

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

LARRY S. HELMICK,	)	
Appellant,	)	
	)	
v.	)	Vet. App. No. 19-5290
	)	
DENIS MCDONOUGH,	)	
Secretary of Veterans Affairs,	)	
	)	
Appellee.	)	

**APPELLANT’S APPLICATION FOR AN AWARD OF REASONABLE  
ATTORNEY FEES AND EXPENSES UNDER 28 U.S.C. § 2412(D)**

Pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act (“EAJA”), 28 U.S.C. §2412(d), Appellant, Larry S. Helmick, moves this Court for an award of reasonable attorney fees and expenses. Appellant seeks an award in the amount of \$19,266.98 for litigating the merits of this appeal and drafting this petition. In support of this motion, Appellant submits that: (1) he is entitled to an award of attorney fees and expenses under EAJA, 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d); and, (2) an award of \$19,266.98 is reasonable and appropriate.

**PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

In 1980, Congress passed the EAJA in response to its concern that persons “may be deterred from seeking review of, or defending against, unreasonable governmental action because of the expense involved in securing the vindication of their rights.” Pub. L. No. 96-481, tit. II, §204(a), (c), 94 Stat. 2327, 2329 (1980); *Sullivan v. Hudson*, 109 S.Ct. 2248, 2253 (1989). As the Senate observed, in instances in which the cost of securing vindication exceeds the amount at stake, “it is more practical to endure an injustice than to contest it.” S. Rep. No. 96-253, 96<sup>th</sup> Cong., 1<sup>st</sup> Sess. 5 (1979). The purpose of the EAJA’s fee-shifting provisions is thus “to eliminate for the average person

the financial disincentive to challenge unreasonable government actions.” *Commissioner, I.N.S. v. Jean*, 110 S.Ct. 2316, 2321 (1990).

It has since become clear that the EAJA applies to proceedings in this Court. In the Federal Courts Administration Act of 1992, Congress amended section 2412(d)(2)(F) to add the United States Court of Veterans Appeals (now Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims) to the definition of Courts authorized to make awards under the EAJA. Pub. L. No. 102-572, tit. V § 506(b), 106 Stat. 4506, 4513 (1993) (found at 28 U.S.C. § 2412 note); S. Rep. No. 342, 102d Cong., 2d Sess. 39 (1992), [hereinafter “S. Rep”]]. *See Jones v. Principi*, 985 F.2d 582 (Fed. Cir. 1992) (vacating and remanding *Jones v. Derwinski*, in light of the Federal Courts Administration Act). In amending the EAJA to apply to appeals to this Court, Congress affirmed the Act’s objective of eliminating financial deterrents to defend against unreasonable government action, observing that “[v]eterans are exactly the type of individuals the statute was intended to help.” S. Rep. at 39.

It is also clear that the EAJA amendment applies in this case. The amendment applies, *inter alia*, “to any case pending before the United States Court of Veterans Appeals on the date of the enactment of this Act, to any appeal filed in that court on or after such date in the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.” Pub. L. No. 102-572, tit. V, §506(b), 106 Stat. 4506, 4513 (1992) (found at 28 U.S.C. §2412 note). The instant case was pending in the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims after October 29, 1992, when the EAJA amendment became effective.

## SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

This case involves the Board's decision dated April 9, 2019, to the extent it denied entitlement to additional accrued benefits based on special monthly pension with aid and attendance benefits due and unpaid to Appellant's mother at the time of her death.

In May 2021, the Court issued a panel decision that sets aside and remanded the above-noted claim. Specifically, the Court determined that the Board misinterpreted the law and misapplied it to the facts where it implicitly stated that Appellant did not bear his mother's medical expense in light of the Court's finding of the plain meaning of "bore the expense" in 38 U.S.C. § 5121(a)(6). The Court also held that the Board wrongly treated Appellant's reimbursement claim and his mother's pension claim as mutually exclusive and denied Appellant's reimbursement claim on that basis. Additionally, the Board failed to make necessary factual findings regarding the issues of Appellant's mother's medical expense and last sickness.

## ARGUMENT

### **I. APPELLANT IS ENTITLED TO AN AWARD OF ATTORNEY FEES AND EXPENSES UNDER EAJA, 28 U.S.C. § 2412(D).**

There are four statutory requirements that a party must satisfy to be eligible for an award of attorney's fees under EAJA, 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d). They are: (1) the party must have been a "prevailing party;" (2) the party must be eligible to receive an award under this subsection;" (3) the position of the United States must not have been "substantially justified;" and (4) there must be no special circumstances which would make an award unjust. If these requirements are met, the Court "shall award" reasonable fees and expenses. *Gavette v. Office of Personnel Management*, 808 F.2d 1456, 1466 (Fed. Cir. 1986) (en banc). As shown below, Appellant meets these requirements.

### ***A. Appellant is a Prevailing Party***

Generally, to be a prevailing party, a party must receive “at least some relief on the merits” and the relief must materially alter the legal relationship of the parties. *Higher Taste v. City of Tacoma*, 717 F.3d 712 (Fed. Cir. 2013) citing *Buckhannon Board & Care Home, Inc. v. West Virginia Department of Health & Human Res.*, 532 U.S. 598 (2001). More specifically, a party prevails with respect to the EAJA if they “succeed on any significant issue in the litigation which achieves some of the benefit the parties sought in bringing the suit.” *Hensley v. Eckhart*, 461 U.S. 424, 433 (1983) (citations omitted); *see also Sullivan v. Hudson*, 109 S. Ct. 2248, 255 (1989); *Texas State Teachers Ass’n v. Garland Indep. School Dist.*, 109 S. Ct. 1486, 1491-92 (1989). In making this inquiry “substance should prevail over form.” *Devine v. Sutermeister*, 733 F.2d 892 (Fed. Cir. 1984). In *Lematta v. Brown*, 8 Vet. App. 504 (1996), this Court held “[I]t is enough for the Court to make some ‘substantive determination in [the] appeal, based upon the record, the parties’ pleadings, and the Court’s precedent, that is favorable to the appellant.” *Id.* at 508 (quoting *Stillwell v. Brown*, 6 Vet. App. 291, 301 (1994)).

The Federal Circuit has issued several decisions relating to the attainment of prevailing party status under the EAJA. In *Vaughn v. Principi*, 336 F. 3d 1360 (Fed. Cir. 2003), the court held that a remand to an administrative agency, to consider the effects of legislation enacted while the case is on appeal does not constitute securing relief on the merits for prevailing party purposes. *Id.*, at 1366. There, the Court affirmed the CAVC’s findings that prevailing party status did not attach based on, *inter alia*, the catalyst theory. *Id.*, citing *Buckhannon Board & Care Home, Inc. v. West Virginia Department of Health & Human Res.* 532 U.S. 598 (2001)(Rejecting the catalyst theory as a basis for fee awards and holding that enforceable judgments on the merits and court-ordered consent decrees create the “material alteration of the legal relationship of the parties). Notably, that case involved a remand for re-adjudication solely in light of the enactment of the VCAA – as opposed to based on VA error. *See Vaughn v. Principi*, 15 Vet. App. at 280;

see also *Akers v. Sec’y of Veterans Affairs* 04-7132 (Fed. Cir. May 26, 2005) (affirming the CAVC determination that Appellant was not a prevailing party inasmuch as the Board decision on appeal was vacated and remanded as a result of a change in law subsequent to the Board’s decision and did not involve a direct finding by the Court on the merits or an order to do anything as a result of an error found either by the Court or the parties.)

In *Former Employees of Motorola Ceramic Products v. United States*, 336 F. 3d 1360 (Fed. Cir. 2003), the Federal Circuit addressed the meaning of “prevailing party” and appeared to clarify its decision in *Vaughn*. There, the court made clear, *inter alia*, that “where a plaintiff secures a remand requiring further agency proceedings because of alleged error by the agency, the plaintiff qualifies as a prevailing party [] without regard to the outcome of the agency proceedings where there has been no retention of jurisdiction by the court. . .” *Id.*, at 1360; see also *Rice Services, Ltd., v. United States*, 405 F.3d 1017 (Fed. Cir. 2005) (Acknowledging *Motorola* for the principle that a remand order to an administrative agency from a court proceeding constitutes the securing of relief on the merits sufficient to attain prevailing party status); *Kelly v. Nicholson*, 463 F.3d 1349 (Fed. Cir. 2006).

Most recently, the Federal Circuit in *Dover v. McDonald*, 818 F.3d 1316 (Fed. Cir. 2016), set out a three-part test “to determine a prevailing party status under the EAJA on administrative agency remands.” Under this three-part test, a party is a prevailing party if (1) the remand was granted based upon or triggered by administrative error, (2) the remanding court did not retain jurisdiction, and (3) the remand clearly orders further agency proceedings, which allows the party “the possibility of attaining a favorable merits determination.” *Blue v. Wilkie*, 30 Vet. App. 61 (2018), citing *Dover v. McDonald*, 818 F.3d 1316 (Fed. Cir. 2016). Therefore, by applying the three-part test from *Dover*, the court here should find that Appellant is a prevailing party.

In this case, unlike the facts in either *Vaughn* or *Akers*, *supra*, the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims issued a panel decision that sets aside and remanded the

Board's decision. Specifically, the Court determined that the Board misinterpreted the law and misapplied it to the facts where it implicitly stated that Appellant did not bear his mother's medical expense in light of the Court's finding of the plain meaning of "bore the expense" in 38 U.S.C. § 5121(a)(6). The Court also held that the Board wrongly treated Appellant's reimbursement claim and his mother's pension claim as mutually exclusive and denied Appellant's reimbursement claim on that basis. Additionally, the Board failed to make necessary factual findings regarding the issues of Appellant's mother's medical expense and last sickness.

***B. Appellant is a Person Eligible to Receive an Award Under 28 U.S.C. § 2412(2).***

In order to be eligible to file a petition for fees under 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d), a prevailing party must not be: (i) an individual whose net worth exceeded \$2,000,000.00 at the time the litigation began, nor (ii) a business entity whose net worth exceeded \$7,000,000.00 and which had more than 500 employees at the time the litigation began. 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d)(2)(B)(i), (ii).

Appellant had a net worth *under* \$2,000,000.00 on the date this action was commenced. (*See* Exhibit A, Certification of Net Worth). Moreover, Appellant was not a business entity. Therefore, Appellant is a person eligible to receive an award under the EAJA.

***C. The Position of the Government was not Substantially Justified.***

In order to be considered "substantially justified" under the EAJA, the government must show that its position was "justified to a degree that could satisfy a reasonable person," i.e., has a reasonable basis in both law and fact. *Pierce v. Underwood*, 108 S. Ct. 2541, 2549-50 (1988); *Beta Systems v. United States*, 866 F.2d 1404, 1406 (Fed. Cir. 1989). The burden is on the Secretary to demonstrate that his position was substantially justified. *Brewer v. American Battle Monument Comm'n*, 814 F.2d 1964, 1569 (Fed. Cir.

1987); *Gavette*, 808 F.2d at 1465-66; *Essex Electro Eng'rs v. United States*, 757 F.2d 247, 252 (Fed. Cir. 1985).

To determine whether the government's position was substantially justified, the Court is "instructed to look at the entirety of the government's conduct and make a judgment call whether the government's overall position has a reasonable basis both in law and fact." *Chiu v. United States*, 948 F.2d 711, 715 (Fed. Cir. 1991). The "overall" position is that taken by the government "both prior to and during litigation." *Id.* Thus, to prevail on "substantial justification" in this case, the government must demonstrate that the agency action leading to litigation, i.e. the denial of Appellant's claim, as well as its litigation position in this Court, were "overall reasonable."

This Court further explained substantial justification in *Moore v. Gober*, 10 Vet. App. 436 (1997). In *Moore*, the Court held that in order "[t]o determine whether the Secretary's position was 'reasonable' during the administrative proceedings, the Court looks to the relevant determinative circumstances, including the state of the law at the time of the BVA decision." *Id.* at 440 (citing *Bowyer v. Brown*, 7 Vet. App. 549, 552 (1995)).

In this case, the government's position leading up to, and throughout this litigation was not "substantially justified" where the Court issued a panel decision that sets aside and remanded the above-noted claim. Specifically, the Court determined that the Board misinterpreted the law and misapplied it to the facts where it implicitly stated that Appellant did not bear his mother's medical expense in light of the Court's finding of the plain meaning of "bore the expense" in 38 U.S.C. § 5121(a)(6). The Court also held that the Board wrongly treated Appellant's reimbursement claim and his mother's pension claim as mutually exclusive and denied Appellant's reimbursement claim on that basis. Additionally, the Board failed to make necessary factual findings regarding the issues of Appellant's mother's medical expense and last sickness.

***D. No Special Circumstances Make an Award Unjust on this Appeal.***

The Secretary does not meet the heavy burden of proving that “special circumstances make an award unjust.” 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d)(1)(A). *See Devine v. Sutermeister*, 733 F.2d 892, 895 (Fed. Cir. 1984); *Love v. Reilly*, 924 F.2d 1492, 1495 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1991). Courts narrowly construe the “special circumstances” exception so as not to interfere with the Congressional purpose for passing the EAJA, i.e., to insure that litigants have access to the courts when suing the Government. *See Martin v. Heckler*, 772 F.2d 1145, 1150 (11<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1985); *Taylor v. United States*, 815 F.2d 249, 253 (3d Cir. 1987). “[T]hat few courts apparently have relied upon this exception to EAJA awards in denying fee applications is evidence that the circumstances of a case will infrequently justify a denial of an award.” There is no reason or special circumstance to deny this Fee Petition.

**II. THE COURT SHOULD AWARD APPELLANT REASONABLE FEES AND EXPENSES OF \$19,266.98.**

The EAJA provides that a court “shall” award “fees and other expenses” when the other prerequisites of the statute have been met. 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d)(1)(A). The statute defines “fees and other expenses” to include reasonable attorney fees.” 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d)(2)(A).

When Congress has authorized the award of “reasonable” attorney fees, the amount to be awarded is based upon “the number of hours expended on the litigation multiplied by a reasonable hourly rate.” *See Hensley*, 461 U.S. at 433; *National Ass’n of Concerned Veterans v. Secretary of Defense*, 675 F.2d 1319, 1325 (D.C. Cir. 1982).

***A. Hours Reasonably Expended***

As the Declaration of Glenn R. Bergmann, Esq. (attached hereto as Exhibit B) documents, in the exercise of sound billing judgment, Appellant’s counsel is not asking for payment for time spent on administrative matters such as copying or filing, nor for



communications (either written or oral) among co-counsel. Moreover, being mindful of the reasonableness requirement, Appellant is not requesting compensation for **28.4 hours – totaling \$5,829.34 --** of billable attorney time. (See Exhibit B). Appellant’s counsel submits that a reasonable attorney, exercising sound billing judgment, would charge for time spent on all matters included in Exhibit B – this may have included limited time expended for “peer review” where necessary to ensure that any briefs filed contained comprehensive and complete arguments pertinent to the underlying appeal. To the extent “peer review” time was expended, such would have involved senior attorneys and would have taken the place of “supervisory review” of a substantive pleading.

### ***B. Reasonable Hourly Rate***

Under the EAJA, the amount of fees awarded “shall be based upon the prevailing market rates for the kind and quality of services furnished” but “shall not be awarded in excess of \$125.00 per hour unless the Court determines that an increase in the cost of living” is necessary. Appellant’s counsel, Glenn R. Bergmann, avers that the usual and customary fee for working on similar matters is between \$175.00 and \$250.00 per hour.

1. The EAJA Statutory Cap of \$125.00 Should be Adjusted Upward to Reflect the Increase in the Cost of Living.

Under 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d)(2)(A)(ii), attorneys may demonstrate that an increase in the cost of living justifies an increase in the \$125.00 per hour statutory cap. See *Pierce v. Underwood*, 108 S. Ct. 2541, 2553 (1988) (referring to a cap of \$75.00 per hour “adjusted for inflation.”); *Philips v. General Serv. Admin.*, 924 F.2d 1577, 1583 (Fed. Cir. 1991). An increase for cost of living is generally allowed. *Johnston v. Sullivan*, 919 F.2d 503, 508-10 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1990); *Animal Lovers Volunteer Ass’n, inc. v. Carlucci*, 867 F.2d 1224, 1227 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1989); *Coup v. Heckler*, 839 F.2d 313, 320 (3d Cir. 1987); *Baker v. Brown*, 839 F.2d 1075 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1988) (allowed except in unusual circumstances).

This Court in *Elczyn v. Brown*, 7 Vet. App. 170 (1994), decided for the first time that an Appellant's attorney can petition for a fee in excess of the then statutory cap based upon the Consumer Price Index as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. *Id.* at 179-181. This Court further directed attorneys filing for an increased fee based upon the CPI to choose a mid-point in the litigation to establish the appropriate date for calculating the cost of living increase. *Id.* at 181. In this case, the Court issued a panel decision in May 2021. Appellant selects May 2020, as the date for calculating the CPI increase. *See Elczyn v. Brown*, 7 Vet. App. 170, 181 (1994).

Appellant submits that the Court should increase the \$125.00 per hour cap by the general inflationary index in the cost of living since March of 1996, as reflected by the CPI-U for the South Region.<sup>1</sup> According to the most recent report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the CPI-U for the South Region – Size Class A – rose 65.48% between March 1996, and May 2020. Applying the increase in the CPI to the statutory rate, Appellant's counsel should be compensated at the rate of \$206.86 per hour. This rate was calculated by subtracting the CPI-U for May 2020 (250.717) from that of March 1996 (151.5), and dividing the result (99.21) by the CPI-U for March 1996. The result (.6548), representing the increase between March 1996 and May 2020 was then multiplied by the statutory rate (\$125.00), demonstrating an increase of \$81.86, which was added to the \$125.00 statutory rate to arrive at the inflation-adjusted rate of \$206.86 per hour.

In addition, Appellant avers that paralegals should be compensated at a rate of \$150.00 per hour, where the prevailing market rate for the work done by paralegals was at least \$173.00 from June 1, 2019, to May 31, 2020, and at least \$180.00 from June 1,

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<sup>1</sup> This Court determined that the local CPI-U should be used to calculate the cost-of-living increase, when available, and that when not available, the regional CPI-U should be used. *Mannino v. West*, 12 Vet. App. 242 (1999). Based upon the size/population density in the Baltimore/Washington area, Appellant's counsel has selected "Size Class A" for the South Region. "Size Class A" refers to an area population of >1.5 mil., which is consistent with the local area population.

2020, to the present according to the most recent paralegals fees matrix prepared by the Civil Division of the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia (USAO).<sup>2</sup>

Considering the foregoing, Appellant's counsel requests a fee of \$19,237.98 based upon 93.0 hours of attorney work and 0.0 hours of paralegal work; and \$29.00 in expenses (See exhibit B) for a total of \$19,266.98.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Glenn R. Bergmann  
**GLENN R. BERGMANN, ESQ.**  
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7920 Norfolk Ave. Suite 700  
Bethesda, Maryland 20814  
(301) 986-0841

Counsel for Appellant

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<sup>2</sup> See USAO Attorney's Fees Matrix, 2015-2020 ("The methodology used to compute the rates in this matrix replaces that used prior to 2015, which started with the matrix of hourly rates developed in *Laffey v. Northwest Airlines, Inc.*, 572 F. Supp. 354 (D.D.C. 1983), aff'd in part, rev'd in part on other grounds, 746 F.2d 4 (D.C. Cir. 1984), cert. denied, 472 U.S. 1021 (1985), and then adjusted those rates based on the CPI-U for the Washington-Baltimore ... area."); see also *Sandoval v. Brown*, 9 Vet. App. 177, 181 (1996); *Richlin Sec. Serv. Co. v. Chertoff*, 553 U.S. 571 (2008).

Exhibit A

**CERTIFICATE OF NET WORTH**

I, Glenn R. Bergmann, of Bethesda, Maryland, hereby declare that at no time during the course of this appeal to the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, did Appellant, Larry S. Helmick, have a net worth of, or in excess of, \$2,000,000.00.

/s/ Glenn R. Bergmann  
Glenn R. Bergmann

Exhibit B

**DECLARATION OF APPELLANT'S COUNSEL,**  
**GLENN R. BERGMANN**

In support of Appellant's application for attorney's fees under 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d), I Glenn R. Bergmann hereby declare as follows:

1. I am an attorney licensed to practice in the State of Maryland, and am admitted to practice before the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.
2. I have represented Larry S. Helmick in Helmick v. McDonough, Vet. App. No. 19-5290 without charge.
3. In August 2021 I visited the website maintained by the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics and ascertained the CPI for the South Region rose by 99.21 between March 1996, when the EAJA was amended, and May 2020.
4. In August 2021 I visited the website maintained by USAO and determined that market rate for paralegals was \$173.00 from June 1, 2019, to May 31, 2020, and \$180.00 from June 1, 2020, to the present.

The following is a statement of the exact service rendered and expenses incurred in the representation of the Appellant. In addition to Glenn Bergmann, Esq. (GRB), attorneys who may have worked on this appeal include: Joseph Moore (JRM); Tom Polseno (TMP); Daniel Wedemeyer (DDW); Sun H. Choi (SHC); Bryan Anderson (BBA); Steven Spitzer (SMS); Greta Allardyce (GRA); David Ames (DSA); Chitakone Arounlangsy (CQA); Kelsey Binder (KLB); Brian Blake (BJB); Sarah Burkey (SAB); Chanel Chasanov (CGC); Andrew Cho (AHC); Ken Ciardiello (KMC); Alan Coleman (ARC); Steven Cook (SJC); Simone Coyle (SKC); Corey Creek (JCC); Ceyla Esendemir (CEE); Michael Garza (MAG); Caroline Greene (CJG); Tiffany Guglielmetti (TMG); H. Ritter Haaga (HRH); Brandon Hairston (BAH); Melissa Hendricks (MAH); Jordan Hensley (JLH); Rachel Jiang (RBJ); John Juergensen (JLJ); Lila Kanovsky (MLK); Sharon Kim (SRK); Joshua Leach (JDL); Ziadanne Lewis (ZPL); Andrea MacDonald (AMM); Robert

Molson (RJM); Monica Moyo (MPM); Jonathan Murphy (JCM); Joseph Murphy (JLM); Christopher Parker (CJP); Kristin Parker-Fahey (KPF); Ryan Pau (RSP); Matthew Peterson (MFP); Justin Pollard (JSP); Homer Richards (HRR); James Ridgway (JDR); Samuel Rouleau (SJR); Ilan Roth (ILR); Scott Schulman (SAS); Kim Sheffield (KLS); Ronan Slater (RRS); Nicole Steers (NMS); Jenny Tang (JJT); Alpha Taylor (AST); Alex Tway (ACT); Srimukhi Vunnam (SRV); Max Yarus (MWY); and Hannah Youh (HCY). All are members of the Court's bar. Additionally, (P)aralegals who may have worked on this appeal include Elizabeth Green (P) (ERG); Taciana Melanson (P) (TSM); and Luis Zelaya (P) (LDZ).

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**Timesheet: Larry S. Helmick (19-5290)**

**August 20, 2021**

*Legal Services*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description of Services</b>	<b>Total Hours (N/C) Billed</b>		
5/28/19	BVA decision case screen (JJT/DSA)	.7		.7
7/29	T/C to client sign up (RHJ)	.2	(.2)	.0
	Correspondence to veteran w/ attachments	.1		.1
9/26	Prepare notice of appearance as co-counsel (AHC)	.1		.1
9/27	Prepare new client correspondence outlining appellate process w/ attachments (HRH/GB)	.2		.2
9/30	Review VA notice of appearance (AHC)	.1		.1
10/7	Review RBA filing notice (AHC)	.1		.1
10/10	Receive RBA CD (298 pages) (LML)	.2	(.2)	.0
10/27	E-corres to and from VA re: our extension (AHC)	.2	(.2)	.0
10/28	Prepare motion for extension (AHC)	.1	(.1)	.0
	Review Court order granting our extension (AHC)	.1	(.1)	.0
11/15	RBA page-by-page review for legibility/completeness pursuant to R. 10; confirmed accuracy of all evidence/documents relied upon in BVA decision; determined relevance of incomplete/illegible documents identified in review, 1-298 (BJB)	1.1	(.3)	.8
	Commence report re: RBA completeness/legibility (BJB)	.2		.2
11/18	Complete report re: RBA completeness/legibility; e-corres re: RBA review (BJB)	.1		.1
12/12	Prepare statement accepting RBA (AHC)	.1		.1
12/16	Review notice to file brief (AHC)	.1		.1

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description of Services</b>	<b>Total Hours (N/C)</b>		<b>Billed</b>
2/11/20	RBA merits review (ignoring illegible / incomplete documents previously deemed not relevant at R. 10) in preparation for drafting Rule 33 memo identifying potential bases for alternative resolution, taking notes, 298-1 (AHC)	2.1	(.5)	1.6
	Draft Rule 33 memo; identifying errors for alternative resolution consideration; lexis research DIC, pension, 3.272, 3.1000; draft memo accordingly re: 3.272(b) and DIC/pension issue, Stegall arg (AHC)	3.2		3.2
	Draft assessment re: case goals/merits (AHC)	.3		.3
2/25	Revise Rule 33 memo, adding citations to RBA & authorities where necessary; prepare R33 Certificate of Service (AHC)	.3		.3
	Create abstract RBA for CLS review (AHC)	.1	(.1)	.0
	E-corres to VA with R.33 memo (AHC)	.1		.1
3/10	Review litigation file inc. Rule 33 memo in preparation for CLS conference (AHC)	.3		.3
	Participate in CLS conference (AHC)	.1		.1
	Prepare CLS conference notes for file (AHC)	.2		.2
	Review CLS conference update re: brief (AHC)	.1	(.1)	.0
4/9	E-corres to and from VA re: our extension (AHC)	.2	(.2)	.0
	Prepare motion for extension (AHC)	.1	(.1)	.0
	Review Court order granting our extension (AHC)	.1	(.1)	.0
5/11	Draft principal brief w/ nature of case / summary of issues, statement of relevant facts & procedural history; draft nature of cause, SOI, facts, and proc hist (AHC)	2.1		2.1
	Draft principal brief; draft arg re: add'l accrued benefits, section 3.272, Miller and implicit credibility finding, and failure to address favorable evidence (AHC)	3.4		3.4
5/12	Draft principal brief; complete drafting 3.272 arg; draft stegall arg re: noncompliance with August 2018 JMR and lack of RvB re: substantial compliance (AHC)	1.2		1.2
5/14	E-corres to VA re: new arguments in brief for possible alt res purposes (AHC)	.2		.2
5/15	Draft principal brief; Adding in RvB arguments re: medical expense report and Bernard violation/fair process, lexis research re: Smith (AHC)	2.3		2.3



<b>Date</b>	<b>Description of Services</b>	<b>Total Hours (N/C) Billed</b>		
5/21	Supervisory review of draft principal brief; review related materials & identify add'l brief content (DDW)	3.0	(1.0)	2.0
	Revise principal brief; revise per DW supervisory feedback, adding content to facts and RBA citations as necessary, (AHC)	1.4		1.4
5/26	Prepare table of authorities and table of contents for principal brief (P) (ERG)	1.0	(1.0)	.0
	Final review & revision of principal brief for filing (AHC)	.3		.3
5/27	Correspondence to client with attached principal brief	.1		.1
7/21	E-corres to and from VA VA req br ext (AHC)	.2		.2
	Review mtn filed bt VA (AHC)	.1		.1
	Review Court order (AHC)	.1		.1
9/10	Review notice of Secretary's brief (AHC)	.1	(.1)	.0
9/24	E-corres to and from VA re: our extension (AHC)	.2	(.2)	.0
	Prepare motion for extension (AHC)	.1	(.1)	.0
	Review Court order granting our extension (AHC)	.1	(.1)	.0
11/1	Review litigation file inc. briefs (AHC)	1.0		1.0
	Draft reply brief; Draft response to medical expense report argument, and "plausible basis"/prejudice burden (AHC)	2.8		2.8
11/2	Draft reply brief; Draft response to section 3.272(b) and whether reasonably raised by record; draft response to Stegall argument; begin drafting fair process argument response (AHC)	3.5		3.5
	Draft reply brief; complete response to fair process/Bernard issue, addressing SOC and SSOC raised by Sec (AHC)	.9		.9
11/6	Supervisory review of draft reply brief; review related materials & identify add'l brief content (DDW)	2.8	(1.3)	1.5
11/9	Supervisory review of draft reply brief; review related materials & identify add'l brief content (DDW)	.8	(.8)	.0
	Revise reply brief; review DW supervisory feedback and revise accordingly (AHC)	1.9		1.9
	Supervisory review of draft reply brief; review related materials & identify add'l brief content (DDW)	.7	(.7)	.0
	Prepare table of authorities and table of contents for reply brief (AHC)	.6	(.6)	.0
	Final review & revision of reply brief for filing (AHC)	.4		.4

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description of Services</b>	<b>Total Hours (N/C)</b>	<b>Billed</b>
11/10	Correspondence to client with attached reply brief	.1	.1
11/23	Review ROP filing notice (AHC)	.1	.1
11/25	Review ROP for compliance with Rule 28 and note findings (KPF)	.8	.8
12/2	Prepare statement accepting ROP (AHC)	.1	.1
12/3	Review Judge assignment (AHC)	.1	(.1) .0
1/21/21	E-corres to client update (AHC)	.1	.1
	E-corres from client responding (AHC)	.1	.1
2/2	Review Court order panel order (AHC)	.1	.1
2/8	Review Court order setting oral arg date (AHC)	.1	.1
3/15	Review lit file, incl. all briefs, to assess issues/args in prep for oral arg (AHC)	2.5	2.5
3/16	Prepare notice of appearance as co-counsel (DDW)	.1	.1
	Review case merits and discuss oral arg prep strategy in tc w/ managing atty; watch Cox v. McDonough to learn oral argument structure (AHC)	2.3	(2.3) .0
	E-corres to client update re oral arg (AHC)	.1	.1
3/17	Review lexis research re: 3.272 and 3.1000; prepare for oral argument (AHC)	2.6	(1.0) 1.6
3/21	Review add'l research re: pertinent statutes and regs, 1503, 5121, 1521, 3.278 and lexis research re: exclusion vs deduction; prepare for oral argument (AHC)	2.1	2.1
3/22	Review briefs in McMahon to research add'l issues re: accrued benefits and living trusts; prepare for oral argument (AHC)	3.4	3.4
	Review continue outlining args; lexis research re: 3.1000 and M21-1 provisions re: bearing expenses vs. payment (AHC)	.7	.7
3/24	Review lit file and case notes; discuss issues/strategy w/ supervisor in tc (AHC)	1.0	(.5) .5
3/25	Review prior oral arg dockets re: mtn for clarification language (AHC)	.3	(.3) .0
	Draft draft mtn to clarify oral arg issues (AHC)	.2	(.2) .0
	Supervisory review of motion to clarify oral arg issues (TMP)	.2	(.2) .0
	E-corres to and from VA req position on mtn; Sec. unopposed (AHC)	.2	(.2) .0
	Revise revise mtn w/ Sec. position and file (AHC)	.1	(.1) .0

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description of Services</b>	<b>Total Hours (N/C) Billed</b>		
3/25	Review research re: legislative and regulatory history of 5121, 3.1000, 3.272; review VA notice of proposed rulemakings and Cong. Committee reports; lexis research re: 5121, Bonney; prepare for oral argument (AHC)	3.2	(.5)	2.7
3/26	Review add'l oral args; draft intro statement for oral arg; begin drafting discussion for args re: medical expense report and 3.272 (AHC)	2.8	(.5)	2.3
3/29	Review complete drafting discussion/outline for medical expense report and 3.272; lexis research re: JMR arg (Stegall, Mathews, Forcier); complete drafting outline of Stegall arg; begin research re: fair process; prepare for oral argument (AHC)	3.5	(.5)	3.0
	Review draft oral arg outline for fair process arg; review/recite entire outline to determine compliance with time limitations and edit accordingly; lexis research re: fair process issue and vacated JMR; ; prepare for oral argument (AHC)	2.9		2.9
3/30	Review tc w/ DW re: oral arg moot court prep; discuss add'l issues/potential questions by Ct.; prepare for oral argument (AHC)	1.0	(.5)	.5
	Review litigation file inc. briefs in prep to participate in moot court (DDW)	.6	(.6)	.0
	Participate in moot court (DDW)	1.5		1.5
	Participate in moot court; discuss fact/issues w/ participants afterwards in anticipation of questions to be asked by judges (AHC)	1.5		1.5
	Review briefs and record in preparation for moot court (DSA)	1.8	(1.8)	.0
	Participate in moot court (DSA)	1.5		1.5
	Review briefs and record in preparation for moot court (MLK)	3.5	(3.5)	.0
	Participate in moot court (MLK)	1.5		1.5
4/1	Review prepare for oral argument; add'; lexis research re 5121 history, Bonny (AHC)	2.4		2.4
4/5	Review continue statutory research re: 5121; research 1503; reg research re 3.272 and 3.1000; lexis research re: Bonny, Morris, Sheets, Zevalkink (AHC)	3.5	(.5)	3.0

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description of Services</b>	<b>Total Hours (N/C) Billed</b>	
4/5	Review complete lexis research re pertinent case law; research OGC prec. Ops; update argument outline (AHC)	2.3	2.3
4/6	Prepare for and participate in oral argument moot (SMS)	2.4	(1.0) 1.4
	Participate in moot court (DDW)	1.4	1.4
	Review case materials & participate in moot court as judge (TMP)	2.8	(1.4) 1.4
	Review tc w/ DW re: moot court observations/notes; review notes in preparation for second moot; participate in second moot (AHC)	2.2	(.5) 1.7
4/11	Review lexis research re: fair process issue; review moot court notes and recording of second moot; begin making edits to argument outline accordingly (AHC)	2.1	2.1
4/12	Review zoom call w/ managing attys to test camera set-up; continue editing argument outline and reviewing materials (AHC)	3.2	(.5) 2.7
4/13	Review notes and outline; discuss living trust issue and rebuttal strategy with managing atty; lexis research re: Sheppard and whether it impacts fair process argument (AHC)	3.4	(.5) 2.9
	Review final review of notes, argument outline for oral arg prep; review all briefs to outline potential rebuttal points; orally rehearse arguments for practice and to time length of arguments (AHC)	2.5	(.5) 2.0
4/14	Participate in pre-oral argument Zoom session (DDW)	.5	(.5) .0
	Participate in oral argument as 2d chair (DDW)	1.2	(1.2) .0
	Participate in pre-oral arg Zoom and oral argument (AHC)	1.7	1.7
5/25	Review Panel dec'n (AHC)	.2	.2
5/28	Review panel dec.; prepare memo summarizing outcome and consideration of R.35 (AHC)	.3	.3
	E-corres to client re: dec'n update (AHC)	.1	.1
6/1	Prepare client memory drive with C-file	.1	(.1) .0
6/4	Commence client correspondence re: case disposition and next steps (KPF)	2.6	2.6
6/15	T/c to client re: case disposition, next steps (KPF)	.3	.3
6/16	Complete client correspondence re: case disposition and next steps (JLM)	.2	.2
8/17	Review mandate	.1	.1

Date	Description of Services	Total Hours (N/C) Billed		
8/20	Compile time sheet (P) (LDZ)	.3	(.3)	.0
	Prepare EAJA application (P) (LDZ)	.5	(.5)	.0
	Supervisory review of EAJA application (SRK)	.2		.2
	<b>Total Services Rendered</b>	<b><u>121.4</u></b>	<b>hrs</b>	<b><u>25,067.32</u></b>
	<b>Total Services Not Charged</b>	<b><u>(-28.4)</u></b>	<b>hrs</b>	<b><u>(-5,829.34)</u></b>
	Total Charged Attorney Services	<u>93.0</u>	hrs	<u>19,237.98</u>
	Total Charged Paralegal Services	<u>0.0</u>	hrs	<u>0.00</u>
	<b>Total Services Charged</b>	<b><u>93.0</u></b>	<b>hrs</b>	<b><u>19,237.98</u></b>
	<b>Expenses</b>			
	Standard Mail Rate	0.55		09/27/19
	Priority Mail	7.75		05/27/20
	Priority Mail	7.75		11/10/20
	Client Memory Drive	5.00		06/01/21
	Priority Mail	7.95		06/16/21
	Total Expenses	29.00		29.00
	<b>Total current services rendered plus expenses</b>			<b><u>\$19,266.98</u></b>

**I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

/s/Glenn R. Bergmann August 20, 2021  
**Glenn R. Bergmann**     **Date**