

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

CONLEY F. MONK, JR.,)	
)	
Appellant,)	
)	
v.)	
)	Vet. App. No. 19-0217(E)
ROBERT L. WILKIE)	
Secretary of Veterans Affairs,)	
)	
Appellee.)	

**SECRETARY'S RESPONSE UNDER U.S. VET. APP. R. 39(a)(1)
TO APPELLANT'S APPLICATION 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 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. 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d)(1)(B). 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)) 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 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 \$ 11,900.00.¹

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM A. HUDSON, JR.
Principal Deputy General Counsel

MARY ANN FLYNN
Chief Counsel

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

/s/ Michael G. Imber
MICHAEL G. IMBER
Appellate Attorney
Office of the General Counsel (027B)
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20420
(202) 632-6949

Attorneys for the Secretary
of Veterans Affairs

¹ On October 18, 2020, Appellant's counsel agreed to a reduced fee in the total amount of \$ 11,900.00. Therefore, the Secretary does not contest the Court's award of attorney fees not to exceed \$ 11,900.00.