

Disability Law Annual Forum 2023

October 20 – Live / In-Person

Bluegrass Yacht & Country Club

550 Johnny Cash Blvd.

Hendersonville, TN 37075



Program Producer: Robyn Ryan

Total Credits: 3 General, 1 Dual

We're thrilled to announce that this year's Disability Law Forum will be in person for the first time since 2019! Attendees can earn up to 3 general and 1 dual CLE credits. Sessions will cover a variety of topics applicable to disability law practitioners, including ways to prepare a successful GRID case, a session featuring best practices from a Vocational Expert, a DDS/OHO update, and an ethics course designed to help you "un-stick" stuck cases. Make plans to mingle with fellow attendees and section executive council members at a casual happy hour immediately following the program.

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
CDT

Registration / Breakfast

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
CDT

Effective Cross Examination; A Chat with a Vocational Expert

Michelle McBroom Weiss, Vocational Expert, and Chris George, Attorney, discuss winning vocational strategies, including asking the right hypothetical questions, transferable skills, attacking inaccurate vocational testimony and understanding how Vocational Experts arrive at their job numbers. Vocational testimony is often the deciding factor in disability cases, and subtle nuances are the difference in an allowance and a denial!

Chris George, George & George

Michelle McBroom Weiss, Vocational Expert

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
CDT

Break

10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
CDT

DDS / OHO Update

Join Kim Joseph and James Stanfield for an update on hiring, processing times, allowance rates, quality initiatives and policy changes.

Kim Joseph, Tennessee Disability Determination Services

James Stanfield, Tennessee Disability Determination Services

11:45 a.m. -12:45 p.m.
CDT

Lunch

12:45 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.
CDT

Laying the Foundation for a Successful Grids Case

Attorneys Robyn Ryan and Emma Webb will discuss application of the Medical Vocational Guidelines, past relevant work, and tips for winning cases using the grids.

Robyn Ryan, Ryan & Ryan

Emma Drozdowski Webb, Drozdowski & Rabin, PLLC

1:45 p.m. -2:00 p.m.
CDT

Break

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
CDT

Ethics & Evidence: "Unsticking" Stuck Cases

Attorney Forrest Jackson discusses creative solutions for unique/problematic cases, ethical considerations and disclosures, and handling problems that arise with clients and judges.

Forrest Jackson, Jackson Law Firm, PLLC