

Barbara Silverstone



Executive Director National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives (NOSSCR)

Barbara Silverstone has been advocating for the rights of people with disabilities applying for and receiving benefits under the Social Security Act for 30 years. She has worked at the National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives (NOSSCR) since 1992. NOSSCR is a specialized bar association for attorneys and advocates who represent Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) claimants throughout the adjudicative process. The organization's mission is to advocate for improvements in the Social Security disability programs and to ensure that individuals with disabilities applying for SSDI and SSI benefits have access to highly qualified representation and receive fair decisions.

Since 2013, Barbara has led the organization as Executive Director where she meets frequently with officials from the Social Security Administration and members of Congress to assure that the Social Security disability claims are adjudicated fairly. For the first 21 years of her career Barbara was the staff attorney at NOSSCR where she assisted members by researching complex issues and in developing their advocacy for their clients' cases.

She is a frequent speaker at continuing legal education (CLE) sessions nationwide, has written several chapters in the Social Security Practice Guide and numerous articles on Social Security disability issues. She is the editor of NOSSCR's monthly Social Security Forum; serves on the Boards of the Social Security Section; and serves on the Southern District of New York (SDNY) Chapter of the Federal Bar Association.

Barbara received her Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, where she participated in the Bet Tzedek Civil Litigation clinic, and her Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in psychology and French from Bryn Mawr College.

Nicole Dooley



Supervising Attorney Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia

Nicole Dooley is a Supervising Attorney in the Public Benefits Law Unit for the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia. Nicole represents clients in a wide range of public benefits matters, including Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, Medicare, and unemployment insurance.

Prior to joining Legal Aid in January 2020, Nicole was senior policy counsel with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., where she worked to advance racial justice and educational equity through federal, state, and local advocacy. Prior to that, Nicole worked in the DC enforcement office of the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights; and as an attorney with the JustChildren program of the Legal Aid Justice Center, where she represented clients in special education, school discipline, school enrollment, language access, and other education-related issues. Immediately following law school, Nicole clerked for the Alaska Supreme Court.

Nicole graduated with a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in chemical engineering from Rice University. She received her Juris Doctor (J.D.) and a Masters in Public Policy after attending a joint program at Harvard Law School and the Harvard Kennedy School, where she served as editor in chief of the Harvard BlackLetter Law Journal. While at Harvard, she worked as a student attorney with the Criminal Justice Institute, and interned with the Education Law Center in Philadelphia and Dakota Plains Legal Services in Pine Ridge, South Dakota.

Dan Bott



President/ Attorney at Law Trajector Disability

Dan Bott is the president of Trajector Disability, formerly Myler Disability, and has represented disability claimants since 2006. During that time, he helped grow Myler Disability into one of the largest advocacy groups with Social Security in the United States, representing clients across the country and attending hearings in nearly every state. As a managing partner of Myler Disability, he was instrumental in the training and supervision of a team of over fifty attorneys in all levels of disability advocacy. This includes overseeing litigation in federal court, while also helping oversee Myler's merger with the larger family of Trajector Companies at the end of 2020. Dan now oversees all operations at Trajector Disability and has served as president since the end of 2020.

Dan is admitted to practice in the state and district courts of Utah and is an accredited attorney before the Veterans Administration. He is a sustaining member of National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives (NOSSCR).

Jackie Dai, Esq.



***Supervising Attorney
Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County***

Jackie Dai is a Supervising Attorney with the Health Consumer Center at Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County (NLSLA). Prior to her work at NLSLA, she had diverse leadership roles within disability law including Administrative Law Judge, mediator, disability rights attorney, and advocate. She is extremely passionate about working with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. She serves on the board of Asian Pacific Islanders with Disabilities of California, Asian Pacific Counseling and Treatment Center, and Valley Community Care Consortium. She lives in the San Fernando Valley with her spouse and two children.

Doris M. Cortes



Senior Paralegal Empire Justice Center

Doris M. Cortes has served as a paralegal at the Empire Justice Center, which is a statewide not-for-profit law firm, for twenty-five years. During her career, Doris has successfully represented thousands of claimants appealing their Supplemental Security (SSI) disability denials. Doris is certified by the Social Security Administration (SSA) as a Non-Attorney Representative.

At the Empire Justice Center, Doris provides direct representation to a full caseload of disabled claimants. She handles all aspects of each client's appeal, from initial intake through case development, and hearing representation. She also represents clients in appeals to SSA's Appeals Council and participates in appeals to U.S. District Court. Doris is bilingual and is readily able to communicate with all her clients, many of whom only speak Spanish.

Doris has led efforts to develop and implement best practices and client outreach. She has organized and ran *pro se* clinics to claimants and offers presentations to community groups, both in English and Spanish. She has worked to streamline office forms and procedures, including handouts for claimants in a format easy to read and translated into Spanish.

Doris has helped to train numerous disability advocates. She is an active leader in the Empire Justice Center's People of Color Committee.

In 2014 Doris was awarded Paralegal of the Year by the Paralegal Association of Rochester and is a recipient of the *Daily Record's* Excellence in Law Award in 2018. She has also served on the planning committee for Rochester's Elder Law Fair and spearheads Empire Justice Center's participation in Rochester's annual Project Homeless Connect.

Rezwanul Islam



Deputy Executive Director Nassau Suffolk Law Service

Rezwanul Islam is the Deputy Executive Director of Nassau Suffolk Law Services Committee Inc, the largest provider of free civil legal services on Long Island, NY. Rezwanul currently serves as a 2nd Circuit Representative for the National Organization of Social Security Claimants Representatives (NOSSCR). Rezwanul received his Juris Doctor (J.D.) from the City University of New York School of Law. He has been with Nassau Suffolk Law Services since 2012. He has been the Supervising Attorney for the Disability Advocacy Project (DAP), focusing on Social Security and Supplemental Security Income disability issues since 2016. He is admitted to practice in New York, New Jersey and the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York. He has represented numerous clients before the Social Security Administration and in federal court.

He was born and raised on Long Island and received a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Pharmacology and Toxicology and a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Sociology from the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Maria Laura Sigaud



***Attorney
Morgan & Weisbrod, L.L.P.***

Laura is a partner at the law offices of Morgan & Weisbrod, L.L.P. in Dallas, Texas. She has been licensed to practice law since 2003 in the State of Texas and is licensed in the U.S. Supreme Court, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, and all four federal district courts of Texas. In 2010, she became board-certified in Social Security disability law by the National Board of Legal Specialty Certification – an ABA-accredited organization. She is a naturalized U.S. Citizen and is fluent in English and Spanish.

From 2017-2019, Laura served as President of the Fifth Circuit Organization of Social Security Disability Claimants Representatives (FOSSCR) and in 2018 organized and presented a continuing legal education seminar featuring guest speakers from the Social Security Advisory Board, SSA's Office of General Counsel, SSA's Regional Chief, National Organization of Social Security Claimants Representatives (NOSSCR), a panel of Social Security disability hearing vocational experts, and others. In 2015, she joined the Human Rights Initiative as a pro bono attorney in the non-profit organization's efforts to assist unaccompanied minors and victims of family violence obtain asylum and legal residency. She has been a sustaining member of the NOSSCR since 2003 and has presented as a speaker on many occasions at NOSSCR conferences. In 2013, Laura began policy advocacy through NOSSCR meeting with multiple U.S. Congressman and Senators in Washington D.C. to advocate for the Social Security Disability program.

Laura graduated with a B.A. from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, majoring in English literature. She received her Juris Doctor (J.D.) from South Texas College of Law in Houston, Texas and served as Vice President of the Hispanic Law Students Association. She studied for one semester in Buenos Aires, Argentina through the Southwestern Law School Los Angeles Study Abroad Program.