

SOCIAL SECURITY LAW: SHARPENING OUR ADVOCACY SKILLS

August 12—14, 2009
Des Moines, Iowa

Introduction to SSI. What are the income rules for SSI? What are the resource rules? This presentation by David M. Pantos, Esq., the Executive Director of Legal Aid of Nebraska, will focus on the foundational requirements for the successful representation of applicants for Title XVI benefits.

Cancer, Fatigue & Pain. In her presentation, Kerry Rodabaugh, M.D., an oncologist, will focus on the medicine of cancer so that we might understand how to better present and represent this diverse client group.

Electronic Records Express. Computers are here to stay. This presentation by Kirby Mouser, Esq., will focus on ways to maximize the efficiencies offered by this new technology in our own offices.

Consumer Debt Protection. It is not uncommon for our clients to be victimized by credit card companies while waiting-through the application process. Ray Johnson, Esq., has devoted his legal practice to representing individuals who are being illegally treated by debt collectors.

Brief Writing: Issue Presentation. Thomas Krause, Esq., presently devotes virtually all of his legal energies to advocating in federal court for clients who were represented by someone else at the administrative level. That practice focus provides him with a unique perspective on the things we as representatives need to be addressing and developing at the administrative level to build a solid foundation on which to base an appeal.

Dementia. David Demarest, Ph.D., is a clinical neuropsychologist, Iowa-licensed psychologist, and the Director of Psychology and Neuropsychology Services at On With, a rehabilitation center for individuals who have suffered a brain injury, stroke, who may have dementias, or other central nervous system dysfunctions. Dr. Demarest's presentation will focus on the functional deficits which damage to various parts of the brain can bring about.

Borderline Personality Disorders. Eva Christiansen, Ph.D., is a clinical psychologist who is often used as a medical expert by the Administration as well as by client advocates. Her presentation will focus on the difficulties associated with diagnosing and treating BPD. Mary Hofer, Esq., specializes in social security disability law. She will address the problems which advocates face in winning benefits for individuals afflicted with this disorder which affects an estimated 2% of the adult population.

Ethics: Moving From Your Address at Rock & Hard Place. In his presentation, Timothy M. Tripp, Esq., will focus on a few of the ethical dilemmas encountered by SSA advocates in trying to harmonize our duty to our clients with the policies of the Administration.

NOSSCR Update. Nancy Shor, Executive Director, will review current legislative and administrative developments that are taking place at the national level.

ALJ Panel: Perspectives From the Bench. Denzel Busick, Chief Judge, and John E. Sandbothe, ALJ, will provide us with their perspective from the bench.

An Introduction to Children's Cases. Niki Fisher, Esq., has a special interest in children's cases; she will provide us with an overview of this somewhat specialized area of disability law as well as a summary of recent developments, including the new SSI child disability rulings.

Special Needs Trusts. Ross Barnett, Esq., an attorney who specializes, *inter alia*, in probate law will help us better understand the necessary elements and acceptable dimensions of special needs trusts.

Handling Sudden Problems at a Hearing. Barbara Samuels, Esq., a veteran practitioner, will offer practical tips on how to deal with those situations when Murphy's Law manifests itself during a hearing.

Dual Diagnosis. Jeffrey L. Allyn, M.D., who works at the VA Hospital in Des Moines, has a specialty in Addiction Medicine. His presentation will focus on the difficulties associated with the diagnosis and treatment of this challenging population from a medical perspective.

Cross Examination of the VE. David Traver, Esq., who also holds a master's degree in vocational rehabilitation, will offer ways to approach this all-important segment of an administrative hearing.

Presenting Multiple Sclerosis Cases. Mary Filipi, Ph.D., FMP, and Tim Cuddigan, Esq., will discuss the medicine and law associated with this neurological disorder.

Fleeing Felons: New Developments. Joseph G. Basque, Esq., an attorney for Legal Services Corporation of Iowa, will update our understanding with reference to the recent settlement of the class action suit brought against the Administration.