

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

ANTONIO VANRIEL,	*	
	*	
Petitioner,	*	No. 06-83V
	*	Special Master Christian J. Moran
v.	*	
	*	
SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT	*	Filed: January 25, 2008
OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,	*	
	*	
Respondent.	*	
	*	

ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS DECISION¹

Petitioner, Antonio Vanriel, filed a Motion for Attorneys Fees on December 5, 2007. Petitioner then filed an Unopposed Motion for Attorneys Fees on January 4, 2008. In his January 4, 2008 motion, petitioner requested a total of \$ 72,496.03 in attorney's fees and \$4,353.97 in litigation costs, which was supported by his counsel's fee statement. See Application for Fees and Costs, filed December 5, 2007. Additionally, petitioner filed a statement of costs in compliance with General Order No. 9, stating that petitioner alone has incurred \$ 150.00 in litigation costs. See Notice, filed January 17, 2008.

One item merits a brief notation. While prosecuting his case, Mr. Vanriel argued that previous decisions established that the hepatitis B vaccine "can cause" demyelinating conditions such as Guillain-Barre syndrome. To support this argument, Mr. Vanriel submitted a significant amount of evidence from the omnibus hearing, and, in doing so, Mr. Vanriel converted these paper filings into electronic documents because evidence in his case is filed electronically. Paralegals working for Mr. Vanriel spent a considerable amount of time on this task. The amount of time is entirely reasonable. Mr. Vanriel will receive all compensation requested.

¹ The undersigned intends to post this decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims's website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-347, 116 Stat. 2899, 2913 (Dec. 17, 2002). As provided by Vaccine Rule 18(b), each party has 14 days within which to request 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." Vaccine Rule 18(b). Otherwise, "the entire" decision will be available to the public. Id.

Having been compensated for the tedious task of converting paper documents into electronic materials, Mr. Vanriel's attorneys now have the benefit of the electronic records. In future cases in which Mr. Vanriel's attorneys submit material from the hepatitis B - demyelinating conditions omnibus proceeding, the amount of time necessary is expected to be much less.

After reviewing the request, the court awards **\$77,000** in attorney's fees and other litigation costs, of which, **\$76,850.00** shall be made payable jointly to petitioner and his attorney and **\$150.00** of which shall be made payable to petitioner. The court thanks the parties for their cooperative efforts in resolving this matter. The Clerk shall enter judgment accordingly.²

IT IS SO ORDERED.

S/ Christian J. Moran

Christian J. Moran
Special Master

² Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), the parties can expedite entry of judgment by each party filing a notice renouncing the right to seek review by a United States Court of Federal Claims judge.