

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA  
EASTERN DIVISION**

CYNTHIA HUDDLESTON,	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
vs.	)	CV 12-J-2388-E
CAROLYN W. COLVIN, Acting Commissioner of Social Security,	)	
Defendant.	)	

**MEMORANDUM OPINION**

This matter is before the court on the record and briefs of the plaintiff and the Commissioner. This court has jurisdiction pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 405. The plaintiff is seeking reversal or remand of the final decision of the Commissioner. All administrative remedies have been exhausted.

Plaintiff filed her application for Disability Insurance Benefits and Supplemental Security Income on March 12, 2009, alleging a disability onset of January 21, 2008, due to nerve damage, right wrist injury and right shoulder pain (R. 38, 158). The application was denied initially and after hearing before an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ). The ALJ's determination became the final decision when the Appeals Council denied plaintiff's request for review (R. 1-3).

The court's role in reviewing claims brought under the Social Security Act is a narrow one. The scope of its review is limited to determining: 1) whether there is substantial evidence in the record as a whole to support the findings of the Commissioner, and 2) whether the correct legal standards were applied. *See*

*Richardson v. Perales*, 402 U.S. 389, 390, 401, 91 S. Ct. 1420, 28 L. Ed. 843 (1971); *Lamb v. Bowen*, 847 F.2d 698, 701 (11<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1988). The court may not decide facts, reweigh evidence, or substitute its judgment for that of the Commissioner. *See Bloodsworth v. Heckler*, 703 F.2d 1233, 1239 (11<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1983). However, this limited scope does not render affirmance automatic,

for “despite [this] deferential standard for review of claims ... [the] court must scrutinize [the] record in its entirety to determine the reasonableness of the decision reached.” *Bridges v. Bowen*, 815 F.2d 622 (11<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1987).

*Lamb*, 847 F.2d at 701. Moreover, failure to apply the correct legal standards is grounds for reversal. *See Bowen v. Heckler*, 748 F.2d 629, 634 (11<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1984).

Based upon the court’s evaluation of the evidence submitted to and adduced at the hearing before the Administrative Law Judge and considered by her and the Appeals Council, the court is satisfied that the decision of the Administrative Law Judge is based upon substantial evidence and that the Administrative Law Judge applied the correct legal standard to each issue presented. Accordingly, the decision of the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration will be affirmed by separate order.

**DONE and ORDERED** this 28<sup>th</sup> day of February 2013.



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INGE PRYTZ JOHNSON  
SENIOR U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE