

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| PRECEDENTIAL VALUE    | nonprecedential                                                                                                                                                                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)