

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF  
CALIFORNIA

D’Angelo Kenye Jacob Lewis v. Commissioner of Social Security

Lewis · No. 2:25-cv-01054-DAD-CSK (SS) · Decided August 21, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California adopted the parties’ stipulation awarding plaintiff \$9,400 in attorney’s fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act following remand of his Social Security case. The order provides that payment is subject to any Treasury offset and may be made directly to plaintiff’s counsel if no federal debt is owed.

CASE DETAILS

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COURT                 | United States District Court for the Eastern District of California                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| WRITING FOR THE COURT | Dale A. Drozd                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| JURISDICTION          | United States District Court for the Eastern District of California                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| DECIDED               | August 21, 2025                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| DOCKET                | 2:25-cv-01054-DAD-CSK (SS)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| DISPOSITION           | other                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| PROCEDURAL POSTURE    | Plaintiff sought judicial review of a final decision of the Commissioner of Social Security. After the case was remanded to the Commissioner pursuant to the parties’ stipulation, the court considered and approved the parties’ stipulation for attorney’s fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act. |
| PRECEDENTIAL VALUE    | Unknown                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| PARTIES               | D’Angelo Kenye Jacob Lewis v. Commissioner of Social Security                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

TOPICS

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

PRACTICE AREAS

- Social Security
- administrative law
- attorney’s fees

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court should approve the parties' stipulation awarding plaintiff \$9,400 in attorney's fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act.
2. Whether payment of the EAJA fees should be made to plaintiff, with potential direct payment to plaintiff's counsel subject to any applicable federal-debt offset.

## HOLDINGS

1. The court approved the parties' stipulation and awarded plaintiff \$9,400 in attorney's fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d).
2. The EAJA fees are payable to plaintiff, but the government may pay plaintiff's counsel directly if the Treasury determines that plaintiff does not owe a federal debt; any assignment remains subject to an applicable Treasury offset.

## KEY QUOTATIONS

*"Pursuant to the EAJA, 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d), plaintiff is awarded attorney's fees in the amount of \$9,400.00;"*  
(at 1)

*"Pursuant to the decision in Astrue v. Ratliff, 560 U.S. 586 (2010), any such assignment will depend on whether the attorney's fees are subject to any offset allowed under the United States Department of Treasury's ("the DOT") Offset Program;"* (at 1-2)

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Lewis filed an action seeking review of a final decision of the Commissioner of Social Security. Following a stipulated remand for further proceedings, the parties agreed that Lewis should receive \$9,400 in attorney's fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act.

## PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Lewis filed the action on April 9, 2025, seeking review of a final decision of the Commissioner. On August 5, 2025, the matter was remanded to the Commissioner for further proceedings pursuant to the parties' stipulation. On August 19, 2025, the parties stipulated to an EAJA attorney's-fee award of \$9,400, which the court adopted on August 20, 2025.

## DISPOSITION

other

## CASES CITED

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