

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT

JOY I. LIGHT, :
 Plaintiff, :
 vs. : No. 3:11cv652(MRK)(WIG)
 MICHAEL J. ASTRUE, :
 Commissioner of Social Security, :
 Defendant. :
 -----X

ORDER GRANTING DEFENDANT’S MOTION FOR ENTRY OF JUDGMENT
WITH REVERSAL AND REMAND [DOC. # 22]

Defendant, Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of the Social Security Administration, has moved this Court to enter judgment with a reversal and remand of this cause to the Commissioner. Counsel for Defendant represents that she has contacted Plaintiff’s counsel, Howard D. Olinsky, who consents to the relief sought in this motion.

Under sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g), the Court has the power to enter a judgment with a reversal and remand of the cause to the Commissioner for further proceedings. *See Shalala v. Schaefer*, 509 U.S. 292, 297 (1993); *Melkonyan v. Sullivan*, 501 U.S. 89, 98 (1991). Remand for further development of the record is appropriate when gaps exist in the administrative record or when the administrative law judge (“ALJ”) committed legal error. *See Parker v. Harris*, 626 F.2d 225, 235 (2d Cir. 1980).

Here, the Commissioner has determined, and Plaintiff’s counsel concurs, that remand of this case is necessary because the ALJ’s decision did not adequately evaluate or explain the weight assigned to the medical opinion evidence of record. Upon remand, the Appeals Council will assign the case to an ALJ who will provide Plaintiff with the opportunity to submit

additional evidence and appear at a supplemental hearing. The ALJ will be instructed to re-evaluate the medical opinion evidence, reassess Plaintiff's residual functional capacity, and, if necessary, obtain vocational expert testimony. The ALJ will proceed through the sequential evaluation process and issue a new decision, carefully explaining the weight assigned to all medical opinion evidence of record.

Accordingly, the Court hereby GRANTS the Defendant's Assented to Motion for Entry of Judgment Under Sentence Four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) with Reversal and Remand of the Cause to the Defendant [Doc. # 22].

This is not a Recommended Ruling. The parties have consented to the Magistrate Judge's entering a final order in this case without the need for entry of a recommended ruling and review by a District Judge. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 73(b).

The Clerk is directed to enter a separate judgment in favor of Plaintiff in this matter under Rule 58(a), Fed. R. Civ. P., to remand this cause to the Commissioner for further administrative proceedings in accordance with this Order, and to close this case.

It is SO ORDERED, this 8th day of February, 2012, at Bridgeport, Connecticut.

/s/ William I. Garfinkel

WILLIAM I. GARFINKEL
United States Magistrate Judge