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Thursday, July 17, 2003

Local spotlight

Focus on federal disability insurance boosts law firm

By Eric Pope / Special to The Detroit News

SOUTHFIELD -- In the past five years, law firm Levine, Benjamin, Tushman, Bratt, Jerris and Stein PC has created a niche in the legal business specializing in helping baby boomers collect Social Security Disability Insurance. Now a quarter of its business, the growing SSDI client base recently prompted the firm to add a fourth attorney and another secretary.

Attorney Gary Bimberg said he and the other SSDI lawyers at Levine Benjamin handle more than 700 active clients each and frequently travel to other states for hearings. Levine Benjamin uses television advertising to supplement referrals from doctors and other lawyers. Bimberg also meets clients by giving speeches to groups representing disabled and chronically ill people.

SSDI claims are on the rise because the baby boomer generation is reaching the age when health problems become chronic,



Brandy Baker / The Detroit News

Lawyer Gary Bimberg specializes in Social Security Disability Insurance. He says many disabled and chronically ill people don't know they're eligible.

Levine, Benjamin, Tushman, Bratt, Jerris and Stein PC

Locations: Southfield, Flint

Founded: 1964

Practice areas: Workers

Compensation, civil personal injury, Social Security Disability

Attorneys: 14

Information: www.levinebenjamin.com

Social Security Disability Insurance

Michigan recipients: 192,100

Average monthly payments: \$815 for disabled workers, \$239 for children of

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