

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Sherri Lynn Meadows v. Frank Bisignano, Commissioner of Social
Security

Meadows · No. 1:21-cv-01136-BAM · Decided July 8, 2025

SUMMARY

This document is a stipulation and proposed order in a Social Security action in the Eastern District of California concerning an award of attorney fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act. The court approved an award of \$7,000 in attorney fees and expenses, with no costs under 28 U.S.C. § 1920, subject to the stipulation's terms.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Barbara A. McAuliffe
DECIDED	July 8, 2025
DOCKET	1:21-cv-01136-BAM
DISPOSITION	approved
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The parties submitted a stipulation and proposed order resolving Plaintiff's request for attorney fees and expenses under the Equal Access to Justice Act and costs under 28 U.S.C. § 1920.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential
PARTIES	Sherri Lynn Meadows v. Frank Bisignano, Commissioner of Social Security

TOPICS

- attorney fees
- costs
- administrative procedure act
- remedies
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- Social Security
- administrative law
- attorney fees

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court should approve the parties' stipulation awarding \$7,000 in attorney fees and expenses under the EAJA.
2. Whether costs should be awarded under 28 U.S.C. § 1920.

HOLDINGS

1. The court approved an award of \$7,000 in attorney fees and expenses to Plaintiff under 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d), subject to the terms of the parties' stipulation.
2. No costs were awarded under 28 U.S.C. § 1920.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that attorneys’ fees and expenses in the amount of SEVEN THOUSAND dollars (\$7,000.00) as authorized by 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d), and no costs under 28 U.S.C. § 1920, be awarded subject to the terms of the stipulation.” (Order at 1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The parties agreed that Sherri Lynn Meadows would receive \$7,000 in attorney fees and expenses under the Equal Access to Justice Act, with no costs awarded under 28 U.S.C. § 1920. The stipulation provided that payment would initially be made payable to Meadows and could be paid directly to her counsel if the Treasury Department determined that Meadows had no qualifying federal debt. The agreement also preserved counsel's ability to seek fees under 42 U.S.C. § 406(b), subject to the EAJA savings clause.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Following Plaintiff's civil action against the Commissioner of Social Security, the parties stipulated to an award of \$7,000 in EAJA attorney fees and expenses and no costs under 28 U.S.C. § 1920. The court approved the stipulation and entered the award, subject to its terms.

DISPOSITION

approved

CASES CITED

- Astrue v. Ratliff, 130 S. Ct. 2521, 2529 (2010)

OPINION

(SS) Meadows v. Commissioner of Social Security

PER CURIAM.

1 Steven G. Rosales Attorney at Law: 222224 2 Law Offices of Lawrence D. Rohlfling, Inc., CPC
12631 East Imperial Highway Suite C-115 3 Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670 Tel.: (562) 868-5886 4
Fax: (562) 868-8868 E-mail: rohlfling.office@rohlflinglaw.com 5 Attorneys for Plaintiff 6 Sherri
Lynn Meadows 7 8

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

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EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

10 11 SHERRI LYNN MEADOWS,) Case No.: 1:21-cv-01136-BAM 12) Plaintiff,)
STIPULATION AND PROPOSED

13) ORDER FOR THE AWARD AND

vs.) PAYMENT OF ATTORNEY FEES

14) AND EXPENSES PURSUANT TO

FRANK BISIGNANO,) THE EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE

15 Commissioner of Social Security,) ACT, 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d) AND

) COSTS PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. §

16 Defendant.) 1920; DECLARATION OF Steven G.) Rosales 17) 18

TO THE HONORABLE BARBARA A. MCAULIFFE, MAGISTRATE

19 JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT: 20

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED, by and between the parties through their 21 undersigned counsel, subject to the approval of the Court, that Sherri Lynn 22 Meadows (“Meadows”) be awarded attorney fees and expenses in the amount of 23 SEVEN THOUSAND dollars (\$7,000.00) under the Equal Access to Justice Act 24 (EAJA), 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d), and no costs under 28 U.S.C. § 1920. This amount 25 represents compensation for all legal services rendered on behalf of Plaintiff by 26 1 counsel in connection with this civil action, in accordance with 28 U.S.C. §§ 1920; 2 2412(d). 3 After the Court issues an order for EAJA fees to Meadows, the government 4 will consider the matter of Meadows's assignment of EAJA fees to Steven G. 5 Rosales. The retainer agreement containing the assignment is attached as exhibit 6 1. Pursuant to *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 130 S.Ct. 2521, 2529 (2010), the ability to honor 7 the assignment will depend on whether the fees are subject to any offset allowed 8 under the United States Department of the Treasury's Offset Program. After the 9 order for EAJA fees is entered, the government will determine whether they are 10 subject to any offset. 11 Fees shall be made payable to Meadows, but if the Department of the 12 Treasury determines that Meadows does not owe a federal debt, then the 13 government shall cause the payment of fees, expenses and costs to be made 14 directly to Law Offices of Lawrence D. Rohlfing, Inc., CPC, pursuant to the 15 assignment executed by Meadows.1 Any payments may be made by check or 16 electronic fund transfer (EFT) and shall be delivered to the Law offices of 17 Lawrence D. Rohlfing, Inc. 18 This stipulation constitutes a compromise settlement of Meadows's request 19 for EAJA attorney fees, and does not constitute an admission of liability on the part 20 of Defendant under the EAJA or otherwise. Payment of the agreed amount shall 21 constitute a complete release from, and bar to, any and all claims that Meadows 22 and/or Steven G. Rosales including Law Offices of Lawrence D. Rohlfing, Inc., 23 CPC may have relating to EAJA attorney fees in connection with this action. 24 25 1 The parties do not stipulate whether counsel for the plaintiff has a cognizable lien under federal law against the

recovery of EAJA fees that survives the Treasury 26 1 This award is without prejudice to the rights of Steven G. Rosales and/or the 2 Law Offices of Lawrence D. Rohlfing, Inc., CPC to seek Social Security Act 3 attorney fees under 42 U.S.C. § 406(b), subject to the savings clause provisions of 4 the EAJA. 5 DATE: June 23, 2025 Respectfully submitted,

6 LAW OFFICES OF LAWRENCE D. ROHLFING, INC., CPC

7 /s/ Steven G. Rosales2 BY: _____ 8 Steven G. Rosales Attorney for plaintiff Sherri Lynn Meadows 9 10

DATED: June 23, 2025 MICHELE BECKWITH

11 Acting United States Attorney

12 MATHEW W. PILE

Associate General Counsel 13 Social Security Administration 14 /s/ Oscar Gonzalez De Llano 15

16 OSCAR GONZALEZ DE LLANO

Special Assistant United States Attorney 17 Attorneys for Defendant FRANK BISIGNANO, Commissioner of Social 18 Security (Per e-mail authorization) 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 2 Counsel for the plaintiff attests that all other signatories listed, and on whose behalf the filing is submitted, concur in the filing's content and have authorized the 26

1 ORDER

2 Based upon the parties' Stipulation for the Award and Payment of Attorney 3 Fees and Expenses Pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act, IT IS HEREBY 4 ORDERED that attorneys' fees and expenses in the amount of SEVEN 5 THOUSAND dollars (\$7,000.00) as authorized by 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d), and no 6 costs under 28 U.S.C. § 1920, be awarded subject to the terms of the stipulation. 7 8 9 IT IS SO ORDERED. 10 Dated: July 8, 2025 /s/ Barbara A. McAuliffe _

11 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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