

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR VETERANS CLAIMS**

REGINA M. PIRKL,	)	
	)	
Appellant,	)	
	)	
v.	)	Vet. App. No. 14-4303
	)	
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ROBERT L. WILKIE,	)	
Secretary of Veterans Affairs,	)	
	)	
Appellee.	)	

**APPELLEE’S MOTION FOR AN EXTENSION OF TIME  
TO RESPOND TO APPELLANT’S APPLICATION FOR ATTORNEY  
FEES AND EXPENSES**

Pursuant to U.S. Vet. App. R. 26 and 27, Appellee, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, respectfully moves the Court a 30-day extension of time within which to respond to Appellant’s application for attorney fees and expenses under the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA). If not for this motion, the Secretary’s response is due on or before February 19, 2019.

The additional time is needed due to significant workload and the need for supervisory review. The undersigned had, and continues to have, a high number of cases that require immediate attention. Moreover, in addition to regular workload, the undersigned recently prepared for, and participated in, oral argument before this Court in the appeal of *Ward v. Wilkie*, Vet. App. No. 16-2157

Neither party has received any extensions in this phase of the litigation thus far.

On behalf of the Secretary, the undersigned expresses his regret to the Court and Appellant for any inconvenience caused by the delay in filing the Secretary’s response. However, in view of the above, the Secretary

requests an additional 30 days to prepare and file his response to Appellant's application for attorney fees and expenses.

Counsel for Appellant was contacted for his position on this motion. However, at this time, his position is not known.

**WHEREFORE**, Appellee, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, respectfully moves the Court for a 30-day extension of time to file a response to Appellant's application for attorney fees and expenses until March 21, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

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