

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

<b>SHAWN P. LACEY,</b>	)	
	)	
Appellant,	)	
	)	
v.	)	Vet.App. No. 17-3296
	)	
<b>ROBERT L. WILKIE,</b>	)	
Secretary of Veterans Affairs,	)	
	)	
Appellee.	)	

**SECRETARY'S RESPONSE TO APPELLANT'S INITIAL  
AND SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATIONS FOR ATTORNEY  
FEES AND EXPENSES**

Pursuant to U.S. Vet. App. Rule 39(a)(1), Appellee, Robert L. Wilkie, Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Secretary), responds to Appellant's initial and supplemental applications for an award of attorney fees and expenses under the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA), 28 U.S.C. § 2412.

Appellant's initial and supplemental EAJA applications satisfy the jurisdictional requirements of the statute as set out by this court. *See Bazalo v. Brown*, 9 Vet.App. 304, 308 (1996) (en banc). Additionally, the Secretary concedes that Appellant has met 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)), as reflected by both the initial and supplemental EAJA applications, and is prepared to make payment to Appellant and his 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 costs filed with this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2412.

### **CONCLUSION**

**WHEREFORE**, Appellee, Robert L. Wilkie, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, respectfully responds to Appellant's initial and supplemental applications 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 \$32,762.62.<sup>1</sup>

Respectfully submitted,

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

**MARY ANN FLYNN**  
Chief Counsel

/s/ Edward V. Cassidy, Jr.  
**EDWARD V. CASSIDY, JR.**  
Deputy Chief Counsel

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<sup>1</sup> The Secretary notes that Appellant's initial application requested fees and expenses in the amount of \$35,666.33 and supplemental application requested fees in the amount of \$3,307.92, for a total request of \$39,974.25. However, the parties' discussions have led to an agreement on the total, lesser amount of \$32,762.62.

s/ Amanda M. Haddock

**AMANDA M. HADDOCK**

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