

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF  
CALIFORNIA**

**Dionne Singleton v. Frank Bisignano, Commissioner of Social  
Security**

No. 1:24-cv-01417-BAM, United States District Court for the Eastern District of California (December 29,  
2025)

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**SUMMARY**

This document is a stipulation and proposed order in Dionne Singleton v. Frank Bisignano, Commissioner of Social Security, in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California. The parties agreed that Plaintiff would receive \$8,200.00 in attorney fees and expenses under the Equal Access to Justice Act, with no costs under 28 U.S.C. § 1920. The court approved the award on December 29, 2025, subject to the stipulation's terms.

**OPINION**

1 Francesco Benavides, CSBN 258924 Law Offices of Francesco Benavides 2 1990 N. California  
Blvd. 8th Floor Walnut Creek, CA 94596 3 Tel: (925) 222-7071 Email:  
francesco@benavidesdisabilitylaw.com 4 Attorney for Plaintiff 5 DIONNE SINGLETON 6 7  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 8 FRESNO  
DIVISION 9 10 DIONNE SINGLETON, Case No. 1:24-cv-01417-BAM 11 Plaintiff,  
STIPULATION FOR THE AWARD AND PAYMENT OF ATTORNEY FEES AND 12 v.  
EXPENSES PURSUANT TO THE EQUAL 13 ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT; [PROPOSED]  
FRANK BISIGNANO, Commissioner of ORDER 14 Social Security, 15 Defendant.

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  
amount 18 of \$8,200.00, under the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA), 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d), and  
no costs under 19 28 U.S.C. § 1920. This amount represents compensation for all legal services  
rendered on behalf of 20 Plaintiff by counsel in connection with this civil action, in accordance  
with 28 U.S.C. §§ 2412(d), 21 1920.

22 The parties stipulate that the position of the United States was not substantially justified in this  
23 case, and therefore, Plaintiff is entitled to attorney fees pursuant to EAJA. 24 After the Court  
issues an order for EAJA fees to Plaintiff, the government will consider the 25 matter of Plaintiff's  
assignment of EAJA fees to counsel. Pursuant to Astrue v. Ratliff, 560 U.S. 586, 26 598, 130 S.Ct.

2521, 177 L.Ed.2d 91 (2010), the ability to honor the assignment will depend on whether the fees are subject to any offset allowed under the United States Department of the Treasury's Offset Program. After the order for EAJA fees is entered, the government will determine whether they are subject to any offset. Fees shall be made payable to Plaintiff, but if the Department of the Treasury determines that Plaintiff does not owe a federal debt, then the government shall cause the payment of fees, expenses and costs to be made directly to Plaintiff's counsel, Francesco Benavides, pursuant to the assignment executed by Plaintiff.

Payments may be made by electronic funds transfer (EFT) or by check. This stipulation constitutes a compromise settlement of Plaintiff's request for EAJA attorney 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 and all claims that Plaintiff and/or Francesco Benavides, including the Law Offices of Francesco Benavides, may have relating to EAJA attorney fees in connection with this action.

This award is without prejudice to the rights of Francesco Benavides to seek Social Security Act attorney fees under 42 U.S.C. § 406(b), subject to the savings clause provisions of the EAJA. Respectfully submitted, Dated: December 23, 2025 Law Offices of Francesco Benavides By: /s/ Francesco Benavides FRANCESCO P. BENAVIDES Attorney for Plaintiff Dated: December 23, 2025 ERIC GRANT United States Attorney MATHEW W. PILE Head of Program Litigation 1 Social Security Administration 25 By: Lori Lookliss\* LORI LOOKLISS Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Attorneys for Defendant 27 (\*Permission to use electronic signature obtained via email on December 23, 2025).

1 ORDER 2 Based upon the parties' Stipulation for the Award and Payment of Equal Access to Justice Act 3 Fees and Expenses, IT IS ORDERED that fees and expenses in the amount of \$8,200.00 as 4 authorized by 28 U.S.C. § 2412, and no costs under 28 U.S.C. § 1920, be awarded subject to the terms 5 of the Stipulation. 6 7 IT IS SO ORDERED. 8 Dated: December 29, 2025 /s/ Barbara A. McAuliffe \_ 9 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27