

**There are many disability benefit programs including Social Security Disability, New York State Retirement System Disability, Long Term Disability and Veterans' Administration Disability benefits.**

Are you eligible for any of these benefits? If so, what is the proper amount of benefit? Can you work and still collect these benefits? Are you eligible for Medicare or Medicaid? These are just some of the many issues that a Disability Benefits lawyer can address for you.

**Questions to Ask and Information to Obtain About your Prospective Attorney:**

*Does the lawyer have experience representing individuals and/or insurance carriers?*

*Does the lawyer have experience with your particular type of case (e.g., Social Security Disability claims are very different than New York State Retirement System Disability claims)?*

*Does the lawyer have experience appearing before the law enforcement agencies and handling any related court proceedings?*

*Does the lawyer participate in local, state and national bar/disability benefit law associations?*

*Does the lawyer teach other lawyers about how to handle disability benefit law matters?*

*Does the lawyer have a web site or other information about his/her professional experiences and credentials?* The United States Department of Veterans Affairs is responsible for disability benefits. You can reach them at <http://www.va.gov/>.

*Can the lawyer provide you with the name of a former client or two that would be willing to discuss their experience with the lawyer?*

**Valuable Disability Benefits Law Links:**

The Social Security Administration enforces the Social Security Law. Their site includes information about the law and relevant forms that are needed for the resolution of issues. You can reach them at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/>

The Office of the New York State Comptroller is responsible for the New York State Retirement System and its disability benefit programs. You can reach them at <http://www.osc.state.ny.us/retire/>

The Workers' Compensation Board enforces the state law that requires an employer to provide short term disability benefits for non-work related illnesses or injuries. Their site includes information about the law and relevant forms that are needed for the resolution of issues. You can reach them at <http://www.wcb.state.ny.us/>