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7 Attorney for Plaintiff  
8 ABEL LUNA VALDEZ

9 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
10 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
11 SACRAMENTO DIVISION

12 ABEL LUNA VALDEZ,

13 Plaintiff,

14 v.

15 FRANK BISIGNANO,  
16 Commissioner of Social Security,

17 Defendant.

Case No. 2:24-cv-01442-CKD

STIPULATION FOR THE AWARD AND  
PAYMENT OF ATTORNEY FEES AND  
EXPENSES PURSUANT TO THE  
EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT;  
ORDER

18 IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED by and between the parties through their  
19 undersigned counsel, subject to the approval of the Court, that Plaintiff be awarded  
20 attorney fees and expenses in the amount of \$8,700.00, under the Equal Access to  
21 Justice Act (EAJA), 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d), and no costs under 28 U.S.C. § 1920. This  
22 amount represents compensation for all legal services rendered on behalf of Plaintiff by  
23 counsel in connection with this civil action, in accordance with 28 U.S.C. §§ 2412(d),  
24 1920.  
25

26 The parties stipulate that the position of the United States was not substantially  
27 justified in this case, and therefore, Plaintiff is entitled to attorney fees pursuant to  
28 EAJA.

1 After the Court issues an order for EAJA fees to Plaintiff, the government will  
2 consider the matter of Plaintiff's assignment of EAJA fees to counsel. Pursuant to  
3 *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 560 U.S. 586, 598, 130 S.Ct. 2521, 177 L.Ed.2d 91 (2010), the ability  
4 to honor the assignment will depend on whether the fees are subject to any offset  
5 allowed under the United States Department of the Treasury's Offset Program. After  
6 the order for EAJA fees is entered, the government will determine whether they are  
7 subject to any offset.

8 Fees shall be made payable to Plaintiff, but if the Department of the Treasury  
9 determines that Plaintiff does not owe a federal debt, then the government shall cause  
10 the payment of fees, expenses and costs to be made directly to Plaintiff's counsel,  
11 Francesco Benavides, pursuant to the assignment executed by Plaintiff.

12 Payments may be made by electronic funds transfer (EFT) or by check.

13 This stipulation constitutes a compromise settlement of Plaintiff's request for  
14 EAJA attorney fees and does not constitute an admission of liability on the part of  
15 Defendant under the EAJA or otherwise. Payment of the agreed amount shall  
16 constitute a complete release from, and bar to, any and all claims that Plaintiff and/or  
17 Francesco Benavides, including the Law Offices of Francesco Benavides, may have  
18 relating to EAJA attorney fees in connection with this action.

19 This award is without prejudice to the rights of Francesco Benavides to seek  
20 Social Security Act attorney fees under 42 U.S.C. § 406(b), subject to the savings  
21 clause provisions of the EAJA.  
22

23 Respectfully submitted,

24  
25 Dated: November 3, 2025

Law Offices of Francesco Benavides

26 By: /s/ Francesco Benavides  
27 FRANCESCO P. BENAVIDES  
28 Attorney for Plaintiff

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Dated: November 3, 2025

PHILLIP A. TALBERT  
United States Attorney  
MATHEW W. PILE  
Head of Program Litigation 1  
Social Security Administration

By: Lillian Lee\*  
LILLIAN LEE  
Special Assistant U.S. Attorney  
Attorneys for Defendant  
(\*Permission to use electronic signature  
obtained via email on November 3, 2025).

**ORDER**

1  
2 Based upon the parties' Stipulation for the Award and Payment of Equal Access  
3 to Justice Act Fees and Expenses, **IT IS ORDERED** that fees and expenses in the  
4 amount of \$8,700.00 as authorized by 28 U.S.C. § 2412, and no costs under 28 U.S.C.  
5 § 1920, be awarded subject to the terms of the Stipulation.  
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9 DATE: November 4, 2025

/s/ Daniel J. Calabretta  
10 HON. DANIEL J. CALABRETTA  
11 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
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