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8	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT	
9	FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA	
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11	ALBESSA ESPINOSA,	Case No. 1:22-cv-01586-HBK ¹
12	Plaintiff,	ORDER GRANTING AWARD AND
13	v.	PAYMENT OF ATTORNEYS FEES UNDER THE EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT
14 15	MARTIN O'MALLEY, COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY,	(Doc. No. 21)
16	Defendant.	
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18	Pending before the Court is the parties' stipulated motion for award of attorney's fees	
19	filed on May 29, 2024. (Doc. No. 21). The parties agree to an award of attorney's fees and	
20	expenses to Plaintiff's attorney, Jonathan O. Peña of Peña & Bromberg, PLC, in the amount of	
21	\$7,500.00 in attorney fees and expenses, pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act ("EAJA"),	
22	28 U.S.C. § 2412. (<i>Id.</i>).	
23	On February 28, 2024, this Court granted Plaintiff's motion for summary judgment and	
24	remanded the case pursuant to sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) to the Commissioner for	
25	further administrative proceedings. (Doc. No. 19). Judgment was entered the same day. (Doc.	
2627	Both parties have consented to the jurisdiction of a magistrate judge in accordance with 28 U.S.C. §636(c)(1). (Doc. No. 10).	

No. 20). Plaintiff now requests an award of fees as the prevailing party. See 28 U.S.C. § 2412(a) & (d)(1)(A); Fed. R. Civ. P. 54(d)(1); see 28 U.S.C. § 1920; cf. Shalala v. Schaefer, 509 U.S. 292, 300-02 (1993) (concluding that a party who wins a sentence-four remand order under 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) is a prevailing party). The Commissioner does not oppose the requested relief.

The EAJA provides for an award of attorney fees to private litigants who both prevail in civil actions (other than tort) against the United States and timely file a petition for fees. 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d)(1)(A). Under the Act, a court shall award attorney fees to the prevailing party unless it finds the government's position was "substantially justified or that special circumstances make such an award unjust." Id. Here, the government did not show its position was substantially justified and the Court finds there are not special circumstances that would make an award unjust.

Based on the stipulation, the Court finds an award of \$7,500.00 in attorney fees and expenses is appropriate. EAJA fees, expenses, and costs are subject to any offsets allowed under the Treasury Offset Program ("TOP"), as discussed in Astrue v. Ratliff, 532 U.S. 1192 (2010). If the Commissioner determines upon effectuation of this Order that Plaintiff's EAJA fees are not subject to any offset allowed under the TOP, the fees shall be delivered or otherwise transmitted to Plaintiff's counsel.

Accordingly, it is **ORDERED**:

- 1. The stipulated motion for attorney fees and expenses (Doc. No. 21) is **GRANTED**.
- 2. The Commissioner is directed to pay to Plaintiff as the prevailing party EAJA fees in the amount of \$7,500.00 in attorney fees and expenses. Unless the Department of Treasury determines that Plaintiff owes a federal debt, the government shall make payment of the EAJA fees to Plaintiff's counsel, Jonathan O. Peña of Peña & Bromberg, PLC, in accordance with Plaintiff's assignment of fees and subject to the terms of the stipulated motion.

June 3, 2024 Dated:

HELENA M. BARCH-KUCHTA

UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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