

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

Luis R. C.C. v. Commissioner of Social Security

Civil No. 25-1397 (GLS) · No. Civil No. 25-1397 (GLS) · Decided May 15, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico granted the plaintiff’s unopposed motion for attorney’s fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act following a sentence-four remand of his Social Security disability insurance benefits claim. The court awarded \$7,902.42 in fees against the United States, payable directly to the plaintiff’s attorney subject to any applicable federal debt offset.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Giselle López-Soler
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico
DECIDED	May 15, 2026
DOCKET	Civil No. 25-1397 (GLS)
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff sought review of the Commissioner's final decision denying disability insurance benefits. The Commissioner moved for reversal and remand under sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g), the court granted that request, and Plaintiff then moved for attorney's fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Nonprecedential district court order

TOPICS

- attorney fees
- judicial review of agency action
- administrative law
- remedies
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- Social Security
- Administrative Law
- Federal Courts
- Attorney's Fees

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Plaintiff satisfied the requirements for an award of attorney's fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act after obtaining a sentence-four remand of the Commissioner's decision.

2. Whether the court should award the agreed amount of \$7,902.42 in EAJA fees.

HOLDINGS

1. A claimant is eligible for an EAJA fee award when the claimant is a prevailing party, the Government's position was not substantially justified, no special circumstances make an award unjust, and the fee application was timely filed with the required itemized statement.
2. Plaintiff was entitled to an award of \$7,902.42 in attorney's fees against the United States.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Eligibility for a fee award in any civil action under the EAJA requires: (1) that the claimant be a “prevailing party;” (2) that the Government’s position was not “substantially justified;” (3) that no special circumstances make an award unjust; and (4) that any fee application be submitted to the court within 30 days of final judgment, supported by an itemized statement as required by 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d)(1)(B).” (Order)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff applied for disability insurance benefits, but the Commissioner issued a final decision denying the application. The Commissioner later sought reversal of that decision and remand for further administrative proceedings, which the court ordered. After the remand judgment, Plaintiff requested EAJA attorney's fees, and the parties agreed that \$7,902.42 was the appropriate amount.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff filed a complaint seeking review of the Commissioner's denial of disability insurance benefits. The court granted the Commissioner's request to reverse and remand the claim to the Social Security Administration for further proceedings pursuant to sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g). Plaintiff subsequently filed an unopposed EAJA fee motion, and the parties agreed on the amount of fees.

DISPOSITION

other

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The court previously reversed the Commissioner's final decision and remanded Plaintiff's disability insurance benefits claim to the Social Security Administration for further administrative proceedings pursuant to sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g).

CASES CITED

- Comm'r I.N.S. v. Jean, 496 U.S. 154, 158 (1990)

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