

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

Awilda M.Q. v. Commissioner of Social Security

Civil No. 25-1315 (GLS) · No. Civil No. 25-1315 (GLS) · Decided April 6, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico grants the plaintiff’s unopposed motion for attorney’s fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act. The court awards \$3,425.02 in attorney’s fees and \$405.00 in costs following a sentence-four remand of the plaintiff’s disability insurance benefits claim to the Social Security Administration.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Giselle López-Soler
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico
DECIDED	April 6, 2026
DOCKET	Civil No. 25-1315 (GLS)
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff sought review of the Commissioner of Social Security's final decision denying disability insurance benefits. The Commissioner moved for reversal and remand under sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g); after remand was ordered and judgment entered, Plaintiff moved unopposed for attorney's fees and costs under the Equal Access to Justice Act.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished

TOPICS

- attorney fees
- judicial review of agency action
- administrative law
- remedies
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- Social Security
- administrative law
- attorney's fees
- federal civil procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Plaintiff satisfied the statutory requirements for an award of attorney's fees and costs under the Equal Access to Justice Act after obtaining a sentence-four remand in a Social Security case.

2. Whether the court should award the parties' agreed amount of \$3,425.02 in attorney's fees and \$405.00 in costs.

HOLDINGS

1. An EAJA fee award requires that the claimant be a prevailing party, that the Government's position was not substantially justified, that no special circumstances make an award unjust, and that the fee application be timely submitted with the required itemized statement.
2. Plaintiff was entitled to an award of \$3,425.02 in attorney's fees and \$405.00 in costs, for a total of \$3,830.02.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Eligibility for a fee award in any civil action under the EAJA requires: (1) that the claimant be a “prevailing party”; (2) that the Government’s position was not “substantially justified”; (3) that no special circumstances make an award unjust; and (4) that any fee application be submitted to the court within 30 days of final judgment, supported by an itemized statement as required by 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d)(1)(B).”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Awilda M.Q. applied for disability insurance benefits, but the Commissioner issued a final decision denying her application. The Commissioner later sought reversal and remand for further administrative proceedings, and the district court entered judgment remanding the claim. Plaintiff requested EAJA fees and costs, and the parties agreed on the amount to be awarded.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff filed a complaint challenging the denial of disability insurance benefits. The Commissioner requested reversal and remand for further administrative proceedings, which the court granted under sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g). Plaintiff then filed an unopposed EAJA fee motion, and the parties agreed on the amount of fees and costs.

DISPOSITION

other

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The court previously remanded Plaintiff's disability insurance benefits claim to the Social Security Administration for further administrative proceedings pursuant to sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g). This order itself grants EAJA fees and costs.

CASES CITED

- Comm’r I.N.S. v. Jean, 496 U.S. 154, 158 (1990)

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