is becoming more complicated as SSA changes the Rules of Conduct for Representatives, while at the same time the ABA ethics rules require



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zealous advocacy for your clients. In a multimedia and interactive session, Paul and Tim will explore basic principles from both the Social Security Administration and the American Bar Association require for ethical representation. In addition, practical strategies for zealously representing claimants while complying with SSA rules of conduct will be examined.

B. Understanding Dementia and Related Impairments: How to Build a Winning Case

Sarah E. White Park, Esq.

Heather Snyder, MD

When a claimant suffers from dementia symptoms, cannot always remember even yesterday, and struggles to communicate, building a case is hard. Practitioners should have a basic medical understanding about conditions that cause dementia symptoms and know what medical tests are used for diagnosis. This program will provide medical background to gain such understanding, ideas how to involve the claimant's family and/or caregiver to help articulate the claimant's allegations and other strategies to build the best case for your claimant.

C. So You Want to Teach: A Guide to Teaching a Law School Course on Social Security

Frank S. Bloch, Professor of Law Emeritus

Jon C. Dubin, Board of Governors Distinguished Service Professor of Law

This session will describe in detail how to teach a law school course on Social Security using a course book written by the session presenters. The session will begin with an overview of the contents of the book, Social Security Law, Policy, and Practice (published by West Academic in 2016, with annual updates), and the authors' general approach to teaching the material. The book focuses primarily on disability law and practice, but it also includes sections on old age and survivors' benefits and current policy issues. Model syllabi will be presented that demonstrate different ways to teach the course, ranging from an introductory course on Social Security law and policy to a specialized course on disability practice. Examples of selected class sessions will be presented as well, drawing on excerpts from the book and a Teachers Manual available to teachers using the book.

10:45am-11:00am

Break

11:00am-12:00pm

Workshops: Choose one from the following:

A. How to Effectively Cross Examine a Medical Expert

Neil Good, Esq.

Shawn Good, Esq.

The purpose of this course is to demonstrate different techniques to cross-examine medical experts in light of the changes to Social Security rulings. We will focus on cross-examination techniques in light of SSR 16-3p: Evaluation of Symptoms in Disability Claims and the rescinding of SSR 96-2p: Titles II and XVI: Giving Controlling Weight to Treating Source Medical Opinions, SSR 96-5p: Titles II and XVI: Medical Source Opinions on Issues Reserved to the Commissioner and the



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Superseded SSR 96-7p. The course will start out with a review of the rescinded and superseded Social Security rulings, then evaluate how SSR 16-3p has acted to replace them. Then we will review cross-examination techniques to assist attorneys in eliciting testimony favorable to their client's case in light the changes to the Social Security Rulings.

B. Children's Disability Cases: How to Handle Claims and Appeals for Children and Young Adults

Janna Lowenstein, Esq.

Patricia McCabe, Esq.

This program will discuss the different types of children's claims available, the sequential evaluation for determining disability, and how to properly develop the limitations of the child from medical or educational sources. It will also cover how to handle and develop evidence for age 18 redeterminations and Childhood Disability Benefits under Title II.

C. What You Should Know About the Ins and Outs of Medicare

Paula Muschler, Insurance Branch

Navigating Medicare can be overwhelming and confusing, especially for our clients who qualify due to disability. And explaining this critical portion of the SSDI award to your clients can be almost as challenging. In this session, we will simplify the complex rules and regulations of Medicare, provide you with easy-to-understand explanations of the parts of Medicare, including entitlements, enrollments and benefits, and a knowledge of Medicare that will allow you to confidently meet this important ethical obligation.

12:00pm-1:15pm

Lunch (on your own)

1:15 pm-2:45 pm

Workshops: Choose one from the following:

A. It's Not My Job... Right? Examining Your Professional Responsibility Regarding Medicare Entitlements

Barry Johnson, Esq.

Once you've won a SSDI award for your client, what do you do to help your client understand their Medicare entitlement? Does an obligation to explain Medicare exist? This session will breakdown these questions and help you understand your professional and ethical obligations related to your client's Medicare eligibility and answer important Medicare-related questions including scope of professional responsibility, sharing information, and receiving compensation.

B. Developments in the Case Law: 2019-2020

Jon Dubin, Professor of Law

Carolyn Kubitschek, Esq.

The workshop will examine at recent developments in the case law during the last 12 months, providing a thorough analysis of the most important decisions. The workshop will identify trends in the case law, issues that have surfaced repeatedly in different circuits, arguments that the



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government appears to be raising systematically throughout the country, and the latest developments in EAJA. There will also be a discussion of ethics, as related to appeals.

C. Malingering and Atypical Presentations at Psychiatric Consultative Evaluations

Mark Amdur, MD

Ellyce Anapolosky, Esq.

Records often include psychiatric consultative evaluations that that the claimant is "malingering" or has an "atypical presentation." This presentation will provide definitions of malingering and how to identify when atypical presentations are presented in the consultative examination. Materials will include a literature review of how to detect malingering and a review of 218 consultative evaluations where malingering was considered. The presentation will discuss why the typical consultative examination is a poor platform to identify malingering and provide a response to an ALJ's inquiry regarding possible malingering.

2:45pm-3:00pm

Break

3:00pm-4:00pm

Workshops: Choose one from the following

A. Winning the Headache Claim

Patricia McCabe, Esq.

Kathleen Melez, MD, J.D.

This program will discuss key strategies for winning the headache case. Participants will learn the hallmark characteristics of chronic migraine headaches, chronic daily headaches and cluster headaches. The discussion will focus on SSR 19-4, documentary evidence, diaries and third-party witness statements.

B. CSU 2.0: Direct Response to Questions and Issues Raised So Far

David Camp, Esq.

The focus of this presentation is less of an introduction to centralized scheduling, and more direct responses to (a) the questions raised in New Orleans that deserve answers; (b) problems that repeat nationally; (c) fixes that have worked in some areas; and (d) national fixes that are upcoming.

C. Be Practical: Dealing with Step 4 in Real Life

Kevin Kerr, Esq.

Sara Rose Smith, Esq.

Do you know how much common workplace items weigh? Neither does your client, yet the ALJ will often expect them to know how many pounds they can lift. Come join us to learn practical skills to prepare for Step 4 well before the hearing. We will discuss key things to consider when filling out work history reports and preparing your client to testify. How do you steer the DDS analyst, and later the vocational expert, toward the most advantageous DOT title? What is the most advantageous DOT title? How do you fill out the work history report in a way that will set you up



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for a finding that the prior work was a composite job? What's better, more detail or less detail? What's the best strategy for addressing the title of "supervisor?" By the end of this session you will be able to answer these questions, and more!

4:00pm-4:15pm

Break

4:15pm-5:30pm

Closing General Session

Florence Felix-Lawson, Deputy Executive Director, Office of Appellate Operations
Social Security Administration speaker TBD

6:00pm-7:00pm

President's Reception

Please join us for light snacks and a drink with your colleagues. Your guests are welcome at this event.

7:10pm

Chicago White Sox v. Colorado Rockies Baseball Game

Join your NOSSCR friends for a night at a ballgame! Whether you cheer for the White Sox or the Rockies, or another team, take some time to relax and enjoy an evening out. Optional add-on with registration and extra charge. Those attending will be responsible for their own transportation.

8:00pm

NextGen Cruise

Drop your anchor with NextGen on the Innisfree, a 1920s-style vessel, for a downtown Chicago river cruise. The cost is \$35 and includes beer, wine, and soft drinks. Registration is required and is limited to the first 40 registrants. Transportation to the event is not included. [Click here to learn more and register.](#)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2020

7:00am-8:30am

Networking Breakfast

7:00am-10:10am

Exhibit Hall Open

8:00am-9:00am

Workshops: Choose one from the following:



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A. Low Hanging Fruit. Identifying and Fixing Erroneous Work History Reports Which Cause Unnecessary Denials

J. Daniel Gregory, Esq.

Participants at this session will learn how to fix at least 5 types of errors for relatively quick, easy wins: (1) when a job does NOT count as past relevant work; (2) when a job is a "composite" job; (3) when a claimant mistakenly leaves exertionally-strenuous details out of the work history report; (4) clarifying when a job was done without utilization of commonly used skills for that particular job and; (5) the "supervisor in name only" error made by claimants.

B. Tips and Tricks: Creative Ways to Improve Your Advocacy

Ted Norwood, Esq.

This session will help attendees learn a new approach to creatively and intelligently adapt to the new demands of advocacy. Topics to be addressed will include: how to make 5-day letters work to your advantage, how to structure your case by building to the hypothetical you need, how to address problematic facts with facts and development, and how to handle bad expert testimony. Bring your questions for a practical demonstrating to this new approach to advocacy.

C. The Utility of Vocational Evaluations in Social Security Claims for Individuals with High Functioning Autism

Ellyce Anapolsky, Esq.

Theresa Kopitzke, MA, CRC, LPC

Individuals with high functioning autism experience vocational challenges that are not always conveyed within the bounds of hypothetical questions posed to vocational experts. A vocational evaluation can provide specific information regarding a claimant's ability to meet competitive standards of work speed, on-task behavior, and the situations/temperaments required for competitive employment. This presentation will provide information of the utility of vocational evaluations in Social Security claims.

9:10am-10:10am

Workshops: Choose one from the following:

A. Bills, Bills, Bills: Protecting Credit and Defending Against Debt Collectors: A Consumer Protection Primer

Joseph Basque, Esq.

Stacy Bardo, Esq.

From application to award, the disability process can easily take a year or two. Your client's creditors will probably not sit around patiently awaiting the outcome. What can you do to help keep the wolves at bay? This workshop is designed to provide an overview of the federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA) and Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), assist practitioners in developing strategies for disputed medical and other debts, and discuss recent caselaw and settlement trends. Topics to include:

- FDCPA - "consumer debt" and "debt collector" defined
- Mandated consumer disclosures and prohibited collection practices
- FCRA – credit bureau disputes and limits on "furnisher" liability



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B. How to Represent Your Clients Professionally and Ethically and Not Get in Trouble with SSA

Shelley Davidson, Esq.

Debra Shifrin, Esq.

This presentation will deal with common and unusual ethical issues every practitioner encounters and suggest ways to address the challenging situations without violating SSA's regulations.

C. Communicating with Clients/Staff/Referral Sources and the Community So That You Can Be Heard!

Olin Erickson

Jeffrey Rabin, Esq.

Communication is a key part of everyday work for an attorney. How we communicate with those people who impact our practice goes a long way to determine our success. This program will focus on communication skills to:

- 1. Enhance client connections;*
- 2. Enhance staff productivity and loyalty;*
- 3. Enhance work with referral sources;*
- 4. Enhance reputation in the community.*

We will also discuss how to keep clients satisfied during the long waiting periods while their case is pending and avoid client complaints, how to keep staff motivated in stressful working environments, and how to grow a Social Security practice by enhancing work with referral sources and your reputation in the community.

10:20am-11:20am

Workshops: Choose one from the following:

A. Protecting Young Adult Beneficiaries in Age 18 Reviews

Kate Callery, Esq.

Michelle Spadafore, Esq.

Children receiving SSI face mandatory review at age 18. These reviews are not Continuing Disability Reviews (CDRs) assessing medical improvement. Rather, beneficiaries must demonstrate they now meet the adult standard for disability. Learn how to prepare clients for these reviews, the importance of SSR 11-2p, and if all else fails, how to help your client maintain benefits under the 301 program.

B. How to Win an Overpayment Case

Abraham Arnold, Esq.

James Schiff, Esq.

This session will provide an overview of the overpayment appeals process, from reconsideration and request for waiver through any hearing level. Participants will learn how to select appropriate cases for appealing an overpayment, counsel clients charged with overpayments, documenting expenses and income.



NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF
SOCIAL SECURITY CLAIMANTS' REPRESENTATIVES

ESTABLISHED 1979

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2020

C. The Demise of the Treating Physicians Rule

Jacques Farhi, Esq.

This presentation is an examination of the rationale for the removal of the Treating Physician Rule from the disability adjudication process. How did this happen and what to do about it? Most importantly, how can you prepare cases so that the rule can be restored through the Federal Courts.

11:30am

Registration Desk Closes

12:00pm-3:00 pm

NOSSCR's Volunteer Day of Service

Join fellow NOSSCR members and staff in a volunteer project to benefit our host community. Details of the work to be performed will be available soon. Available as an add-on with a fee in the registration process.

See you on April 7-10, 2021 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington, D.C.!