

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
TAMPA DIVISION

TRACY SONOGA,
Plaintiff,

v.

Case No. 8:23-cv-2257-KKM-SPF

COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL
SECURITY,

Defendant.

ORDER

On August 12, 2024, the United States Magistrate Judge entered a Report and Recommendation (Doc. 30), recommending that Plaintiff Tracy Sonoga's Unopposed Motion for an Award of Attorney's Fees and Costs under the Equal Access to Justice Act (Doc. 29) be granted. The fourteen-day deadline to object to the Magistrate Judge's Report and Recommendation has passed without either party lodging an objection. Considering the record, the Court adopts the Report and Recommendation for the reasons stated therein and grants Sonoga's motion.

After conducting a careful and complete review of the findings and recommendations, a district judge may accept, reject, or modify a magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). If a party files a timely and specific objection

to a finding of fact by a magistrate judge, the district court must conduct a de novo review with respect to that factual issue. *Stokes v. Singletary*, 952 F.2d 1567, 1576 (11th Cir. 1992). The district court reviews legal conclusions de novo, even in the absence of an objection. *See Cooper-Houston v. S. Ry. Co.*, 37 F.3d 603, 604 (11th Cir. 1994); *Ashworth v. Glades Cnty. Bd. of Cnty. Comm'rs*, 379 F. Supp. 3d 1244, 1246 (M.D. Fla. 2019).

In the absence of any objection and after reviewing the factual allegations and legal conclusions, the Court adopts the Report and Recommendation. Sonoga's motion is unopposed, and her request for \$1,394.33 in fees and \$400.00 in filing costs is reasonable under the circumstances.

Accordingly, it is **ORDERED**:

1. The Magistrate Judge's Report and Recommendation (Doc. 30) is **ADOPTED** and made a part of this Order for all purposes.
2. Sonoga's Unopposed Motion for an Award of Attorney's Fees and Costs under the Equal Access to Justice Act (Doc. 29) is **GRANTED**.
3. The Clerk is directed to enter judgment in favor of Sonoga and against the Commissioner in the amount of \$1,394.33 in attorney's fees and \$400.00 in costs.

4. The Commissioner is directed to determine whether Sonoga owes a debt to the United States. If the United States Department of the Treasury determines that Sonoga does not owe such a debt, the Commissioner is directed to accept Sonoga's assignment of Equal Access to Justice Act fees and pay the fees directly to Sonoga's counsel.

ORDERED in Tampa, Florida, on September 10, 2024.

/s/ Steven D. Merryday _____
STEVEN D. MERRYDAY
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE*

* Signed by Judge Steven D. Merryday to expedite the resolution of this motion. This case remains assigned to Judge Kathryn Kimball Mizelle.