

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF OREGON

Barbara R. v. Commissioner, Social Security Administration

Barbara R. · No. 3:18-cv-000616-MTK · Decided March 9, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of Oregon granted Plaintiff Barbara R.’s motion for attorney fees under 42 U.S.C. § 406(b) after the court previously remanded her Social Security disability benefits case under sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g). The court awarded Plaintiff’s counsel \$20,600.00, payable in accordance with agency policy, and addressed the treatment of previously awarded Equal Access to Justice Act funds.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of Oregon
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Mustafa T. Kasubhai
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of Oregon
DECIDED	March 9, 2026
DOCKET	3:18-cv-000616-MTK
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Following a sentence-four remand and an award of Social Security disability benefits, Plaintiff’s attorney moved for attorney fees under 42 U.S.C. § 406(b).
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Reasonableness review under <i>Gisbrecht v. Barnhart</i> of an attorney-fee request under 42 U.S.C. § 406(b).
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unreported district court order; precedential status is not identified in the source.
PARTIES	Barbara R. v. Commissioner, Social Security Administration

TOPICS

[attorney fees](#) [administrative law](#) [remedies](#) [civil procedure](#)

PRACTICE AREAS

[Social Security](#) [administrative law](#) [attorney fees](#) [remedies](#)

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Plaintiff's counsel should receive an award of attorney fees under 42 U.S.C. § 406(b).
2. Whether the requested fee of \$20,600 was reasonable under the standards governing § 406(b) fee awards.

HOLDINGS

1. After Plaintiff obtained an award of benefits following a sentence-four remand, her counsel was entitled to an attorney-fee award under 42 U.S.C. § 406(b), subject to the statute and applicable agency procedures.
2. The requested attorney fee of \$20,600 was reasonable and was approved for payment in accordance with agency policy.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Barbara R. brought an action challenging the Commissioner's final decision denying her application for disability insurance benefits. The court reversed and remanded the matter under sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g), and Plaintiff later received notice of an award of benefits. Her attorney requested \$20,600 in fees under § 406(b), and the court reviewed the record and found the requested amount reasonable.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff sought review of the Commissioner's denial of disability insurance benefits. On April 26, 2019, the court entered judgment reversing and remanding the case pursuant to sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g). Plaintiff received notice of an award of benefits on December 14, 2025, after which her attorney sought fees under § 406(b). The Commissioner took no position, and the court granted the motion.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- *Gisbrecht v. Barnhart*, 535 U.S. 789, 796 (2002)

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