

**JOHN I. RUTCHICK,**  
Appellant,

V.

**ROBERT L. WILKIE,**  
Secretary of Veterans Affairs,  
Appellee.

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Vet.App. No. 19-3155

Pursuant to U.S. Vet. App. R. 26(b), 27, and 45(g), Appellee, Robert L. Wilkie, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, respectfully moves the Court for a forty-five day extension of time within which to respond to Appellant's Brief. If not for this motion, the Secretary's response would be due on January 7, 2020.

The request for more time is being made because of scheduled holiday leave, substantial workload, and to obtain supervisory review. Therefore, in order to allow the undersigned counsel sufficient time to provide a thoughtful and thorough response to Appellant's brief in this case, he respectfully requests a forty-five day extension.

Neither party has been granted any extension time thus far. On behalf of the Secretary, the undersigned expresses 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, an extension of forty-five days, until February 21, 2020, is requested.

Counsel for Appellant is unopposed to this motion.

**WHEREFORE**, Appellee, Robert L Wilkie, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, respectfully moves the Court for an extension of time to file a response to Appellant's Brief, until February 21, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

**WILLIAM A. HUDSON, JR.**  
Acting General Counsel

**MARY ANN FLYNN**  
Chief Counsel

/s/ Anna Whited  
**ANNA WHITED**  
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/s/ Nicholas R. Esterman  
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