

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Brown v. Kijakazi

Brown · No. 23-cv-6198-RMI · Decided April 11, 2025

SUMMARY

This document is a stipulation and proposed order resolving Robert Brown’s request for attorney fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act in a Social Security action against the Acting Commissioner of Social Security. The court ordered EAJA fees of \$10,073, subject to the Treasury Offset Program and payable as outlined in the parties’ stipulation.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Northern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Robert M. Illman
DECIDED	April 11, 2025
DOCKET	23-cv-6198-RMI
DISPOSITION	approved
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The parties stipulated to an award of attorney fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act after Plaintiff prevailed in the underlying Social Security action. The court approved the stipulation and ordered payment of \$10,073, subject to offset under the Treasury Offset Program.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished
PARTIES	Robert Brown v. Leland Deduk, Acting Commissioner of Social Security

TOPICS

- attorney fees
- administrative law
- remedies
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- Social Security
- administrative law
- attorney fees

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court should approve the parties' stipulated award of \$10,073 in attorney fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act.
2. Whether the EAJA award should be subject to offset under the Treasury Offset Program and paid in accordance with the parties' stipulated conditions.

HOLDINGS

1. The court approved and ordered an EAJA attorney-fee award of \$10,073.
2. The EAJA fees are awarded to Plaintiff and are subject to offset under the Treasury Offset Program; payment may be made to Plaintiff's attorney only if the stipulated assignment, debt-offset, and Anti-Assignment Act conditions are satisfied.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE (EAJA) ATTORNEY FEES ARE ORDERED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,073, SUBJECT TO OFFSET UNDER THE TREASURY OFFSET PROGRAM, AND SHALL BE PAID IN THE MANNER OUTLINED [IN] THE PARTIES’ STIPULATION.”

(Order at 1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Robert Brown prevailed in the underlying civil action against the Commissioner of Social Security. The parties agreed that Plaintiff was entitled to \$10,073 in attorney fees under the EAJA and represented that Plaintiff's net worth was less than \$2 million. The stipulation stated that the award belonged to Plaintiff, was subject to Treasury Offset Program procedures, and would be payable to counsel only if the statutory and assignment conditions were satisfied.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff brought a civil action concerning Social Security benefits and was the prevailing party. Plaintiff and the Commissioner stipulated to an EAJA fee award of \$10,073, and the stipulation was submitted for court approval. The court entered an order approving the stipulated award on April 11, 2025.

DISPOSITION

approved

CASES CITED

- Astrue v. Ratliff, 130 S. Ct. 2521, 2528-29 (2010)