

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
OKLAHOMA

Teri Vonne Green v. Frank J. Bisignano, Commissioner of the Social
Security Administration

Green · No. CIV-25-372-GLJ · Decided April 3, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma grants Teri Vonne Green’s unopposed motion for attorney’s fees and costs under the Equal Access to Justice Act. The court orders payment of \$8,772.00 in attorney’s fees and \$405.00 in costs to Green, subject to a refund obligation if counsel later receives fees under 42 U.S.C. § 406(b)(1).

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Gerald L. Jackson
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma
DECIDED	April 3, 2026
DOCKET	CIV-25-372-GLJ
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff, the prevailing party in a Social Security Act action, moved for an award of attorney's fees and costs under the Equal Access to Justice Act. The Commissioner did not oppose the requested award.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court reviewed the record to determine whether the requested fee and cost amounts were reasonable.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unknown
PARTIES	Teri Vonne Green v. Frank J. Bisignano, Commissioner of the Social Security Administration

TOPICS

- attorney fees
- costs
- administrative law
- remedies
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the prevailing party was entitled to the requested attorney's fees and costs under the Equal Access to Justice Act.
2. Whether any later award of attorney's fees under 42 U.S.C. § 406(b)(1) would require the attorney to refund the smaller fee amount to the claimant.

HOLDINGS

1. The court held that Green, as the prevailing party, was entitled to the requested \$8,772.00 in attorney's fees and \$405.00 in costs because the amounts were reasonable and the Commissioner did not oppose the award.
2. If Green's attorney is later awarded fees under 42 U.S.C. § 406(b)(1), the attorney must refund the smaller fee amount to Green.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Except as otherwise specifically provided by statute, a court shall award to a prevailing party other than the United States fees and other expenses, in addition to any costs awarded pursuant to subsection (a), incurred by that party in any civil action (other than cases sounding in tort)[.]” (at 2)

“The EAJA therefore permits attorney’s fees reimbursement to financially eligible prevailing parties, who make a proper application, and not to their attorneys.” (at 2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Teri Vonne Green was the prevailing party in an action under the Social Security Act. She requested \$8,772.00 in attorney's fees and \$405.00 in costs under the Equal Access to Justice Act, and the Commissioner did not oppose the requested amounts.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

After prevailing in the underlying action, Green sought \$8,772.00 in attorney's fees and \$405.00 in costs under the EAJA. The district court found the requested amounts reasonable, granted the unopposed motion, and ordered the Government to pay the award and costs to Green.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Manning v. Astrue, 510 F.3d 1246, 1251 (10th Cir. 2007)
- Weakley v. Bowen, 803 F.2d 575, 580 (10th Cir. 1986)

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