

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Abel Luna Valdez v. Frank Bisignano, Commissioner of Social
Security

No. 2:24-cv-01442-CKD, United States District Court for the Eastern District of California (November 4, 2025)

SUMMARY

This document is a stipulation and order awarding Plaintiff \$8,700.00 in attorney fees and expenses under the Equal Access to Justice Act, with no costs awarded under 28 U.S.C. § 1920. The award is payable to Plaintiff subject to Treasury offset procedures and does not prejudice counsel’s potential claim for fees under 42 U.S.C. § 406(b).

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Daniel J. Calabretta
DECIDED	November 4, 2025
DOCKET	2:24-cv-01442-CKD
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The parties jointly stipulated to an award of attorney fees and expenses under the Equal Access to Justice Act, subject to court approval.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished
PARTIES	Abel Luna Valdez v. Frank Bisignano, Commissioner of Social Security

TOPICS

- attorney fees
- costs
- administrative law
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- Social Security
- attorney fees
- Equal Access to Justice Act

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court should approve the parties' stipulated award of \$8,700 in attorney fees and expenses under the Equal Access to Justice Act.

2. Whether costs should be awarded under 28 U.S.C. § 1920.

HOLDINGS

1. The court approved and ordered an award of \$8,700 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.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The parties agreed that the government's position in the underlying Social Security action was not substantially justified. They stipulated to an \$8,700 award of attorney fees and expenses under the EAJA, with payment initially made payable to Plaintiff and potentially paid directly to Plaintiff's counsel if the Treasury Department determined that Plaintiff owed no federal debt.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff and the Commissioner stipulated to an award of \$8,700 in attorney fees and expenses under the EAJA and agreed that no costs would be awarded under 28 U.S.C. § 1920. The district 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)