

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF OREGON

Lisa Finney v. Commissioner of Social Security

Finney · No. 3:24-cv-01964-SB · Decided December 16, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of Oregon awarded Plaintiff Lisa Finney \$2,770.24 in attorney fees and \$405 in filing costs under the Equal Access to Justice Act. The order directs payment to Plaintiff's attorney subject to verification of any federal debt eligible for offset under the Treasury Offset Program.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of Oregon
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Stacie F. Beckerman
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of Oregon
DECIDED	December 16, 2025
DOCKET	3:24-cv-01964-SB
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Order awarding attorney fees and filing costs to Plaintiff under the Equal Access to Justice Act following a Social Security case.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished
PARTIES	Lisa Finney v. Commissioner of Social Security

TOPICS

attorney fees costs administrative law remedies

PRACTICE AREAS

Social Security administrative law attorney fees costs

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- Whether Plaintiff should receive an award of attorney fees and filing costs under the Equal Access to Justice Act.
- Whether payment of the award must be subject to verification and possible offset for qualifying federal debt.

HOLDINGS

1. Plaintiff was awarded \$2,770.24 in attorney fees under 28 U.S.C. § 2412 and \$405 in filing costs under 28 U.S.C. § 1920.
2. The award is subject to verification that Plaintiff has no qualifying debt for offset; if no debt exists, payment may be made to Plaintiff's attorney, while any remaining amount after offset of a debt is payable to Plaintiff.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“It is hereby ORDERED that attorney fees in the amount of \$2,770.24 and costs for filing fees in the amount of \$405 shall be awarded to Plaintiff pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2412.” (Order at 1)

“Attorney fees will be paid to Plaintiffs attorney, dependent upon verification that Plaintiff has no debt which qualifies for offset against the awarded fees and costs, pursuant to the Treasury Offset Program as discussed in Astrue v. Ratliff, 130 S.Ct. 2521 (2010).” (Order at 1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The order concerns Plaintiff Lisa Finney's entitlement to attorney fees and filing costs under the Equal Access to Justice Act. The court awarded \$2,770.24 in attorney fees and \$405 in filing costs. Payment was conditioned on determining whether Plaintiff had a debt subject to offset under the Treasury Offset Program.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

After Plaintiff's Social Security action, the court entered an order awarding \$2,770.24 in attorney fees and \$405 in filing costs under the Equal Access to Justice Act. The order directed that payment be handled subject to verification of any qualifying federal debt and potential offset under the Treasury Offset Program.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Astrue v. Ratliff, 130 S. Ct. 2521 (2010)

OPINION

Finney

PER CURIAM.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT OF OREGON

LISA FINNEY, Case No. 3:24-cv-01964-SB Plaintiff, vs.

ORDER

COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY,

Defendant. It is hereby ORDERED that attorney fees in the amount of \$2,770.24 and costs for filing fees in the amount of \$405 shall be awarded to Plaintiff pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2412. Attorney fees will be paid to Plaintiff's attorney, dependent upon verification that Plaintiff has no debt which qualifies for offset against the awarded fees and costs, pursuant to the Treasury Offset Program as discussed in *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 130 S.Ct. 2521 (2010). Attorney costs are paid pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1920.

If Plaintiff has no such debt, then the fees and costs shall be delivered via electronic funds transfer or by check made out to Plaintiff's attorney Kevin Kerr, and mailed to Plaintiff's attorney's office! as follows: NW Disability benefits, LLC dba Kerr Robichaux & Carroll (TID 85-3999428), P.O. Box 14490, Portland, OR 97293. If Plaintiff has a debt, then any remaining funds after offset of the debt shall be made payable to Plaintiff and sent via electronic funds transfer or by check mailed to Plaintiff's attorney's office at the address stated above. DATED this 16th day of December, 2025. Uey aera

HON. STACIE F. BECKERMAN

United States Magistrate Judge ' Formerly known as Schneider Kerr & Robichaux.