

Disability Law Annual Forum 2022

September 30 – Live/Virtual Seminar

Program Producer: Forrest Jackson, Jackson Law Firm, PLLC

Total Credits: 3.5 General



This year's Disability Law Forum covers a variety of topics applicable to disability law practitioners, including a panel discussion on in-person hearings, a session dedicated to appealing ALJ decisions, and cross examination of vocational witnesses.

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
CDT

First Steps in Cross Examination of Vocational Witnesses

This session will cover the following strategies in cross examination of the vocational witness in Social Security disability administrative hearings: crafting your own hypotheticals; using Social Security's evidence, including that found in Section A of the electronic file; using your own evidence, especially medical source statements; and tips for understanding the Dictionary of Occupational Titles definitions. The session will also review strategies to counter a vocational witness's testimony regarding obsolete jobs, workplace accommodations, limited English proficiency, and social/behavioral limitations.

Beth Bates, West Tennessee Legal Services

Allison Jones, Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberlands

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
CDT

Break

10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
CDT

In-Person Hearings

Find out when to choose an in-person hearing versus a telephone or video hearing. This presentation will include information and tips on the return to in-person hearings, including the protocols and procedures being used, the options remaining for hearings that are not in-person, and insight from the Chief ALJ from the Nashville hearing office - the Honorable Judge Randolph (Randy) Alden. The session will also include time for questions and open discussion regarding the hearing options and related issues.

Hon. Randolph (Randy) Alden, SSA OHO*

Forrest Jackson, Jackson Law Firm, PLLC

John Dreiser, Law Offices of Tony Farmer and John Dreiser

11:45 a.m. -12:15 p.m. **Break**
CDT

12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. **Appealing ALJ Decisions**
CDT
ALJs often make similar errors when issuing unfavorable decisions, and this session will discuss the most common errors, as well as appellate arguments to combat ALJ denials. The discussion will include building a case for appeal before the hearing, making effective arguments at the Appeals Council and federal court representation.
Chris George, George & George
Emma Drozdowski Webb, Drozdowski & Rabin, PLLC

* Judge Alden is appearing only in his personal capacity and is not speaking on behalf of the Social Security Administration (SSA). The SSA has neither endorsed his participation at this event, nor the views shared by him at this event.