

**The Annual Bench Bar CLE on Social Security Appeals Practice in
the Western District of Washington**

**Presented by the Social Security Disability Bench Bar Committee, in
partnership with the King County Bar Association and the M. Margaret
McKeown Federal Bar Association for the Western District of Washington**

**U.S. Courthouse, Seattle, 19th Floor Conference Room
And via Zoom**

Thursday, December 12, 2024
CLE program, 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.
Reception, 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

1:00 p.m. - Welcome from the Western District of Washington (10 min)

The Hon. Tana Lin, U.S. District Judge

1:10 p.m. - A Vocational Expert Perspective (40 mins)

Moderator: Victoria Chhagan, Douglas, Drachler, McKee &
Gilbrough
SSA Approved Vocational Expert Todd Gendreau

**1:50 p.m. - A View from the Bench, Practical Aspects of the Social Security
Disability System (40 mins)**

Chief Administrative Law Judge, Seattle Region, Judge Scott Kidd
Administrative Appeals Judge, Social Security Administration Office
of Appellate Operations, Judge Pamela Crawford

2:30 p.m. - 10 Minute Break

2:40 p.m. - **Caselaw Update (50 mins)**

Amy Gilbrough, Douglas, Drachler, McKee & Gilbrough
Michael Mullen, Social Security Administration Attorney

3:30 p.m. - **A View from the Bench, Effective Strategies (45 mins)**

Moderator: Leanne Martinez, Douglas, Drachler, McKee & Gilbrough
The Hon. Brian A. Tsuchida, U.S. Magistrate Judge
Judicial Law Clerk Nolan Bouchane
Judicial Law Clerk Elijah Swedlow

4:15 p.m. - **Questions for the Panel**

4:30 p.m. - **Reception – 1st Floor Reception Area, U.S. District Court, Seattle**

Please join us for the annual CLE Seminar sponsored by the Western District of Washington's Social Security Disability Bench Bar Committee. This year's program will be hosted by the Hon. Tana Lin, U.S. District Judge, and the Hon. Grady J. Leupold, U.S. Magistrate Judge – Co-Chairs of the Western District of Washington Bench Bar Committee on Social Security Disability Appeals.

This CLE is planned and produced in partnership with the King County Bar Association and the M. Margaret McKeown Federal Bar Association for the Western District of Washington.

Opening remarks and an overview of the Social Security Disability Bench-Bar Committee of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington, and a preview of the afternoon's CLE program will be given by U.S. District Judge Tana Lin.

Victoria Chhagan will lead a conversation with Vocational Expert Todd Gendreau exploring the Dictionary of Occupational Titles and providing meaningful jobs testimony in ALJ hearings and beyond.

Judge Kidd, Chief Administrative Law Judge and Judge Crawford, Administrative Appeals Judge, will discuss practical aspects of the ALJ hearing and appeals process in the Social Security Disability benefits system.

Attorneys Amy Gilbrough and Michael Mullen will present the new and notable SSA opinions published by the Supreme Court and Ninth Circuit.

Leanne Martinez will moderate a conversation with the Hon. Brian Tsuchida as well as Judicial Law Clerks Nolan Bouchane and Elijah Swedlow to provide guidance from the District Court's perspective, speak about practice tips for Social Security appeals, and answer questions from the Bar.

The Social Security Bench Bar Committee will host a reception immediately following the CLE presentation for speakers and attendees.

Please also use the following link to access the Committee's website to review updated information: <https://www.wawd.uscourts.gov/bench-bar-committee-social-security-disability-appeals>.

The program is free of charge, and we are seeking approval for CLE credit.

Questions? Please contact Becca Cohen at rebecca.cohen@usdoj.gov.