

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Stacey Masako Hayward v. Commissioner of Social Security

Hayward · No. 2:25-cv-01606-DC-DMC · Decided December 23, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California adopted the parties’ stipulation awarding Plaintiff Stacey Masako Hayward \$8,200 in attorney’s fees and expenses under the Equal Access to Justice Act following remand of her Social Security action. The order provides that the fees are payable to Plaintiff, subject to any federal-debt offset, and may be paid directly to her counsel if no offset applies; no costs were awarded under 28 U.S.C. § 1920.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Dena Coggins
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
DECIDED	December 23, 2025
DOCKET	2:25-cv-01606-DC-DMC
DISPOSITION	approved
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff sought judicial review of a final decision of the Commissioner of Social Security. After the action was remanded to the Commissioner for further proceedings, the parties stipulated to an award of attorney's fees and expenses under the Equal Access to Justice Act.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished
PARTIES	Stacey Masako Hayward v. Commissioner of Social Security

TOPICS

- attorney fees
- costs
- judicial review of agency action
- administrative law
- remedies

PRACTICE AREAS

- administrative law
- civil procedure
- remedies

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court should adopt the parties' stipulation awarding Plaintiff \$8,200.00 in attorney's fees and expenses under the Equal Access to Justice Act.
2. Whether costs should be awarded under 28 U.S.C. § 1920.
3. How any EAJA fee payment should be made in light of potential federal-debt offsets and the assignment of fees to Plaintiff's counsel.

HOLDINGS

1. The court adopted the parties' stipulation and awarded Plaintiff \$8,200.00 in attorney's fees and expenses under 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d).
2. No costs were awarded under 28 U.S.C. § 1920.
3. EAJA fees are payable to Plaintiff, but the government may pay Plaintiff's counsel directly if the Treasury determines that Plaintiff owes no federal debt; any assignment remains subject to an allowable federal-debt offset.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Stacey Masako Hayward filed an action seeking review of a final decision by the Commissioner of Social Security. The court remanded the matter for further proceedings, after which the parties agreed that Plaintiff should receive \$8,200.00 in attorney's fees and expenses under the EAJA and no costs under 28 U.S.C. § 1920.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff filed the action on June 10, 2025. On November 26, 2025, the court remanded the matter to the Commissioner for further proceedings under 42 U.S.C. § 405(g). The parties then filed a stipulation requesting an EAJA award of \$8,200.00 and no costs under 28 U.S.C. § 1920, which the court adopted.

DISPOSITION

approved

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The matter had already been remanded to the Commissioner for further proceedings. This order does not issue additional remand instructions.

CASES CITED

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