

Social Security Administration

Fiscal Year 2012 Conference Information Table

CONFERENCES WHERE EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONFERENCE EXCEEDED \$100,000

SSA-Sponsored Conferences					
Conference	Total Expenses	Location	Date	Number of Attendees	Mission Related Narrative
2012 SSA/American Federation of Government Employees National Agreement Contract Training	\$129,844	Sheraton – Towson, Maryland	June 25, 2012 to June 29, 2012	141	We provided training to implement our new national collective bargaining agreement reached between the American Federation of Government Employees and the agency in April 2012. Our training strategy employed the “train-the-trainer” method, and we held two, 2-day sessions to provide training on the agreement to approximately 70 employees per session. It was mission-critical that all supervisors and managers received training on the content of the agreement and the appropriate interpretation of the agreement language. The “train-the-trainer” sessions provided attendees with the knowledge to train other management officials throughout the country.
2012 Judicial Training – July Session	\$191,920	Marriott – Hunt Valley, Maryland	July 9, 2012 to July 13, 2012	158	We provided technical training to the agency’s Administrative Law Judges and Administrative Appeals Judges. Periodic judicial training is necessary to ensure the agency’s Administrative Law Judges and Administrative Appeals Judges have the requisite knowledge and skills to adjudicate complex cases accurately and efficiently. We trained 143 judges with 15 agency trainers/speakers. These classes were mission-critical because they helped ensure that Administrative Law Judges and Administrative Appeals Judges have the requisite knowledge to conduct hearings, issue legally defensible decisions, and correctly apply agency policy, applicable statutes, and case law.

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2012 Judicial Training – August Session	\$231,107	Marriott – Hunt Valley, Maryland	August 20, 2012 to August 24, 2012	197	This technical training session educated 182 additional agency judges with 15 agency trainers/speakers in mission-critical skills as described immediately above.
Decision Writer Training – First Session	\$152,271	SSA facility, St. Louis, Missouri	August 20, 2012 to August 31, 2012	69	We provided Decision Writer Training for newly-hired employees assigned to support our nationwide network of hearing offices. This training was necessary to introduce employees to national policy and the uniform writing processes our hearing offices use. We trained 53 employees with 16 agency trainers/speakers. This mission-critical training ensured that written decisions are consistent with the Social Security Act and in compliance with the Commissioner’s adjudication policies, as reflected in Social Security regulations and rulings.
Electronic Bench Book Software Release Version 1.0 Training	\$164,979	SSA facility, St. Louis, Missouri	September 6, 2012 to September 21, 2012 (Four sessions, each session two full days)	159	We provided technical training on our new Electronic Bench Book software. This new software is a web-based application for hearing offices to use to help standardize and document the hearing decision process and outcome. We offered these “train-the-trainer” sessions with 144 employees and 15 agency trainers/speakers so the trainees in attendance could provide hands-on training to over 1,500 judges in their home offices. This mission-critical training provided guidance, direction, and personal hands-on experience with the new Electronic Bench Book application.

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Virtual Screening Unit Training	\$124,142	SSA facility, Falls Church, Virginia	September 10, 2012 to September 14, 2012	50	We provided Virtual Screening Unit Training to Senior Attorneys. We created Virtual Screening Units to increase adjudicatory capacity by allowing Senior Attorneys to review cases virtually and issue fully favorable decisions on qualified cases. The Virtual Screening Unit authorizes Senior Attorneys to approve certain types of cases, thus conserving the Administrative Law Judges for more complex cases that require a hearing. We provided this training to 37 employees with 13 agency trainers/speakers. This mission-critical training provided Senior Attorneys with the skills necessary to quickly and effectively review and develop case files and make policy compliant decisions.
Decision Writer Training – Second Session	\$185,123	SSA facility, St. Louis, Missouri	September 17, 2012 to September 28, 2012	84	We provided a Decision Writer Training session for a second group of newly-hired employees assigned to support our nationwide network of hearing offices. This training was necessary to introduce employees to national policy and the uniform writing processes used by our hearing offices. We trained an additional 75 employees with 9 agency trainers/speakers. This mission-critical training ensured that written decisions are consistent with the Social Security Act and with the Commissioner’s adjudication policies, as reflected in Social Security regulations and rulings.