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Getting Social Security Disability Benefits in Houston is Hard Work. Here's How to Go the Distance.

I love watching movies. Some of my very favorites are the ones that tell the story of a character who overcomes the odds and ends up achieving a personal victory. A great example is the boxing film genre, movies that present the classic storyline of how perseverance and hard work in the practice ring make the difference.

It's an effective analogy to keep in mind when you're applying for Social Security Disability, because getting the benefits you deserve can be a daunting task. Most people suffer a "knock-down" when they initially apply for benefits. In fact, 78% of people fail to win benefits the first time they apply.

But that doesn't have to be the end of the movie. Being down doesn't mean you're out!

Click below to learn more about your chances of winning benefits in Houston and what you can do to improve your odds:

<https://www.houstonsocialsecuritydisabilityattorney.com/social-security-disability-help/faqs/chances-winning-ssd-houston/>

The Media Makes it Look Easy

Social Security Disability is designed to provide modest but crucial support to those who can no longer hold a job due to a disability that has lasted at least 12 months in a row. You paid into the Social Security system with the taxes that came out of each paycheck all those years you were working. That money is meant to be there for you if there ever comes a time that medical issues make it impossible for you to work.

A disability can happen at any age, at any time. No one ever expects they will be in a situation where they are no longer able to work, yet Social Security estimates that 1 in 5 workers in their twenties now will develop a disability during their working years.

You may have seen media reports that make it seem that getting benefits is a breeze, and that large numbers of people are gaming the system--nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, not only do most applicants get denied the first time they apply, only 33% of the people who appeal go on to receive disability benefits.

To make matters worse, there's an ongoing tug of war going on between both political parties as to current funding for the Social Security Disability program. This battle has resulted in a slow-down of funding and an increase in wait times for applicants.

The System Can Do Better

It's unfair that so many people have to wait and worry as they try to navigate this disability application process in order to get the benefits they need to survive. For those filing an appeal, the wait time can be incredible. According to Social Security's own statistics from 2017, the average wait, from the time a request for an Administration Law Judge hearing was filed to the time the ALJ issued a determination, was at an all-time high of 628 days!

When an applicant finally receives an ALJ decision, benefits are approved only 45% of the time--that's the national average. In Texas, the percentage is lower, with judges approving benefits in only 40% of cases. Here in Houston, judges are even tougher, approving benefits in only 35% of cases, with some individual Houston judges approving benefits in as few as 20% of their cases.

Do the odds seem overwhelming? They don't have to be. Remember the movie analogy I mentioned earlier? The character we're cheering for doesn't give up after the first round, right?

To get those benefits, you need to file another appeal, and you need to make a thorough, persuasive case for why you deserve to win benefits. That may seem overwhelming, but choosing the right attorney to work by your side can make the difference in your Houston disability case. According to a recent federal government study, your chances of winning increase if you have legal representation when you go to your disability hearing.

We all remember how during Hurricane Harvey, the world came to know the unique fortitude and courage of people who live here in Houston. We're an independent-minded bunch, and we'd rather be the ones helping someone else than the ones on the receiving end. But when health issues make work impossible, Social Security Disability benefits are vital to keeping your financial independence.

There's a lot on the line when you're filing that appeal or walking into an ALJ hearing. There can be no half measures.

It's important to do your homework and find the right legal representation. With an experienced attorney at your side, you'll be prepared, confident and ready to make your case for Social Security Disability benefits.

That's the best way to beat the odds and become the hero of your own movie!

Every day, Victor Makris works with people in the Houston area to help them get the disability benefits they deserve and to shorten their wait time as much as possible. He started Makris Law Firm at age 26, and for more than forty years has offered his expertise and

dedication to Social Security disability clients. Victor has taken more than 20 cases before the Supreme Court of Texas, the Texas State Court of Appeals and the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, combined. He is board certified in Personal Injury trial law, a distinction shared by only 3% of Texas lawyers. <https://www.houstonsocialsecuritydisabilityattorney.com/about-us/victor-makris/>

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