

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS
JONESBORO DIVISION**

JOHN LEE CRAIG,

Plaintiff,

vs.

CAROLYN W. COLVIN,
Acting Commissioner,
Social Security Administration

Defendant.

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No. 3:12CV00076-JJV

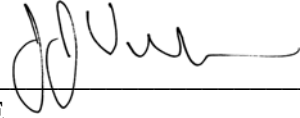
ORDER

Before the Court is Plaintiff’s Application for Attorney’s Fees pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA), 28 U.S.C. § 2412. Plaintiff’s counsel requests \$3,888.00, representing 21.6 attorney hours at \$180 an hour. The Commissioner responded and objects to the fees requested. The Commissioner believes counsel should be awarded \$165 an hour and explains in her Response how she comes to that conclusion. However, the Court is perplexed why the Commissioner objects to \$180 an hour in *this* case when the Commissioner routinely considers an hourly rate of \$181 to be “reasonable.” *See e.g., Davis v. Astrue*, 2:12-CV-00121; *Collins v. Astrue*, 1:09-CV-00026; *Alley v. Astrue*, 3:10-CV-00265; *Ford v. Astrue*, 3:11-CV-00002; *George v. Astrue*, 2:10-CV-00204; *Propes v. Astrue*, 3:11-CV-00049.

Therefore, after careful consideration of the Motion and Response, the Court finds:

1. The hours spent by counsel were reasonable. Therefore the Court approves attorney fees in the amount of \$3,888.00 (21.6 attorney hours at \$180.00).
2. The award of EAJA fees shall be paid in accordance with *Astrue v. Ratliff*, --- U.S. ---, 130 S.Ct. 2521, 2527, 2010 WL 2346547 (2010).
3. Defendant shall certify said award and pay Plaintiff’s attorney this amount.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 6th day of August, 2013.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe J. Volpe", written over a horizontal line.

JOE J. VOLPE
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE