

CHRISMA L. BROCK,)
Appellant,)
)
v.)
)
ROBERT A. MCDONALD,)
Secretary of Veterans Affairs,)
Appellee.)

**SECRETARY'S RESPONSE UNDER U.S. VET. APP. R. 39 TO APPELLANT'S
APPLICATION FOR ATTORNEY FEES AND EXPENSES**

Pursuant to U.S. Vet. App. Rule 39(b), Appellee, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, responds to Appellant's application for an award of attorney fees and expenses under the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA), 28 U.S.C. § 2412.

Appellant's EAJA application satisfies the jurisdictional requirements of the statute as set out by this Court. See *Bazalo v. Brown*, 9 Vet.App. 304, 308 (1996) (en banc). The Secretary further concedes that Appellant meets the three predicate findings for an EAJA award: (1) Appellant is a "prevailing party;" (2) the Secretary's position was not "substantially justified;" and (3) there are no "special circumstances" which would make an award unjust. 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d).

The Secretary, for the sole purpose of avoiding further litigation and the costs related thereto, does not contest the reasonableness of Appellant's attorney fees or expenses, in the instant case, under the current case law (see 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d)(1)(C)) and is prepared to make payment to Appellant and

his representative of record.¹ This concession, however, in no way denotes his position as to any issue or matter presented herein which may potentially affect the litigation or settlement of future applications for attorney fees and costs filed with this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2412.

CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, Appellee, Robert A. McDonald, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, respectfully responds to Appellant's application for the award of attorney fees and other expenses, and advises the Court that he does not contest an award in an amount deemed reasonable by the Court, up to \$8,245.53.

Respectfully submitted,

LEIGH A. BRADLEY
General Counsel

MARY ANN FLYNN
Chief Counsel

/s/ Richard A. Daley
RICHARD A. DALEY
Deputy Chief Counsel

/s/ Mark D. Gore
MARK D. GORE
Appellate Attorney
Office of the General Counsel (027i)
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20420
(202) 632-6935

¹ The undersigned has spoken with Appellant's counsel regarding certain concerns that the Secretary has with Appellant's application for fees and expenses. In light of these concerns, Appellant's counsel has agreed to reduce the amount sought to \$8,245.53.