

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)

## OPINION

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO Luis R. C.C.1, Plaintiff, v. CIVIL NO. 25-1397 (GLS) COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY, Defendant. ORDER Plaintiff Luis R. C.C. filed a Complaint seeking review of a final decision of the Commissioner of Social Security (“Commissioner”) denying his application for disability insurance benefits.

Docket No. 3. On July 30, 2025, this case was referred to the undersigned for disposition. Docket Nos. 8-9. On March 4, 2026, the Commissioner moved the Court to enter an order reversing its final decision and remanding Plaintiff Luis R.C.C.’s case to the Social Security Administration for further proceedings pursuant to sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g).

Docket No. 20. The Court granted the Commissioner’s request and entered Judgment remanding Plaintiff’s disability insurance benefits claim for further administrative proceedings pursuant to the fourth sentence of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g). Docket Nos. 22-23.

On May 1, 2026, Plaintiff filed an unopposed motion requesting attorney’s fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d) (“EAJA”). Docket No. 24. Under section 2412(d)(1) (A) of the EAJA, a court shall award to a prevailing party, other than the United States, fees and other expenses incurred by that party in any civil action brought by or against the United States in any court having jurisdiction of that action, unless the court finds that the position of the United States was substantially justified or that special circumstances make an award unjust.

See 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d)(1)(A). 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).

See Comm’r I.N.S. v. Jean, 496 U.S. 154, 158 (1990). 1 Plaintiff’s last name is omitted for privacy reasons. Plaintiff requests that the fees be paid directly to Plaintiff’s attorney, provided that Plaintiff owes no debt to the Federal Government that is subject to offset under the U.S. Treasury Program. Docket No. 24. Plaintiff maintains that he complied with all the statutory requirements under the EAJA for the award of attorney’s fees.

Id. Considering that the parties reached an agreement as to the amount to be paid pursuant to the EAJA (Docket Nos. 24-25), the Court GRANTS Plaintiff’s request for attorney’s fees against the United States of America in the amount of \$7,902.42. IT IS SO ORDERED.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, this 15th day of May 2026. s/Giselle López-Soler GISELLE LÓPEZ-SOLER United States Magistrate Judge

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