



Oren “Hank” McKnelly

Executive Counselor

Social Security Administration

Currently, Hank McKnelly is the Executive Counselor to the Acting Commissioner of the Social Security Administration. He joined the agency in October 2020 in the same position. During this time, his work has been focused on operationalizing the law, policy, and regulations in a number of areas including: COVID-19; workplace safety; re-entry; labor relations; and oversight of the agency’s implementation of various Executive Orders. Prior to joining the agency, Hank served over twenty-three years on active duty in the United States Army Judge Advocate General’s Corps where he attained the rank of colonel. He advised leaders and staffs at all levels of command and participated in multiple deployments to both Iraq and Afghanistan.

A native of Alexandria, Virginia, Hank holds a Bachelor's degree from Middlebury College, a Juris Doctorate from Seton Hall University School of Law, and a Master of Laws from the United States Army’s Judge Advocate General’s School. He is also a graduate of both the United States Army War College and the Command and General Staff College

Hank has been the recipient of numerous awards during his twenty-six years of service to this nation including the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal (1 oak leaf cluster), and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal (2 oak leaf clusters) while in uniform and the Exemplary Contribution or Service Award during his time with agency. His work and achievements consistently demonstrate professional excellence, exceptional leadership, integrity, and commitment to public service.