

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Briana Louise Couch v. Frank Bisignano, Commissioner of Social
Security

Couch v. Bisignano · No. 2:24-CV-01988-EFB · Decided November 19, 2025

SUMMARY

The document is a stipulation and proposed order in a Social Security action agreeing to an award of \$10,000 in attorney fees and expenses under the Equal Access to Justice Act. The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California approved the stipulation on November 19, 2025, subject to potential Treasury offset procedures.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Edmund F. Brennan
DECIDED	November 19, 2025
DOCKET	2:24-CV-01988-EFB
DISPOSITION	approved
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The parties submitted a stipulation and proposed order requesting an award of attorney fees and expenses under the Equal Access to Justice Act.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential
PARTIES	Briana Louise Couch v. Frank Bisignano, Commissioner of Social Security

TOPICS

- attorney fees
- administrative law
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- Social Security
- Equal Access to Justice Act
- attorney fees

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court should approve the parties' stipulated \$10,000 award of attorney fees and expenses under the Equal Access to Justice Act.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The parties agreed to a compromise settlement of Plaintiff's request for attorney fees and expenses under the EAJA in the amount of \$10,000. The stipulation addressed potential Treasury Offset Program offsets and whether payment should be made to Plaintiff or her attorney.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff and the Commissioner stipulated to an EAJA award of \$10,000, subject to court approval. The court approved the stipulation and ordered the award.

DISPOSITION

approved

CASES CITED

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

OPINION

1 FORSLUND LAW, LLC Jacqueline A. Forslund # 154575 2 P.O. Box 4476 Sunriver, OR 97707
3 Telephone: 541-419-0074 4 Fax: 541-593-4452 Email: jaf@forslundlaw.com 5 Attorney for
Plaintiff 6 7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 8
BRIANA LOUISE COUCH,) Case No. 2:24-CV-01988-EFB 9) 10 Plaintiff) STIPULATION
AND PROPOSED) ORDER FOR AWARD OF ATTORNEY'S 11 v.) FEES UNDER THE
EQUAL ACCESS TO) JUSTICE ACT (EAJA) 12 FRANK BISIGNANO,) 13 Commissioner of
Social Security,)) 14 Defendant)) 15 _____) 16 IT IS
HEREBY STIPULATED by and between the parties through their undersigned counsel, 17 subject
to the approval of the Court, that Plaintiff be awarded attorney fees and expenses in the 18 amount
of TEN THOUSAND dollars (\$10,000.00) under the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA), 28 19
U.S.C. § 2412(d).

20 After the Court issues an order for payment of EAJA fees and expenses to Plaintiff, the 21
government will consider the matter of Plaintiff's assignment of EAJA fees and expenses to
Plaintiff's attorney. The government's ability to honor the assignment will depend on whether the
22 fees and expenses are subject to an offset allowed under the United States Department of the 23
Treasury's Offset Program pursuant to Astrue v. Ratliff, 130 S.Ct.

2521 (2010). After the order of 24 EAJA fees and expenses is entered, the government will
determine if they are subject to an offset. 25 If it is determined that Plaintiff's EAJA fees and

expenses are not subject to an offset under 26 Astrue v. Ratliff, 130 S.Ct. 2521 (2010) and the Department of Treasury's Offset Program, then the 27 check for EAJA fees and expenses shall be made payable to Jacqueline A. Forslund, based upon 28 Plaintiff's assignment of these amounts to Plaintiff's attorney.

1 The parties agree that whether these checks are made payable to Plaintiff or Jacqueline A. > || Forslund, such checks shall be mailed to Plaintiffs attorney. 3 This stipulation constitutes a compromise settlement of Plaintiff's request for EAJA attorney 1 fees, and does not constitute an admission of liability on the part of Defendant under the EAJA or otherwise.

Payment of the agreed amount shall constitute a complete release from, and bar to, any 5 and all claims that Plaintiff and/or Plaintiff's Counsel may have relating to EAJA attorney fees in 6 connection with this action. 4 8 Respectfully submitted, || Date: November 4, 2025 JACQUELINE A. FORSLUND 10 Attorney at Law 11 1 /s/Jacqueline A. Forslund JACQUELINE A. FORSLUND 13 Attorney for Plaintiff 14 Date: November 4, 2025 KIMBERLY A. SANCHEZ 1 Acting United States Attorney MATHEW W. PILE 16 Associate General Counsel Office of Program Litigation, Office 7 17 18 /s/Noah Schabacker 19 NOAH SCHABACKER Special Assistant United States Attorney 20 *By email authorization Attorney for Defendant 22 23 ORDER 24 || APPROVED AND SO ORDERED 25 DATED: November 19, 2025 litte.

ABA EDMUND F. BRENNAN UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE Couch v. Bisignano
Stipulation and Prepesed Order E.D. Cal. 2:24-cv-01988-EFB