

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Jolene Cox v. Commissioner of Social Security

Cox · No. 3:25-cv-05234-PHK · Decided January 8, 2026

SUMMARY

This document is a stipulation and order awarding Plaintiff Jolene Cox \$2,921.34 in attorney fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act and \$405.00 in costs in her Social Security action against the Commissioner of Social Security. The parties agreed that payment would be subject to any federal debt offset and could be made directly to Plaintiff’s counsel under an assignment if no offset applied. The stipulation was signed on December 18, 2025, and approved by Magistrate Judge Peter H. Kang on January 8, 2026.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Northern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Peter H. Kang
DECIDED	January 8, 2026
DOCKET	3:25-cv-05234-PHK
DISPOSITION	approved
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The parties submitted a stipulation for an award of attorney fees and costs under the Equal Access to Justice Act, and the court approved the stipulation.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished

TOPICS

- attorney fees
- costs
- administrative procedure act
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- Social Security
- administrative law
- attorney fees
- costs

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- Whether the court should approve the parties' stipulation awarding plaintiff \$2,921.34 in EAJA attorney fees and \$405.00 in costs.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED:” (Order at 1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff and the Commissioner stipulated to payment of \$2,921.34 in attorney fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act and \$405.00 in costs. The stipulation provided that payment would be subject to any offset under the United States Department of the Treasury's Offset Program and could be made directly to plaintiff's counsel if no federal debt existed. The parties characterized the agreement as a compromise settlement and preserved counsel's ability to seek fees under 42 U.S.C. § 406, subject to the EAJA.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff Jolene Cox sought attorney fees and costs incurred in connection with the civil action. The parties stipulated to an EAJA attorney-fee award of \$2,921.34 and costs of \$405.00, subject to court approval. On January 8, 2026, the court entered an order approving the stipulation.

DISPOSITION

approved

CASES CITED

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

OPINION

Cox

PER CURIAM.

1 GEORGEANA K. ROUSSOS

BAR NO. 152144

2 PO Box 86 3 San Anselmo, CA 94979 Tel. No. 415 252-1922

4 Fax 833-884-8476

5 Attorney for Plaintiff 6

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

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NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

8 9 Case No. 3:25-cv-05234 - PHK 10

JOLENE COX,

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STIPULATION FOR EAJA ATTORNEY FEES

Plaintiff, 12 and COSTS; Order 13 v.

14 COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL

15 SECURITY,

16 Defendant. 17 IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED by and between the parties through their
18 undersigned counsel, subject to the approval of the Court, that Plaintiff be 19 awarded Two
Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty One Dollars and Thirty Four 20 Cents in (\$2,921.34) in Attorney
Fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act 21 (EAJA), 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d). Plaintiff shall also be
awarded Four Hundred 22 and Five Dollars (\$405.00) in accordance with 28 U.S.C. §§ 1920,
2412(d). 23 These amounts represent compensation for all legal services rendered on behalf 24 of
Plaintiff by counsel in connection with this civil action. 25 After the Court issues an order for
EAJA fees and Costs to Plaintiff, the 26 government will consider the matter of Plaintiff's
assignment of EAJA fees to 27 Plaintiff's attorney. Pursuant to Astrue v. Ratliff, 130 S.Ct. 2521,
2252-53 28

(2010), the ability to honor the assignment will depend on whether the fees are

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1 subject to any offset allowed under the United States Department of the 2 Treasury's Offset
Program. After the order for EAJA fees is entered, the 3 government will determine whether they
are subject to any offset. 4 If the Department of the Treasury determines that Plaintiff does not owe
a 5 6 federal debt, then the government shall cause the payment of fees to be made and 7 delivered
directly to GEORGEANA ROUSSOS, Plaintiff's counsel, pursuant to 8 the assignment executed
by Plaintiff. (Attached) 9 This stipulation constitutes a compromise settlement of Plaintiff's request
for 10 EAJA attorney fees and does not constitute an admission of liability on the part 11 of
Defendant under the EAJA. Payment of the agreed amount shall constitute a 12 complete release
from, and bar to, any and all claims that Plaintiff and/or 13 Plaintiff's counsel may have relating to
EAJA attorney fees in connection with 14 this action. This award is without prejudice to the rights
of Plaintiff's counsel to 15 seek Social Security Act attorney fees under 42 U.S.C. § 406, subject to
the 16 provisions of the EAJA. 17 ATTACHED is an assignment signed by PLAINTIFF JOLENE
COX 18 19 naming Attorney GEORGEANA ROUSSOS as the assignee for payment. 20 By:/s/
Georgeana K. Roussos Date: December 18, 2025 Georgeana K. Roussos 21 Counsel for Plaintiff
Jolene Cox 22 23 By:/s/ Erin Highland_____** Date: December 18, 2025 Erin Highland 24
Attorney | Program Litigation 1 25 Law & Policy | Social Security Administration 26 Counsel for
Defendant 27 ** (as approved by email on Dec. 18, 2025) 28

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1 2 3 4

5 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

6 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

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10 ORDER

11 12 13 || PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED: 14

15 '6 | Dated: January 8, 2026 By:_ | 0 ' 17 The Honorable Peter H. me 18 United States

Magistrate Judge 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

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