

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO**

**CHRISTINE ETCITY,**

**Plaintiff,**

**vs.**

**Civil No.**

**16-1166 LH-SMV**

**NANCY A. BERRYHILL, Acting  
Commissioner of the Social Security  
Administration,**

**Defendant.**

**ORDER FOR THE AWARD OF ATTORNEY FEES PURSUANT  
TO THE EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT, 28 U.S.C. § 2412(D)**

**THIS MATTER** is before the Court on the Stipulated Motion for Attorney Fees Pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act filed on October 24, 2017. [Doc. 25]. The parties have stipulated to EAJA fees in the amount of \$4,800.00 for work performed in 2016 and 2017. The Court being otherwise fully advised in the premises, **FINDS** that the motion is well-taken and will be GRANTED.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT** the motion is **GRANTED**, and Plaintiff is awarded \$4,800.00 in attorney fees pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d). See Astrue v. Ratliff, 560 U.S. 586, 591-93 (2010) (EAJA fees are paid to the prevailing party, not the attorney).

Payment of this amount shall constitute a complete release from and bar to any and all claims Plaintiff may have relating to EAJA fees in connection with this action. The parties further agree that the EAJA award is without prejudice to Plaintiff's attorney's right to seek

attorney fees pursuant to Social Security Act § 206(b), 42 U.S.C. § 406(b), subject to the offset provisions of the EAJA. See 28 U.S.C. § 2412(c)(1) (2006).

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT**, if Plaintiff's counsel receives attorney fees under both the EAJA and 42 U.S.C. § 406(b) of the Social Security Act, Plaintiff's counsel shall refund the smaller award to Plaintiff pursuant to Weakley v. Bowen, 803 F.2d 575, 580 (10th Cir. 1986). **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

October 27, 2017



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THE HONORABLE STEPHAN M. VIDMAR  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Submitted By:

/s/Michael D. Armstrong

Michael D. Armstrong

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Approval On 10/24/17

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