

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF OREGON

Betsy Richards v. Commissioner, Social Security Administration

Richards · No. 6:25-cv-00133-SB · Decided December 23, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of Oregon granted Betsy Richards's unopposed application for \$7,051.52 in attorney's fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act. The order explains that the award belongs to the claimant, is subject to Treasury Offset Program deductions, and may be paid to her attorney under the assignment if no offset applies.

OPINION

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF OREGON BETSY RICHARDS, Case No. 6:25-cv-00133-SB Plaintiff, ORDER v. COMMISSIONER SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, Defendant. BECKERMAN, U.S. Magistrate Judge. The Court hereby GRANTS Plaintiff Betsy Richards' ("Plaintiff") unopposed application (ECF No. 16) for \$7,051.52 in attorney's fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act ("EAJA"), 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d).

Pursuant to *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 560 U.S. 586, 596-98 (2010), district courts' EAJA fee awards belong to the social security claimant and are subject to offset under the Treasury Offset Program. Consequently, this Court's EAJA fee award belongs to Plaintiff but is subject to offset. Plaintiff assigned to her attorney the right to any court-awarded EAJA fees.

Thus, if Plaintiff does not owe debt that is subject to offset, the Court's EAJA fee award shall be made payable and mailed to Plaintiff's attorney: John E. Haapala, Jr., 401 E 10th Ave., Suite 240, Eugene, Oregon 97401. IT IS SO ORDERED. DATED this 23rd day of December, 2025. HON. STACIE F. BECKERMAN United States Magistrate Judge PAGE 2 — ORDER