

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
EASTERN DIVISION

STEPHANIE LYNN STEIGERWALD)	CASE NO.: 1:17-CV-1516
)	
Plaintiff,)	JUDGE JAMES S. GWIN
)	MAGISTRATE JUDGE DAVID RUIZ
v.)	
)	
ANDREW SAUL,)	<u>STATUS REPORT</u>
COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL)	
SECURITY,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

Pursuant to the Court's April 4, 2019 Order, ECF No. 104, and the Sixth Circuit's July 23, 2019 Order, 6th Cir. ECF No. 20-2, Defendant respectfully submits the following status report, informing the Court of SSA's progress in completing the windfall-offset recalculations for the Class.

Recalculations are in progress for all class members.¹ As of August 26, 2020, 0 cases are awaiting quality review after completion of Part 1.² An additional 1,808 cases are being processed in Part 1. There are 0 cases awaiting quality review after completion of Part 2. An additional 2,159 cases are being processed in Part 2. Finally, 6,359 cases are being processed in

¹ Four of the 129,695 class members were found to be duplicates, so the total class number is 129,691 individuals.

² The windfall-offset recalculation is completed in three distinct phases, requiring coordination between agency field offices and processing centers. The steps required for Part 1 of the recalculation are set forth in Janet Walker's February 21, 2019 declaration in paragraphs 15 through 20; Part 2 is explained in paragraphs 21 through 29; and Part 3 of the recalculation process is expounded in paragraphs 30 through 41. *See* ECF No. 96-2. The quality review process is also described in paragraph 9 of Janet Walker's April 2, 2019 declaration. *See* ECF No. 102-1.

Part 3.

As of August 26, 2020, SSA has completed³ 119,365 recalculations. Of those 119,365 recalculations, underpayments were due in 65,013 cases, totaling approximately \$96,700,000 prior to withholding for payment of class counsel's fee. The highest underpayment was \$53,894.34. No underpayments were due in 45,902 cases. SSA has assessed 6,933 overpayments.

Additionally, in the course of performing recalculations, SSA has determined that a small number of putative class members it identified in 2018 are not subject to the harm that is the basis of this suit because they are not owed a windfall-offset recalculation. Specifically, these individuals do not have a concurrent benefits period and/or do not have a corresponding attorneys' fee, meaning that no recalculation is due. SSA has thus far identified an estimated 1,517 individuals who fit this description. Individuals who are not owed a windfall-offset recalculation will nonetheless receive a notice stating that no recalculation is due.

Respectfully submitted,

JUSTIN E. HERDMAN
United States Attorney
Northern District of Ohio

ETHAN P. DAVIS
Acting Assistant Attorney General

³ Because fees for class counsel have not yet been determined, "completed" in this context refers to the completion of the recalculation and the issuance of any underpayment, if due, while withholding 20% of the underpayment for payment of potential attorney fees. However, in cases in which the class member is deceased, incarcerated, or otherwise not able to receive the underpayment due, the agency has calculated the underpayment and withheld 20% for potential attorney fees, but may not have released a payment pending identification of an individual eligible to receive the payment.

s/ Ruchi V. Asher

LISA HAMMOND JOHNSON
(#0061681)

RUCHI V. ASHER (#009017)
Assistant United States Attorneys
400 United States Court House 801
West Superior Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44113-1852
(216) 622-3679 –
Hammond Johnson
(216) 622-3719 – Asher
(216) 522-4982 – Facsimile
Lisa.hammond.johnson@usdoj.gov
Ruchi.Asher@usdoj.gov

BRAD P. ROSENBERG
Assistant Director, Federal Programs Branch

JUSTIN M. SANDBERG (Ill. Bar # 6278377)
Senior Trial Counsel
United States Department of Justice
Civil Division, Federal Programs Branch
20 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20530
(202) 514-9239 (phone)
(202) 616-8470 (fax)
Justin.Sandberg@usdoj.gov