

On June 13 and 14, 2013, the [Administrative Conference of the United States \(ACUS\)](#) will meet for its [58th Plenary Session](#). ACUS is an independent federal agency dedicated to improving the administrative process through “[consensus-driven applied research, providing nonpartisan expert advice and recommendations for the improvement of federal agency procedures.](#)” The Conference’s 101 [members](#), who include federal officials, private practitioners, and academics with expertise in administrative law, will consider adoption of recommendations on [1\) Social Security Disability Adjudication](#), [2\) Benefit-Cost Analysis at Independent Regulatory Agencies](#), [3\) Science in the Administrative Process](#), and [4\) Administrative Record in Informal Agency Proceedings](#).

The [Social Security Administration](#) issues Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) in which millions of Americans claim benefits and may file and pursue claims to request reconsideration of benefits that are denied. The Conference will vote on [recommendations](#) aimed at bringing greater consistency and accuracy to the disability claims adjudication process with a goal of enhancing the fairness and integrity of the program. The draft recommendations are based on two consultant reports, (1) [Achieving Greater Consistency in Social Security Disability Adjudication](#) and (2) [Treating Physician Rule](#).

While current [executive orders](#) do not require independent regulatory agencies to conduct benefit-cost analysis in connection with their regulatory activities, some do so subject to legislative requirements and policies. The Conference will vote on [recommendations](#) that encourage independent regulatory agencies to voluntarily adopt certain practices that some agencies and the Office of Management and Budget have developed when conducting regulatory impact analysis of their major regulations.

Science plays a critical role in regulation, yet science-based regulations are often controversial. ACUS has examined the transparency of agencies’ use of science and will vote on [recommendations](#) regarding (1) suggested agency practices regarding the use of science in the administrative process, including assuring transparent assessments and sharing of agency best practices; and (2) agency disclosures to enhance the transparency of research, including data disclosure and conflict of interest disclosure.

Lastly, ACUS will vote on [recommendations](#) for agency recordkeeping in informal rulemaking, including policies for treating privileged and protected materials and agency certification of administrative records for judicial review.

The proposed recommendations have been vetted through specialized committees of the Conference and will be considered and voted on by the full conference. The 58th Plenary Session is open to the public and broadcasted on the Internet through the [ACUS website](#).

