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RESUME  
February 24, 2022

### Employment History

***Associate Attorney***

***Health Advocates/Leibovic Law Group, LLG***

September 5, 2018 to present

***Duties:*** Represent claimants before the Social Security Administration in the Office of Hearings Operations and the Appeals Council

Client Base: Develop a Northern California clientele based on my solo practice. Each of my clients followed me from my solo practice to Health Advocates. My reputation in the community is such that 10 to 20 new clients seek representation every month, a trend that continues through today.

In 2018, the Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services GR division made arrangements with me to represent their hearing level claimants. Claimants are given a list of lawyers to choose from. Humboldt County is so remote there are no other local disability lawyers who will meet with claimants more than 24 hours in advance of a hearing. The Department of Health and Human Services makes a conference room available to me. I meet with clients in-person twice, and on the date of the hearing. My staff has monthly contact. My direct line is available to all my clients.

I am on the Steering Committee for a type of Coordinated Entry program wherein the County government, hospitals and clinics and non-profit companies serving this population can find all services regardless of the organization which has first contact. I am SOAR certified. My piece of the program is to provide SOAR case management and training. I developed a SOAR+ training program for volunteers who will process disability claims through reconsideration instead of the initial level only. We will specifically target seniors (age 60+) to explain the benefit programs, and provide services via the modified-SOAR program. When denied upon reconsideration, claimants will still have opportunities to select the counsel of their choice.

*Sole Practitioner  
Fairfield, California*

April 1, 2013 to September 4, 2018

**Duties:** Working for myself I had hands on control over every aspect of the Social Security claims' process. I performed every task associated with a successful outcome from the first hand-shake, to getting the payment centers to cooperate in a timely fashion. I had first-name relationships with the Social Security Field Offices in Solano County which gave me valuable insight into how to manage use vocabulary used at the Field Office level to ensure the smoothest possible course.

I worked directly with Mr. Patrick Stasio, the Director of Solano County's Health Care for the Homeless program. In addition to representing claimants, I acted as a resource Mr. Stasio could turn to when his clients were frustrated by Field Office interaction. In essence, I translated Social Security vocabulary into plain language so his clients could understand what the Field Office was actually telling them.

Between 2010 and 2015, I met with the Director of the Solano County Department of Health and Human Services, Mr. Gerald Huber, and his staff, to encourage them to remove a policy barrier that caused many claims of mentally ill people to be denied. The policy was changed in 2015 so that the Solano County Psychiatrists, Physicians and Certified Nurse Practitioners were allowed to provide opinion evidence crucial to all Social Security cases, especially the mentally ill. I am working on similar policy changes to Humboldt County medical care providers.

About 90 hearing level claimants followed me from my previous firm when I set up my office in 2013. Because of my efforts described above, my case load increased to about 300 clients at various stages of appeal. My hearing approval rate was substantially and consistently greater than the national average. I developed a strategy to use the "Remarks" sections on initial and reconsideration to show the state agency decision makers my theory of the case. Because of this strategy, 70% of my clients age 54 and over were approved.

*Associate Attorney*  
*Hudson & Mullin Attorneys at Law*  
*Fairfield, CA Office*

July 7, 2010 through April 3, 2013

**Duties:** Hodson & Mullin specialized in Family law and Workers' Compensation. Hodson & Mullin wanted to develop a Social Security Disability practice. I developed a highly profitable division with roughly 100 new clients per year. Our split was acrimonious.

*Associate Attorney*  
*Richard A. Whitaker, Esq.*

February 9, 2009 through July 1, 2010

**Duties:** Mr. Whitaker, now retired, was a regionally recognized expert in the practice of Social Security disability law and mentored me for roughly 9 months. His guidance took me to a whole new level of competence.

*Nebraska Legal Aid*  
*Grand Island, NE Office*

February 2004 through January 2009

**Duties:** I was introduced to the Social Security disability practice and saw first hand the struggles of society's marginalized population; the aging, minority and indigent who had no where else to turn. I provided assistance to the victims of domestic violence with temporary restraining orders and divorces of many who refused to testify in criminal trials of their abusers when I was a prosecutor.

*Assistant County Attorney*  
*Hall County, Nebraska*

September 2000 through January 2004

**Duties:** I was required to manage 400 criminal and juvenile cases per year from initial charges through verdict regarding all aspects of every case. Hall County at that time had a population of 55,000. It was (and remains) a US State Department Refugee Relocation program. New residents came from Serbia, Croatia, El Salvador, Iraq and Sudan. I gained valuable cross-cultural insight from working with victims of violent crime and their families.

*Associate Attorney*  
*The Legal Corporation of*  
*Howard E. Tracy*

February 1988 - October 1990

**Duties:** General practice with specialization in estate and business planning and corporate taxation.

*Associate Attorney*  
*Knudsen, Berkheimer, Walcott & Henderson*  
*Lincoln, Nebraska*

September 1985 through February 1988

**Duties:** This firm had three types of clients. The Burlington Northern Railroad, national and state banks and insurance companies. I represented the railroad in FMLA cases and represented insured doctors, lawyers and business owners.

### **Social Security Disability Hearing Experience**

Prior to 2018, I averaged between 10 and 15 hearings per month; and was involved at each step of the administrative process. Since joining Health Advocates, I have had no fewer than ten, but no greater than 35 disability hearings per month.

### **Education**

J.D. University of Nebraska College of Law, 1985

I graduated in the top third of my class. I was selected to serve on the National Moot Court Team and the Allen Moot Court Board. I participated in the Civil (Poverty) Law Clinic and the Civil Jury Trial Clinic

B.A. Hastings College, Hastings, Nebraska 1983  
Student Member of the Board of Governors  
Student Member of the Dean's Council  
Scholarships in Music, German and History

### **Licensure**

1985 Nebraska State Bar  
1985 Nebraska Federal District Court and 8th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals  
1988 United States Supreme Court  
2013 9th Circuit, U.S. Court of Appeals

### **Awards & Honors**

2002 U.S. Attorney Award for Outstanding Inter-Agency Cooperation (federal, state and county law enforcement; federal and local prosecutors) This relates to a very large criminal enterprise involving smuggling of workers and forged identification documents. I was a lead prosecutor

### **Professional Organizations**

National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives, sustaining member 2013 - 2016; regular member 2022 to present.

Lincoln Inns of Court 1986 to present. It is a mentorship program matching two recent law school graduates per year with established civil and criminal trial lawyers. I was selected by the Honorable Warren Urbom, Chief Judge for the Eastern Federal District of Nebraska, now retired.

### **Personal Organizations**

Golden Gate Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, September 2021 to present.

### **References**

The Honorable Julia Mariani, ALJ, San Rafael, California Hearings Office (866) 814-3559, ext. 11525

The Honorable David Mazzi, ALJ, Retired, Oakland, California Hearing Office. Personal cell phone: (510) 672-4834.

The Honorable Jane Maccione, ALJ, recently retired, Stockton, California, Hearing Office, (866) 494-3136.