SPOOKY & SCARY SSP BENEFITS: OVERCOMING YOUR FEARS OF STATE SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM BENEFITS!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30TH, 2025

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

Shandanette Chase, (she/they) is a DAP Supervising Attorney at Urban Justice Center's Mental Health Project and a co-chair of the NYS DAP Best Practices Committee. Prior to UJC, Shandanette worked at Bronx Legal Services, working as a DAP staff attorney for more than 6 years and as a housing attorney for more than 2. She represents clients in administrative appeals and appeals to federal court. Shandanette truly loves this work and serving as a resource to colleagues and clients.

Michael Telfer, (he/him) is a Managing Attorney with the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York (LASNNY) where he supervises the Disability Advocacy Program. He represents clients who have been denied Social Security disability benefits in reconsideration and before OHO, the Appeals Council, and the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York. He has also drafted briefs for clients appealing the denial of Social Security disability benefits in multiple federal district courts across the country as well as the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

He has represented clients in fair hearings regarding State Supplement Program (SSP) benefits before the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) and has informally increased the retroactive and current benefits of numerous clients receiving SSP benefits. He has testified before the New York State Assembly Committee on Social Services regarding the SSP program. He was petitioner's attorney in *Goyer v. Roberts and* the fair hearing attorney in *Torres v.* Roberts, which along with *Sherwood v. Roberts,* jointly overturned OTDA's practice of not paying individuals retroactive SSP benefits during the 5-month waiting period for SSD benefits because those individuals were not in current receipt of SSP benefits. Those Article 78 decisions were administratively overturned by OTDA's regulations.

In his own personal capacity separate from his employment with LASNNY, he is the co-author of Social Security Disability Claims: Practice & Procedure 2d, a treatise on Social Security disability law published by Thomson Reuters.

He is a graduate of the University at Albany and Albany Law School. He is admitted to practice in New York State and before the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York.