

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Lenore Barton v. Commissioner of Social Security

Barton · No. 25-cv-1420-RMI · Decided June 25, 2025

SUMMARY

This document is a stipulation and order approving an Equal Access to Justice Act attorney-fee award in a Social Security action in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California. The court approved an EAJA award of \$2,291, subject to potential offset under the Treasury Offset Program and payable according to the terms of the parties’ stipulation.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Northern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Robert M. Illman
DECIDED	June 25, 2025
DOCKET	25-cv-1420-RMI
DISPOSITION	approved
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The parties stipulated to an award of attorney fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act, and the court approved the stipulation and ordered payment of the agreed amount.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Nonprecedential stipulated fee order
PARTIES	Lenore Barton v. Commissioner of Social Security

TOPICS

- attorney fees
- administrative procedure act
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- Social Security
- administrative law
- attorney fees

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court should approve the parties' stipulation awarding plaintiff \$2,291 in attorney fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act.

2. Whether the EAJA award should be made to plaintiff and remain subject to offset under the Treasury Offset Program.

HOLDINGS

1. The court approved the parties' stipulation and awarded plaintiff \$2,291 in EAJA attorney fees.
2. The EAJA award belongs to plaintiff and is subject to offset under the Treasury Offset Program; payment to plaintiff's attorney is permissible only if the conditions stated in the stipulation are satisfied.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE (EAJA) ATTORNEY FEES ARE ORDERED IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO THOUSAND AND TWO HUNDRED NINETY-TWO DOLLARS (\$2,291), SUBJECT TO OFFSET UNDER THE TREASURY OFFSET PROGRAM, AND SHALL BE PAID IN THE MANNER OUTLINED IN THE PARTIES’ STIPULATION.” (Order at 3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff was the prevailing party in the underlying Social Security action. The parties agreed that plaintiff met the EAJA eligibility requirements, including the applicable net-worth limitation, and stipulated to attorney fees of \$2,291. The stipulation provided that the award belonged to plaintiff, was subject to offset for qualifying federal debts, and could be paid to plaintiff's attorney only under specified conditions.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff prevailed in the underlying civil action and sought attorney fees under the EAJA. The parties submitted a stipulation and proposed order resolving the fee request for \$2,291. The court approved the stipulation and ordered the award subject to the Treasury Offset Program.

DISPOSITION

approved

CASES CITED

- *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 130 S. Ct. 2521, 2528-29 (2010)