

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

THOMAS S. PRATT,)	
)	
Appellant,)	
)	
v.)	Vet. App. No. 19-919 (E)
)	
)	
ROBERT L. WILKIE,)	
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(a), 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” that would make an award unjust. 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d).

Otherwise, for purposes of avoiding further litigation, the Secretary is not contesting the reasonableness of Appellant's attorney fees or expenses in the instant case under the current case law and is prepared to make payment to Appellant and the representative of record. The Secretary's concession here, however, in no way denotes the Secretary's position as to any issue or matter presented herein which may potentially affect the litigation or settlement of future applications for attorney fees and expenses filed with this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2412.

CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, Appellee 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 \$12,976.93.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM A. HUDSON, JR.
Principal Deputy General Counsel

MARY ANN FLYNN
Chief Counsel

/s/ Kenneth A. Walsh

KENNETH A. WALSH
Deputy Chief Counsel

/s/ Brent Bowker

BRENT BOWKER

Senior Appellate Attorney
Office of General Counsel (027C/J)
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20420
(202) 632-6909

Attorneys for Appellee
Secretary of Veterans Affairs