

Respectfully submitted by the Building Design Committee

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## **DISABILITY LAW COMMITTEE**

**BERNARD L. SHAPIRO, CHAIR**

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this committee is to monitor and examine the law as it pertains to the physically and mentally impaired, to support the efforts of the practicing disability Bar through periodic educational meetings that include programs provided by committee members and governmental officials, to provide mutual support in practice issues through sharing of experiences and consultations via ongoing e-mail conferences, and to influence legal and procedural changes through committee action. With the support of the CBA, advocacy with offices of legislators, and correlation with other organizations, the committee works to safeguard the rights of the disabled and provide support for the practicing Bar.

### **ANNUAL REPORT**

Activities this year included committee meetings to address substantive and procedural practice issues and activation of use of the listserv to share information and promote communication amongst the members. Committee members also met and corresponded with various members of congress regarding Social Security matters including claimant's rights and relations with attorneys and the promotion of legislation to assure payment of attorney fees directly to attorneys under the Equal Access to Justice Act, including passage of a resolution that was then authorized by the leadership as the position of the CBA. Also this year, committee members met with the Social Security Meriden Field Office manager, who presented training for attorneys in the electronic filing system now used by the Social Security Administration, and engaged in correspondence and met with other Social Security officials. Additionally, the committee is continuing its communication with the Office of the Chief Administrative Law Judge in Falls Church, Virginia, and the Office of the Commissioner of Social Security.