

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 06-710V

Filed: January 23, 2015

UNPUBLISHED

JUANITA COLEMAN,

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Special Master Hamilton-Fieldman

*

Petitioner,

*

v.

Attorneys' Fees and Costs; Reasonable Amount

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Requested to which Respondent Does Not

*

Object.

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SECRETARY OF HEALTH

*

AND HUMAN SERVICES,

*

Respondent.

*

William Dobreff, Dobreff & Dobreff, Clinton Township, MI, for Petitioner.

Althea Davis, United States Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

DECISION¹

On October 12, 2006, Juanita Coleman filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program ("the Program"), 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.* (2006),² alleging that she suffered a skin reaction after receiving a Hepatitis B vaccination on October 20, 2003. On January 13, 2014, the undersigned issued a decision awarding compensation to Petitioner. Judgment entered on the decision on February 24, 2014.

On September 23, 2014, Petitioner's counsel filed a Motion to Allow Filing of Fee Petition Out of Time. Having requested that the undersigned entertain a late motion for fees, *see* Vaccine Rule 13 (requiring that fees applications be filed within 180 days of judgment), Petitioner's counsel states that he and Respondent's counsel have agreed to an award of attorneys' fees and costs in the amount of \$47,500.00.

¹ The undersigned intends to post this unpublished decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107 347, § 205, 116 Stat. 2899, 2913 (codified as amended at 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2006)). As provided by Vaccine Rule 18(b), each party has 14 days within which to file a motion for redaction "of any information furnished by that party (1) that is trade secret or commercial or financial information and is privileged or confidential, or (2) that are medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy." In the absence of such motion, the entire decision will be available to the public. *Id.*

² The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program comprises Part 2 of the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755, codified as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-10 *et seq.* (2006).

On October 22, 2014, Respondent filed a response to Petitioner's motion. Respondent "defers to the special master's discretion" in granting Petitioner's counsel's motion for leave to file out of time. Respondent states that she does not object to an award of \$47,500.00 in attorneys' fees and costs.

On January 21, 2015, Petitioner filed a statement in accordance with General Order Number 9. According to her statement, Petitioner did not incur any expenses in filing and pursuing her vaccine claim.

The undersigned grants Petitioner's counsel leave to file his motion out of time, and finds that this petition was brought in good faith and that there existed a reasonable basis for the claim. Therefore, an award for fees and costs is appropriate, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(b) and (e)(1). Further, the proposed amount seems reasonable and appropriate. **Accordingly, the undersigned hereby awards the amount of \$47,500.00, in the form of a check made payable jointly to Petitioner and Petitioner's counsel, William Dobreff, of the law firm of Dobreff & Dobreff.**

In the absence of a motion for review filed pursuant to RCFC Appendix B, the clerk of the court **SHALL ENTER JUDGMENT** in accordance with the terms of the parties' stipulation.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

/s/ Lisa D. Hamilton-Fieldman
Lisa D. Hamilton-Fieldman
Special Master

³ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment is expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.