

WALTER G. LONG,)
Appellant,)
)
v.) Vet. App. No. 16-1537
)
DENIS MCDONOUGH,)
Secretary of Veterans Affairs,)
Appellee.)

Pursuant to U.S. Vet. App. R. 26(b), 27, and 45(g), the Secretary respectfully moves the Court for a 45-day extension of time, until March 27, 2023, to respond to Appellant's Application for an Award of Attorneys Fees and Expenses Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d) (Application). As grounds therefore, the undersigned counsel states that the lead counsel in this case is presently out on paternity leave and will return after the response would otherwise be due.

In compliance with Rule 26, the Secretary states: his response is due to be filed on or before February 10, 2023, and neither party has received any extensions during the fees portion of this case. Appellant's counsel is unopposed to this motion.

WHEREFORE, the Secretary respectfully requests that the Court grant the Secretary's motion for an extension of time, until March 27, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

RICHARD J. HIPOLIT

Deputy General Counsel
Veterans Programs

MARY ANN FLYNN

Chief Counsel

/s/ Sarah W. Fusina

SARAH W. FUSINA

Deputy Chief Counsel
Office of the General Counsel (027H)
U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20420
(202) 632-4325