IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

JAMES R. HEALEY,	)	
	)	
Appellant,	)	
	)	
v.	)	Vet. App. No. 18-6970 - EAJA
	)	
DENIS MCDONOUGH, Secretary of Veterans Affairs,	)	
	)	
Appellee.	)	

APPELLEE'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 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). Additionally, Appellee 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).

Appellee, 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 her

representative of record. Appellee's concession here, however, in no way denotes Appellee'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 **$22,509.93.**

Respectfully submitted,

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General Counsel

MARY ANN FLYNN
Chief Counsel

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