

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

<b>STEPHANIE L. WATKINS,</b>	)	
	)	
Appellant,	)	
	)	
v.	)	Vet. App. No. 20-5612
	)	
<b>DENIS MCDONOUGH,</b>	)	
Secretary of Veterans Affairs,	)	
	)	
Appellee.	)	

**APPELLEE’S UNOPPOSED MOTION TO RESCHEDULE ORAL ARGUMENT  
CURRENTLY SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 9, 2022**

Pursuant to U.S. Vet. App. Rule 27, Appellee, Denis McDonough, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, respectfully moves this Court to reschedule oral argument, which is currently scheduled for February 9, 2022.

As grounds for this motion, the undersigned informs the Court that Sarah W. Fusina, Deputy Chief Counsel and Second Chair on this matter, will be unavailable on the currently scheduled date due to previously scheduled international travel. The undersigned counsel and Ms. Fusina have been the primary representatives for the Secretary in this case. Given the longevity of the matter and complexity of the issues in this case, the Secretary believes the Court will be better served by hearing from Counsel familiar with the matter.

The undersigned contacted Counsel for Appellant, Gideon J. Miller, and he has consented to both the filing of this motion and the rescheduling of the oral argument for the reasons announced above. To aid the Court in selecting a new

date, the parties confirmed their availability on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, Monday, February 7, 2022, or any date between March 7, 2022, and March 15, 2022. While Counsel for Appellant expressed preference for the new oral argument date to be no later than March 15, 2022, the parties also acknowledge the Court's busy schedule, and thus, respectfully defer to the panel for the selection of the new oral argument reschedule date, including if it occurs after March 15, 2022.

Counsel for the Appellee sincerely apologizes to the Court for any inconvenience caused by this request.

**WHEREFORE**, the Secretary respectfully moves the Court to grant this motion to reschedule oral argument, which is currently scheduled for February 9, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

**RICHARD G. SAUBER**  
General Counsel

**MARY ANN FLYNN**  
Chief Counsel

/s/ Sarah W. Fusina  
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/s/ Omar Yousaf  
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