

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Shannon S. v. Commissioner of Social Security

Shannon S. · No. 23-CV-781-LJV · Decided December 8, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Western District of New York reviewed the Commissioner of Social Security’s denial of Shannon S.’s application for Disability Insurance Benefits. The court held that the Administrative Law Judge properly evaluated the medical opinion of PA-C Lauren Marino and that the residual functional capacity determination was supported by substantial evidence. The court denied the plaintiff’s motion for judgment on the pleadings, granted the Commissioner’s cross-motion, and dismissed the complaint.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of New York
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Lawrence J. Vilardo
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of New York
DECIDED	December 8, 2025
DOCKET	23-CV-781-LJV
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Action under 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) seeking judicial review of the Commissioner's denial of Disability Insurance Benefits; plaintiff moved for judgment on the pleadings and the Commissioner cross-moved.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court reviews whether the Commissioner applied the correct legal principles and whether the decision is supported by substantial evidence. Substantial evidence means more than a mere scintilla and such relevant evidence as a reasonable mind might accept as adequate to support a conclusion. The court may reject the ALJ's factual findings only if a reasonable fact finder would have to conclude otherwise and may not reweigh the evidence or determine disability de novo.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	District court decision; precedential status not stated and listed as unknown in the supplied metadata.

PARTIES

Shannon S. v. Commissioner of Social Security

TOPICS

judicial review of agency action

agency adjudication

administrative law

disability definition

PRACTICE AREAS

Social Security disability

administrative law

judicial review of agency action

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the ALJ adequately evaluated the supportability and consistency of PA-C Lauren Marino's medical opinion under 20 C.F.R. § 404.1520c.
2. Whether the ALJ's residual functional capacity determination and finding of no disability were supported by substantial evidence.

HOLDINGS

1. The ALJ adequately addressed the supportability and consistency factors required by 20 C.F.R. § 404.1520c and reasonably found Marino's opinions regarding off-task time and absences unpersuasive.
2. The ALJ's RFC determination and finding that Shannon S. was not disabled were supported by substantial evidence and were not the product of legal error.

KEY QUOTATIONS

““Substantial evidence” means “more than a mere scintilla. It means such relevant evidence as a reasonable mind might accept as adequate to support a conclusion.”” (Standard of Review)

“In other words, supportability addresses how well the source explains and provides evidence for his or her opinion, and consistency addresses whether the opinion fits with the rest of the medical record.” (Discussion, Part III)

“This Court will not second guess it.” (Discussion, Part III)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The ALJ found that Shannon S. had several severe medically determinable impairments, including asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, left shoulder tendinitis, left carpal tunnel syndrome, complex regional pain syndrome, and obesity. The ALJ assessed a residual functional capacity for light work with postural, cervical-spine, manipulative, and environmental restrictions, and found that Shannon could not perform her past relevant work but could perform other jobs. The dispute concerned the ALJ's treatment of PA-C Lauren Marino's opinion that Shannon would have occasional concentration problems and miss approximately two workdays per month.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Administrative Law Judge found that Shannon S. was not disabled from November 12, 2018, through January 13, 2022, and determined that she could perform other work. Shannon S. sought review in the district court and challenged the ALJ's evaluation of a treating medical source opinion. The district court denied her motion for judgment on the pleadings, granted the Commissioner's cross-motion, dismissed the complaint, and directed the Clerk to close the case.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- *Arnone v. Bowen*, 882 F.2d 34, 37-38 (2d Cir. 1989)
- *Johnson v. Bowen*, 817 F.2d 983, 985-86 (2d Cir. 1987)
- *Moran v. Astrue*, 569 F.3d 108, 112 (2d Cir. 2009)
- *Cruz v. Sullivan*, 912 F.2d 8, 11 (2d Cir. 1990)
- *Richardson v. Perales*, 402 U.S. 389, 401 (1971)
- *Consolidated Edison Co. v. NLRB*, 305 U.S. 197, 229 (1938)
- *Brault v. Social Security Administration, Commissioner*, 683 F.3d 443, 448 (2d Cir. 2012)
- *McIntyre v. Colvin*, 758 F.3d 146, 149 (2d Cir. 2014)
- *Angela H.-M. v. Commissioner of Social Security*, 631 F. Supp. 3d 1, 7 (W.D.N.Y. 2022)
- *Spottswood v. Kijakazi*, 2024 WL 89635, at *2 (2d Cir. Jan. 9, 2024)
- *Loucks v. Kijakazi*, 2022 WL 2189293, at *2 (2d Cir. June 17, 2022)
- *Rusin v. Berryhill*, 726 F. App'x 837, 840-41 (2d Cir. 2018)
- *Balsamo v. Chater*, 142 F.3d 75, 81 (2d Cir. 1998)
- *Schaal v. Apfel*, 134 F.3d 496, 501 (2d Cir. 1998)
- *Matta v. Astrue*, 508 F. App'x 53, 56 (2d Cir. 2013)