

**NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF
SOCIAL SECURITY CLAIMANTS' REPRESENTATIVES
(NOSSCR)**

**161 Airport Executive Park • Nanuet, NY 10954
Telephone: (845) 682-1880 • email: nosscr@nosscr.org**

Executive Director
Barbara Silverstone

May 27, 2021

The Honorable Roslynn R. Mauskopf
Administrative Office of the United States Courts
One Columbus Circle, NE
Washington, D.C. 20544

Dear Judge Mauskopf,

This letter on behalf of the members of the National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives (NOSSCR), a specialized bar association for attorneys and advocates who represent Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) claimants throughout the adjudication process and in federal court, is intended as a complement to the April 2, 2021 letter you received from Social Security Administration General Counsel Royce Min.

We appreciate the challenges the Covid-19 pandemic has caused, and we appreciate the tremendous efforts by SSA and the courts to continue serving the public. We are grateful for the opportunity to communicate and collaborate during this time of challenge and innovation for the agency, the courts, disability claimants, and their representatives.

In addition to the pandemic, SSA greatly increased the number of Appeals Council determinations, the vast majority of which are denials that make claims eligible for district court appeals. This has also increased the workloads for everyone involved in federal litigation. In the future, we hope that SSA will take a holistic view towards its Appeals Council workloads, balancing the need for prompt and policy-compliant determinations with the need for adequate resources to produce Certified Administrative Records (CARs) for the cases that leave the Appeals Council and move on to the courts.

Thankfully, as Mr. Min's letter indicated, federal court case filings and CAR production are returning to more typical levels and the CAR backlog is shrinking. We agree that all parties in Social Security cases may need to be given grace in the time allowed for filing CARs and motions. We encourage courts to consider claimants' circumstances when evaluating requests for extensions, especially when a claimant's situation would fall into the categories SSA deems [critical](#).

We share Mr. Min's eagerness to hear any feedback or input from the courts, and our willingness to provide additional information or participate in further discussion if it would be helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara Silverstone". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Barbara" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Silverstone".

Barbara Silverstone
Executive Director