

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Brian Keith Honeycutt v. Commissioner of Social Security

Honeycutt · No. 1:25-cv-00831-EPG · Decided January 16, 2026

SUMMARY

The court approved the parties’ stipulation awarding Brian Keith Honeycutt \$9,570.00 in attorney fees and expenses under the Equal Access to Justice Act, with no costs under 28 U.S.C. § 1920. The award is subject to Treasury offset procedures and the terms governing payment to the plaintiff or assigned counsel.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
DECIDED	January 16, 2026
DOCKET	1:25-cv-00831-EPG
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The parties stipulated to an award of attorney fees and expenses under the Equal Access to Justice Act following the civil action, and the court approved the stipulation.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished and nonprecedential
PARTIES	Brian Keith Honeycutt v. Commissioner of Social Security

TOPICS

- attorney fees
- costs
- administrative law
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- Social Security
- administrative law
- attorney fees

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- Whether the court should approve the parties' stipulation awarding Plaintiff \$9,570.00 in attorney fees and expenses under the Equal Access to Justice Act.
- Whether costs should be awarded under 28 U.S.C. § 1920.

HOLDINGS

- 1. The court approved an award of \$9,570.00 in attorney fees and expenses under 28 U.S.C. § 2412, subject to the terms of the parties' stipulation.
- 2. No costs were awarded under 28 U.S.C. § 1920.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“IT IS ORDERED that fees and expenses in the amount of \$9,570.00 as authorized by 28 U.S.C. § 2412, and no costs under 28 U.S.C. § 1920, are awarded subject to the terms of the Stipulation.” (at 3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The parties agreed that Plaintiff should receive \$9,570.00 in attorney fees and expenses under the Equal Access to Justice Act. The stipulation provided that payment would be made to Plaintiff, with possible direct payment to counsel if the Treasury Department determined that Plaintiff owed no federal debt. The agreement also preserved counsel's ability to seek fees under 42 U.S.C. § 406(b), subject to the EAJA savings clause.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff and the Commissioner submitted a stipulation requesting an EAJA award of \$9,570.00 and no costs under 28 U.S.C. § 1920. The court approved the stipulation and ordered the award subject to its terms.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Astrue v. Ratliff, 560 U.S. 586, 598, 130 S. Ct. 2521, 177 L. Ed. 2d 91 (2010)

OPINION

1 2 3 4 5 6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 7 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 8
9 BRIAN KEITH HONEYCUTT, Case No. 1:25-cv-00831-EPG 10 Plaintiff, STIPULATION
FOR THE AWARD AND PAYMENT OF ATTORNEY FEES AND 11 v. EXPENSES
PURSUANT TO THE EQUAL 12 ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT; ORDER COMMISSIONER OF
SOCIAL SECURITY, 13 (ECF No. 19) Defendant. 14 15 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 \$9,570.00, 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
After the Court issues an order for EAJA fees to Plaintiff, the government will consider the 23

matter of Plaintiff's assignment of EAJA fees to counsel. Pursuant to *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 560 U.S. 586, 598, 130 S.Ct.

2521, 177 L.Ed.2d 91 (2010), the ability to honor the assignment will depend on 24 whether the fees are subject to any offset allowed under the United States Department of the 25 Treasury's Offset Program. After the order for EAJA fees is entered, the government will determine 26 whether they are subject to any offset. 27 1 Fees shall be made payable to Plaintiff, but if the Department of the Treasury determines that 2 Plaintiff does not owe a federal debt, then the government shall cause the payment of fees, expenses 3 and costs to be made directly to Plaintiff's counsel, Paul Sachelari, pursuant to the assignment 4 executed by Plaintiff.

Payments may be made by electronic funds transfer (EFT) or by check. 5 This stipulation constitutes a compromise settlement of Plaintiff's request for EAJA attorney 6 fees and does not constitute an admission of liability on the part of Defendant under the EAJA or 7 otherwise. Payment of the agreed amount shall constitute a complete release from, and bar to, any 8 and all claims that Plaintiff and/or Paul Sachelari, including the Law Office of Paul Sachelari, PC, 9 may have relating to EAJA attorney fees in connection with this action.

10 This award is without prejudice to the rights of Paul Sachelari to seek Social Security Act 11 attorney fees under 42 U.S.C. § 406(b), subject to the savings clause provisions of the EAJA. 12 Respectfully submitted, 13 Dated: January 15, 2026 Law Office of Paul Sachelari, PC 14 15 By: /s/ Paul Sachelari PAUL SACHELARI 16 Attorney for Plaintiff 17 Dated: January 15, 2026 ERIC GRANT 18 United States Attorney 19 MATHEW W. PILE Associate General Counsel 20 Social Security Administration 21 By: Oscar Gonzalez de Llano* OSCAR GONZALEZ DE LLANO 22 Special Assistant U.S. Attorney 23 Attorneys for Defendant (*Permission to use electronic signature 24 obtained via email on January 15, 2026).

25 26 27 1 ORDER 2 Based upon the parties' Stipulation for the Award and Payment of Equal Access to Justice Act 3 || Fees and Expenses (ECF No. 19), IT IS ORDERED that fees and expenses in the amount of 4 \$9,570.00 as authorized by 28 U.S.C. § 2412, and no costs under 28 U.S.C. § 1920, are awarded 5 subject to the terms of the Stipulation. IT IS SO ORDERED.

6 7|| Dated: _ January 16, 2026 |sJe— heey — 3 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 -3-