Szafrajda v Astrue Doc. 31

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

DAVID SZAFRAJDA,)	4:10CV3112
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	MEMORANDUM
)	AND ORDER
MICHAEL J. ASTRUE,)	
Commissioner of the)	
Social Security Administration,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

This matter is before the court upon Plaintiff's application for attorney fees pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2412. (Filing <u>27</u>.) Plaintiff requests fees in the total amount of \$4,479.74, which represents 25.6 hours of work by her attorneys at an average hourly rate of \$174.99. Defendant does not oppose Plaintiff's application. *See* filing 30.

The court has determined that Plaintiff was indeed the prevailing party in this action, as the Commissioner's decision was reversed and matter remanded for further proceedings; that the position of the Commissioner was not substantially justified; that the application for fees was filed in a timely fashion; and that Plaintiff's net worth did not exceed \$2 million when the action was filed. Plaintiff therefore is entitled to an award of reasonable attorney fees.

Accordingly,

¹ This average hourly rate equals the statutory maximum of \$125.00, adjusted for inflation since March 1996.

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Plaintiff's application for attorneys fees pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act (filing <u>27</u>) is granted.

2. By separate document, the court shall enter judgment for Plaintiff and against Defendant, providing that Plaintiff is awarded attorney fees of \$4,479.74.

December 6, 2011.

BY THE COURT:

Richard G. Kopf

Senior United States District Judge