

# BENEFITS & BEYOND

Veterans & Social Security Disability

THE  
JAN DILS  
FOUNDATION

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2020



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## A Culture of Giving – The Jan Dils Foundation

**J**an Dils is the firm's founder. She opened Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law, in Parkersburg, West Virginia, in 1994 as the solo attorney/employee. Today, she has a skilled and compassionate team of more than 130, serving clients throughout West Virginia, with offices in Parkersburg, Beckley, Charleston, Huntington and Logan, as well as one additional office in Charlotte, North Carolina. Her passion is fighting for people who are all too often left helpless at the hands of corporations, insurance companies, Big Pharma and government red tape. Her firm has more than 25 years of experience in all forms of Social Security and Disability benefits, Veterans benefits and Personal Injury cases.

### A Mission Beyond Legal Expertise

"Over the years, my team has been touched by the stories their clients have told. When it comes to Veteran's they are all too often

our unsung heroes. February 2011, we decided to put our feet and money where our mouth is. My husband Chuck Hughes, the firm's CFO, and I established the Jan Dils **Walk4Vets Foundation**. The money raised benefits Veterans Organizations.

"It's always been my desire to run this business with professionalism and great compassion. From my amazing staff to the local businesses around us, we continue to fulfill our mission in a way I could not have foreseen all those years ago."

The Walk4vets became our first significant fundraiser and a grand celebration of our heroes and the selfless organizations that support them.

December 2018, the **Jan Dils Foundation** was established. This foundation casts a wider net for the underserved. Between both foundations,

\$250,000.00 has been given back to the community and an array of organizations," say Jan Dils.

“**Her passion is fighting for people who are all too often left helpless at the hands of corporations, insurance companies, Big Pharma and government red tape.**”

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## Letter From Jan

I know this summer was challenging. While it's hard to believe it's September, there is still much uncertainty ahead. In this newsletter we wanted to stress the importance of taking care of each other. One of the ways we help here is through the Jan Dils Foundation. The coronavirus has been

financially devastating for so many. Many of our Veterans and Social Security disability clients were already struggling.

Another way we are helping is by being on the forefront of navigating the roadblocks of the pandemic. We are still working tirelessly while continuing to ensure our staff and clients are safe.

We also wanted to do a "shout out." October is National Disability Employment Month. In this article, we encourage

employers to hire people with disabilities. There are many misconceptions regarding those with disabilities. This is the month our nation focuses on "Ability."

Please, now more than ever, don't hesitate to contact us.

For Veteran's disability you can reach us at **fight4vets.com**.

For Social Security disability or Personal Injury visit **jandils.com**.

Sincerely,

**JAN DILS** brings her expertise to issues that affect you and millions of other Americans every day. While her knowledge spans the critical areas pertaining to Personal Injury, Veterans benefits, Social Security disability benefits and related appeals and claims, her practice remains focused on people, making sure you get the right answers and, above all, results.

## OFFICE INBOX

We've had a busy summer, adding several new additions to the firm across our VA and SS departments. We welcomed four new VA Case Managers to the team, **Mikah Jo McIntyre**, **Janet Piko-Moore**, **Ben Williamson** and **Abigail McGill**. Other additions included **Katie Wihelm** in VA Medical Record Requesting and SS Attorney **Cory Lowe**.

We also had internal moves including our newest SS Legal Team Leader, **Kevin Walker**. **Shawna Bennet** moved to Appeals, **Jenay Smith** has transitioned into Case Management Support Specialist, and **Jess Hacker** was promoted to VA C-File Team Leader.

We also celebrated many birthdays and work anniversaries. Our very best to all.

## COMMUNITY CORNER

In May, the decision was made to cancel the annual Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law, 2020 Freedom Fun Run 5k due to COVID-19. However, the Jan Dils team wanted to ensure that the organizations that were slated to benefit from the event would still receive needed funds to help them serve Veterans in our local community. On July 30th we were proud to present three checks, splitting \$9,000 equally between the 2020 Veteran

organization beneficiaries for proceeds. We may be apart, but we all need to stay together for our Vets and the community!



## Employee Spotlight

### KEVIN WALKER

We'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate and shine light on our new Social Security Legal Team Leader, Kevin Walker. After seven years with Jan Dils Attorneys at Law, fighting for the benefits of our Social Security (SS) clients, Kevin has eagerly taken on the managing attorney role. In this position, Kevin will continue to deliver the same great level of service while mentoring fellow SS attorneys.

"I feel a great responsibility to do my best to facilitate an open engagement with my clients and the rest of the Jan Dils team to strengthen the voice of those we serve," states Kevin. "This firm is very team oriented. I work closely with members of the SS POD and give the best service we can for everyone."

Kevin has a proven track record of success. All of us at Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law, are excited to see the excellent leadership Kevin can bring to our clients and the rest of our Social Security team. Congratulations, Kevin!



# Celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month

**THIS IS THE NATION'S** 75th observance of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). NDEAM is administered by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). The office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) funds the Campaign for Disability Employment (CDE). The observance culminates with the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

“Increased Access and Opportunity” is the 2020 theme for October’s annual observance of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). “Ensuring that America’s workplaces continue to include and accommodate people with disabilities will be an important part of our economic rebound,” said U.S. Secretary of Labor Eugene Scalia. “Looking ahead, the Department will remain focused on the policies that led to a strong economy and record low unemployment rates for persons with disabilities prior to the pandemic. A vigorous economic rebound and job growth will, alongside the Americans with Disabilities Act, increase access and opportunity for Americans with disabilities.”

“People with disabilities are experienced problem solvers with a proven ability to



adapt,” said Office of Disability Employment Policy Deputy Assistant Secretary Jennifer Sheehy. “Now more than ever, flexibility is important for both workers and employers. National Disability Employment Awareness Month celebrates the ingenuity people with disabilities bring to America’s workplaces.”

Each October, NDEAM celebrates America’s workers with disabilities and reminds employers of the importance of inclusive hiring practices. Employers of any size, in any industry – as well as community organizations, advocacy groups and schools – are encouraged to participate.

For more information about NDEAM, visit [www.dol.gov/ndeam](http://www.dol.gov/ndeam).

At Jan Dils we couldn’t agree more. Our clients are fighters and inspire us every day. But the bureaucracy within the Social Security Administration can be daunting. The fact is, disability attorneys understand precisely how to present your case and give you the best chance of winning your claim. If you have questions, we have answers. Contact us at [jandils.com](http://jandils.com) or call **877.526.3457**. Your first consultation is always free.

Source: [www.whatcanyoudocampaign.org/celebrate-ndeam/](http://www.whatcanyoudocampaign.org/celebrate-ndeam/)

## What's Cooking?

### Grandma's Chicken Divan



VA, C-File Review Approval Supervisor **Jess Hacker** brings us the perfect comfort dish. It’s just full of grandmotherly love!

#### INGREDIENTS

1 large broccoli head (or about 16 frozen florets)

1-1/2 – 2 pounds skinless, boneless chicken breasts

2 cans condensed cream of chicken soup

1 cup of mayonnaise

2 teaspoons sweet curry powder

2 jars of Ragu® Cheese Sauce

1/2 cup soft breadcrumbs (optional)

1 tablespoon melted butter (optional)

**DIRECTIONS:** Pre-heat the oven to 350°. Cut the broccoli into florets. Drop into boiling water and cook for about 7 minutes till tender but crisp. Drain. Cut the chicken into bite-sized chunks and bake uncovered for 15 to 20 minutes until cooked. Remove from pan. Layer cooked broccoli and chicken on the bottom of a 9 x 13 casserole dish. Mix soup, mayo, lemon juice and curry. Pour mixture over chicken. Sprinkle cheese sauce evenly, then breadcrumbs. Drizzle with melted butter and continue baking for 30 minutes.

## IT'S GAME TIME

### COMMONYMS

#### What's a commonym you ask?

A commonym is a group of words that have a common trait in the three words/items listed. For example: the words; A car - A tree - An elephant... they all have trunks. These will make you think!

1. A Ball - A Fish - A Cold
2. A Ball - A Salad - A Coin
3. A Cork - A Question - A Balloon
4. A Bottle - A Baseball Player - A Mushroom
5. A Bell - Mouth - A Shoe
6. Tug of War - The Nightly News - A Boat
7. Seventeen - Time - People
8. Basketball Court - Highway - Bowling Alley
9. Fog - A Jack - A Body Builder
10. Hockey Game - Restaurant - Bank

**Answers:** 1 they are caught 2 they are tossed 3 they are popped 4 they have caps 5 they have tongues 6 they are anchors 7 they are magazines 8 they have lanes 9 they lift 10 they have checks



**SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2020**

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**PERSONAL INJURY / VETERANS DISABILITY / SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY**

Want to keep up with all the latest news or get to know us better? Like us on Facebook!



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Today, Jan Dils is the President of both Foundations, and her husband, Chuck Hughes, is the Vice President. One special thing to note is that 2020 has been an unprecedented year – that goes without saying. As a result, the firm has had to cancel Jan Dils Foundation events like the Freedom Fun Run 5K. As a firm, we know that this is a time so many people need help most. Jan Dils Foundation still made the donations as planned.

For those familiar with the Jan Dils Foundation – including all the wonderful staff members who always step up to help make the events possible – we thank you for your support. To our community, we want to encourage each of you to be safe and help others during this difficult time.

