

A. Tereasa Rerko, Esq.



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AREAS OF PRACTICE:

- Social Security Disability

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A. Tereasa Rerko is a partner at the firm and concentrates her practice in social security disability, exclusively representing injured and disabled claimants.

Practicing law since 1984, Ms. Rerko is a member of the Westmoreland and Pennsylvania Bar Associations. She has consistently been listed in Who's Who of American Lawyers in every year since 1997. Tereasa is a co-author to the Pennsylvania Bar Institute publication Fee Agreements in Pennsylvania, Workers Compensation Chapter.

Recently, Attorney Tereasa Rerko was successful in obtaining a Remand of a Social Security Disability case that was appealed to Federal District Court in Pittsburgh. The Court found that the Administrative Law Judge who decided the case did not use the correct standard when evaluating what side effects were caused by the Claimant's pain medication, and how those side effects impacted the Claimant's ability to work on a full-time basis. The case will now go back for another hearing before an Administrative Law Judge. The case, *Lickenfelt v. Astrue*, 2008 WL 2275538 (Western District of Pa.), has been published in the Federal Court Reporter, and in the future will affect other cases with the same issues.

Ms. Rerko was recently involved in the litigation of a long term disability claim in Federal Court, wherein the insurance carrier eventually settled the case just days before going to trial.

Ms. Rerko previously served on the Board of Directors of accessAbilities, Inc., serving as Vice-President and also chair of the Board Development Committee. She also serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the accessAbilities Foundation, its sister agency.

Attorney Tereasa Rerko served as Board Member of the United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania and as Chair of their affinity group, Women's Leadership Council (WLC). She is currently still a WLC member.

Ms. Rerko was involved with the former Girl Scout Council of Westmoreland for more than 17 years. Most recently she served two three-year terms as president of the Board. She has also served as Nominating Committee Chair and Member at Large of the Board. As president, she initiated and finalized the Council's first strategic planning effort.

Ms. Rerko has also served several terms on the Board of Directors of ParentWise of Westmoreland County. Ms. Rerko has been a member of the Zonta Club of Westmoreland. Zonta is an invitation only International Women's Organization, whose mission is service to both the local community as well as the world community. She has also been a member of the Executive Women of Westmoreland. This group is a local affiliate of the national Association of Female Executives. She previously served as Chair of the Westmoreland County Commission for Women and Families, and continues to be a member of that organization.

Ms. Rerko received her B.A. in Political Science cum laude from California University of Pennsylvania in 1979 and her J.D. from Duquesne University School of Law in 1984. She lives in Bullskin Township with her husband, Thomas, daughter, Shelby, and son, Patrick.

Ms. Rerko is active in her church, the Partner Parishes of St. Pius X and Visitation of the B.V.M in Mt. Pleasant, where she serves as a lector as well as a catechist for the Children's Liturgy of the Word program.

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court Western District of PA
- U.S. Supreme Court

EDUCATION

- Duquesne University School of Law, Pittsburgh, PA
J.D. - 1984
- California University of Pennsylvania, California, PA
B.A. (Cum Laude) - 1979
Honors: Dean's List all semesters
Major: Political Science-Pre Law

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Westmoreland County Bar Association, Member
- Pennsylvania Bar Association, Member