IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

VETERANS LEGAL ADVOCACY GROUP, Petitioner,)))
٧.)
DENIS MCDONOUGH , Secretary of Veterans Affairs,)
Respondent.))

RESPONDENT'S UNOPPOSED MOTION FOR AN EXTENSION OF TIME TO RESPOND TO PETITIONER'S APPLICATION FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES UNDER EAJA UNTIL JANUARY 10, 2024

Vet.App. No. 20-8291

Pursuant to U.S. Vet. App. R. 26(b), Respondent, Denis McDonough, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, respectfully moves the Court for a 30-day extension of time within which to respond to Petitioner's Application for Attorneys' Fees Under EAJA. If not for this motion, the Secretary's response would be due on December 11, 2023.

The request for more time is being made because the undersigned counsel has been sick with the flu. Petitioner is not opposed to this motion.

The Secretary has previously been granted 30-days of extension time in the EAJA stage of this appeal. Petitioner has not sought or received any extension time in the EAJA stage of this appeal. On behalf of the Secretary, counsel expresses regret to the Court and Petitioner for any inconvenience caused by the delay in filing the Secretary's response. However, in view of the aforesaid circumstances, an extension of 30 days, until January 10, 2024, is requested.

WHEREFORE, Respondent Denis McDonough, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, respectfully moves the Court for an extension of time to file a response to Petitioner's Application for Attorney's fees, until January 10, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

RICHARD J. HIPOLIT Deputy General Counsel of

Veterans Programs

MARY ANN FLYNN Chief Counsel

<u>/s/ Melissa A. Timbers</u> **MELISSA A. TIMBERS** Deputy Chief Counsel Office of General Counsel (027P) U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs 810 Vermont Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20420 (202) 632-4712