

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO**

STEVEN MAES,

Plaintiff,

v.

Civ. No. 17-429 GJF

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

Defendant.

ORDER GRANTING ATTORNEY FEES

This matter is before the Court on Plaintiff's "Unopposed Motion for Attorney Fees Under the Equal Access to Justice Act" ("Motion") [ECF No. 21]. Having considered the record, relevant law, and the stipulations of the parties, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

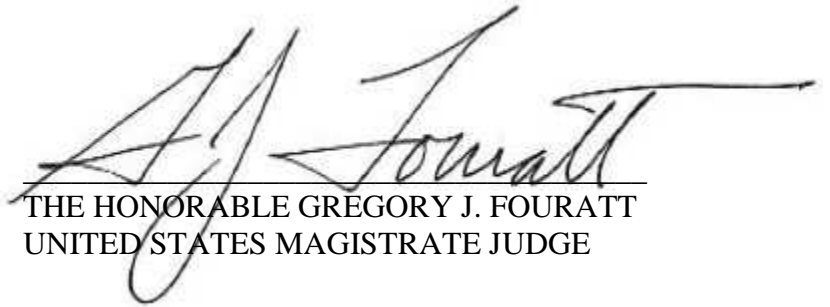
1. Defendant will pay Plaintiff a total of \$4,194.40 in fees and \$400.00 in costs pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act ("EAJA"), 28 U.S.C. § 2412 *et seq.* This amount is payable to Plaintiff, not directly to his counsel. *See Astrue v. Ratliff*, 560 U.S. 586, 591-93 (2010). Plaintiff's payment will be remitted to the office of his attorney, Michael Liebman.

2. Defendant's payment of this amount bars any and all claims Plaintiff may have relating to EAJA fees and expenses in connection with this action.

3. Defendant's payment of this amount is without prejudice to Plaintiff's counsel's right to seek attorney fees under section 406(b) of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 406(b), subject to the offset provisions of the EAJA.

4. 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.



THE HONORABLE GREGORY J. FOURATT
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE