

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF  
WISCONSIN

Stephanie A. Bauer v. Frank Bisignano, Commissioner of Social  
Security

Bauer v. Bisignano · No. 25-cv-909-amb · Decided April 6, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin granted the parties’ joint motion for an award of \$13,300.56 in attorney fees and expenses under the Equal Access to Justice Act following remand of the Social Security case. The order states that the award is payable to the plaintiff, subject to offset for any qualifying pre-existing federal debt, and may be paid to plaintiff’s counsel if no offset applies and the assignment is effective.

CASE DETAILS

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COURT                 | United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin                                                                                                |
| WRITING FOR THE COURT | Anita Marie Boor                                                                                                                                                  |
| JURISDICTION          | United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin                                                                                                |
| DECIDED               | April 6, 2026                                                                                                                                                     |
| DOCKET                | 25-cv-909-amb                                                                                                                                                     |
| DISPOSITION           | other                                                                                                                                                             |
| PROCEDURAL POSTURE    | After granting the parties' joint motion to remand, the court considered their joint motion for attorney fees and expenses under the Equal Access to Justice Act. |
| PRECEDENTIAL VALUE    | unpublished                                                                                                                                                       |

TOPICS

- attorney fees
- remedies
- administrative law
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- Social Security
- administrative law
- attorney fees

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the parties' joint motion for an award of \$13,300.56 in attorney fees and expenses under the Equal Access to Justice Act should be granted.
2. Whether the EAJA award should be payable to the plaintiff, subject to offset for pre-existing federal debt, and potentially payable directly to counsel if no offset applies.

#### **HOLDINGS**

1. The court granted the parties' unopposed joint motion and awarded plaintiff \$13,300.56 in attorney fees and expenses under the Equal Access to Justice Act.
2. The award is made to plaintiff rather than plaintiff's attorney and may be offset to satisfy any pre-existing debt plaintiff owes the United States; if the government verifies that no offset applies, payment should be made payable to plaintiff's counsel under the plaintiff's EAJA assignment.

#### **FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

This Social Security case was remanded pursuant to the parties' joint motion. The parties jointly sought \$13,300.56 in attorney fees and other expenses under the Equal Access to Justice Act, and neither party objected to the requested award.

#### **PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

The court granted the parties' joint motion to remand the Social Security matter on August 18, 2025. The parties then jointly moved for an EAJA award of \$13,300.56, and the court granted that motion without objection.

#### **DISPOSITION**

other

#### **CASES CITED**

- Astrue v. Ratliff, 560 U.S. 586 (2010)

#### **OPINION**

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN STEPHANIE A. BAUER, Plaintiff, ORDER v. 25-cv-909-amb FRANK BISIGNANO Commissioner of Social Security, Defendant. On August 18, 2025, the court granted the parties' joint motion to remand this case. Dkt. 10. Now before the court is the parties' joint motion for an award of attorney fees and other expenses under the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2412 (EAJA) in the amount of \$13,300.56.

Dkt. 11. Hearing no objection from either party, the court GRANTS the motion. Plaintiff is awarded fees and expenses in the amount of \$13,300.56 in full satisfaction of any and all claims that may be payable to plaintiff in this matter under the EAJA. These fees are awarded to plaintiff

and not plaintiff's attorney and can be offset to satisfy any pre-existing debt that the litigant owes the United States.

Astrue v. Ratliff, 560 U.S. 586 (2010). If defendant verifies that plaintiff owes no pre-existing debt subject to offset, defendant shall direct that the award be made payable to Ryan Shafer, pursuant to the EAJA assignment duly signed by plaintiff. If payment is mailed, as compared to electronically deposited, it shall be mailed to counsel's address of record: Shafer Disability Law, LLC Ste 220 4422 N. Ravenswood Ave. Chicago, IL 60640 Entered April 6, 2026.

BY THE COURT: /s/ \_\_\_\_\_ ANITA MARIE BOOR  
Magistrate Judge