

**U.S. District Court
District of Columbia (Washington, DC)
CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:20-cv-01331-FYP**

LEOPOLD et al v. FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION et al Date Filed: 05/19/2020
Assigned to: Judge Florence Y. Pan Jury Demand: None
Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of Information Act
Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

Plaintiff

JASON LEOPOLD

represented by **Matthew Topic**
LOEVY & LOEVY
311 N. Aberdeen Street
Third Floor
Chicago, IL 60607
(312) 243-5900
Fax: (312) 243-5902
Email: matt@loevy.com
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Plaintiff

BUZZFEED, INC.

represented by **Matthew Topic**
(See above for address)
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

V.

Defendant

**FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION**

represented by **James O. Bickford**
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Civil Division, Federal Programs Branch
1100 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 305-7632
Fax: (202) 616-8470
Email: james.bickford@usdoj.gov
LEAD ATTORNEY
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Jody D. Lowenstein
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Federal Programs Branch
1100 L St. NW
Washington, DC 20005
202-598-9280
Email: jody.d.lowenstein@usdoj.gov
LEAD ATTORNEY
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Defendant

**TRANSPORTATION SECURITY
ADMINISTRATION**

represented by **James O. Bickford**
(See above for address)
LEAD ATTORNEY
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Jody D. Lowenstein
(See above for address)
LEAD ATTORNEY
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Defendant

**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND
SECURITY**

represented by **James O. Bickford**
(See above for address)
LEAD ATTORNEY
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Jody D. Lowenstein
(See above for address)
LEAD ATTORNEY
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Defendant

**U.S. AGENCY FOR
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

represented by **James O. Bickford**
(See above for address)
LEAD ATTORNEY
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Jody D. Lowenstein
(See above for address)
LEAD ATTORNEY
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Defendant

**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF
NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE**

represented by **James O. Bickford**
(See above for address)
LEAD ATTORNEY
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Jody D. Lowenstein
(See above for address)
LEAD ATTORNEY
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Date Filed	#	Docket Text
05/19/2020	<u>1</u>	COMPLAINT against FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION, OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (Filing fee \$ 400 receipt number ADCDC-7139303) filed by JASON LEOPOLD, BUZZFEED, INC.. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit A, # <u>2</u> Exhibit B, # <u>3</u> Exhibit C, # <u>4</u> Exhibit D, # <u>5</u> Exhibit E, # <u>6</u> Exhibit F, # <u>7</u> Exhibit G, # <u>8</u> Exhibit H, # <u>9</u> Exhibit I, # <u>10</u> Exhibit J, # <u>11</u> Civil Cover Sheet, # <u>12</u> Summons)(Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 05/19/2020)
05/19/2020	<u>2</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Matthew Topic on behalf of BUZZFEED, INC., JASON LEOPOLD (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 05/19/2020)
05/19/2020	<u>3</u>	LCvR 26.1 CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE of Corporate Affiliations and Financial Interests by BUZZFEED, INC. (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 05/19/2020)
05/20/2020		Case Assigned to Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson. (adh,) (Entered: 05/20/2020)
05/20/2020	<u>4</u>	SUMMONS (7) Issued Electronically as to FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION, OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, U.S. Attorney and U.S. Attorney General (Attachment: # <u>1</u> Notice and Consent)(adh,) (Entered: 05/20/2020)
06/11/2020	<u>5</u>	GENERAL ORDER AND GUIDELINES APPLICABLE TO FOIA CASES ASSIGNED TO JUDGE KETANJI BROWN JACKSON. The Court will hold the parties and counsel responsible for following these directives, and parties and counsel should pay particular attention to the Court's instructions for processing and

		production of records, batching motions, and filing exhibits. Failure to adhere to this Order may, when appropriate, result the imposition of sanctions and/or sua sponte denial of non-conforming motions. Signed by Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on 6/11/2020. (jag) (Entered: 06/11/2020)
07/01/2020	<u>6</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by James O. Bickford on behalf of FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION, OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (Bickford, James) (Entered: 07/01/2020)
07/01/2020	<u>7</u>	ANSWER to Complaint by FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION, OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.(Bickford, James) (Entered: 07/01/2020)
07/02/2020		MINUTE ORDER. In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and the associated difficulties that it is causing in workplaces, this Court is extending the standard period of time that it affords parties to submit proposed schedules for briefing or disclosure in FOIA cases following submission of an answer. Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED that, on or before 7/29/2020, the parties shall confer and submit a proposed schedule for briefing or disclosure. Signed by Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on 7/2/2020. (jag) (Entered: 07/02/2020)
07/22/2020	<u>8</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION served on 6/26/2020 (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 07/22/2020)
07/22/2020	<u>9</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE served on 6/1/2020 (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 07/22/2020)
07/22/2020	<u>10</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION served on 6/1/2020 (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 07/22/2020)
07/22/2020	<u>11</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed on United States Attorney General. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney General 6/1/2020. (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 07/22/2020)
07/22/2020	<u>12</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed as to the United States Attorney. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney on 6/1/2020. Answer due for ALL FEDERAL DEFENDANTS by 7/1/2020. (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 07/22/2020)
07/29/2020	<u>13</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION, OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY. (Bickford, James) (Entered: 07/29/2020)
07/30/2020		MINUTE ORDER. In light of the representations in the parties' <u>13</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that, on or before 9/15/2020, the parties shall file a further joint status report, which shall include a proposed schedule for further proceedings if litigation is going to be necessary. Signed by Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on 7/30/2020. (jag) (Entered: 07/30/2020)
09/15/2020	<u>14</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION, OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY. (Bickford, James) (Entered: 09/15/2020)
10/15/2020		MINUTE ORDER. In light of the representations in the parties' <u>14</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that, on or before 10/15/2020, the parties shall file a further joint status report, which shall include a proposed schedule for further proceedings if litigation is going to be necessary. Signed by Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on

		10/15/2020. (jag) (Entered: 10/15/2020)
10/15/2020	<u>15</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION, OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY. (Bickford, James) (Entered: 10/15/2020)
10/16/2020		MINUTE ORDER. In light of the representations in the parties' <u>15</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that, on or before 11/16/2020, the parties shall file a further joint status report, which shall include a proposed schedule for further proceedings if litigation is going to be necessary. Signed by Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on 10/16/2020. (jag) (Entered: 10/16/2020)
11/16/2020	<u>16</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION, OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY. (Bickford, James) (Entered: 11/16/2020)
11/20/2020		MINUTE ORDER. In light of the representations in the parties' <u>16</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that, on or before 11/24/2020, the parties shall file a further joint status report, which shall include a proposed schedule for further proceedings if litigation is going to be necessary. Signed by Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on 11/20/2020. (jag) (Entered: 11/20/2020)
11/24/2020	<u>17</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION, OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY. (Bickford, James) (Entered: 11/24/2020)
12/02/2020	<u>18</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION, OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY. (Bickford, James) (Entered: 12/02/2020)
12/07/2020		MINUTE ORDER. In light of the representations in the parties' [21 Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that, on or before 1/15/2021, the parties shall file a further joint status report, which shall include a proposed schedule for further proceedings if litigation is going to be necessary. Signed by Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on 12/7/2020. (jag) (Entered: 12/07/2020)
01/15/2021	<u>19</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION, OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY. (Bickford, James) (Entered: 01/15/2021)
01/18/2021		MINUTE ORDER. In light of the representations in the parties' <u>19</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that, on or before 2/19/2021, the parties shall file a further joint status report, which shall include a proposed schedule for further proceedings if litigation is going to be necessary. Signed by Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on 1/18/2021. (jag) (Entered: 01/18/2021)
02/19/2021	<u>20</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION, OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY. (Bickford, James) (Entered: 02/19/2021)
03/05/2021	<u>21</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION, OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY. (Bickford, James) (Entered: 03/05/2021)

03/17/2021		MINUTE ORDER. In light of the representations in the parties' <u>21</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that, on or before 4/5/2021, the parties shall file a further joint status report, which shall include a proposed schedule for future proceedings if litigation is going to be necessary. Signed by Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on 3/17/2021. (jag) (Entered: 03/17/2021)
04/05/2021	<u>22</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION, OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY. (Bickford, James) (Entered: 04/05/2021)
04/20/2021	<u>23</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION, OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY. (Bickford, James) (Entered: 04/20/2021)
04/25/2021		MINUTE ORDER. In light of the representations in the parties' <u>23</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that, on or before 5/20/2021, the parties shall file a further joint status report, which shall include a proposed schedule for further proceedings if litigation is going to be necessary. Signed by Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on 4/25/2021. (jag) (Entered: 04/25/2021)
05/20/2021	<u>24</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION, OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY. (Bickford, James) (Entered: 05/20/2021)
06/09/2021		MINUTE ORDER. In light of the representations in the parties' <u>24</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that, on or before 6/25/2021, the parties shall file further joint status report, which shall contain a proposed schedule for further proceedings if litigation is going to be necessary. Signed by Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on 6/9/2021. (jag) (Entered: 06/09/2021)
06/22/2021		Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson has been elevated to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. She is therefore no longer assigned to this case, and this matter has been reassigned to the Calendar Committee, which will oversee it until it is assigned to another district judge. Any questions should be directed to Judge Jackson's former deputy clerk, Gwendolyn Franklin, at 202-354-3145 or gwen_franklin@dcd.uscourts.gov. (rj) (Entered: 06/22/2021)
06/25/2021	<u>25</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION, OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY. (Bickford, James) (Entered: 06/25/2021)
06/30/2021		MINUTE ORDER. In light of the representations in the parties' <u>25</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that, on or before 7/9/2021, the parties shall file a further joint status report, which shall include a proposed schedule for further proceedings if litigation is going to be necessary. Signed by Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell on June 30, 2021. (lcbah4) (Entered: 06/30/2021)
06/30/2021		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 7/9/2021. (zgdff) (Entered: 06/30/2021)
07/09/2021	<u>26</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION, OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY. (Bickford, James) (Entered: 07/09/2021)
07/30/2021	<u>27</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION, OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY. (Bickford,

		James) (Entered: 07/30/2021)
08/30/2021	<u>28</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION, OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY. (Bickford, James) (Entered: 08/30/2021)
08/31/2021		MINUTE ORDER (paperless) In light of the representations in the parties' <u>28</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that, on or before September 30, 2021, the parties shall file a further joint status report, which shall include a proposed schedule for further proceedings if litigation is going to be necessary. Signed by Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell on August 31, 2021. (lcbah1) (Entered: 08/31/2021)
08/31/2021		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 9/30/2021. (zgdf) (Entered: 09/02/2021)
09/30/2021	<u>29</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION, OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY. (Bickford, James) (Entered: 09/30/2021)
10/01/2021		Case directly reassigned to Judge Florence Y. Pan. Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson has been appointed to the D.C. Circuit and is no longer assigned to the case.(rj) (Entered: 10/01/2021)
10/15/2021		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>29</u> Joint Status Report, the parties are directed to file another joint status report on or before November 1, 2021. Signed by Judge Florence Y. Pan on 10/15/2021. (lcswh) (Entered: 10/15/2021)
10/15/2021		Set/Reset Deadlines/Hearings: Joint Status Report due by 11/1/2021. (zcdw) (Entered: 10/18/2021)
11/01/2021	<u>30</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION, OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY. (Bickford, James) (Entered: 11/01/2021)
11/03/2021		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>30</u> Joint Status Report, the parties are directed to file another joint status report on or before December 1, 2021. Signed by Judge Florence Y. Pan on 11/3/21. (lcaa) (Entered: 11/03/2021)
11/03/2021		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 12/1/2021. (zacr) (Entered: 11/03/2021)
12/01/2021	<u>31</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by BUZZFEED, INC., JASON LEOPOLD. (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 12/01/2021)
12/02/2021		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>31</u> Joint Status Report, the parties are directed to file another joint status report on or before January 4, 2022. Signed by Judge Florence Y. Pan on 12/2/21. (lcl) (Entered: 12/02/2021)
12/02/2021		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 1/4/2022. (zacr) (Entered: 12/02/2021)
12/14/2021	<u>32</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Jody D. Lowenstein on behalf of All Defendants (Lowenstein, Jody) (Entered: 12/14/2021)
01/04/2022	<u>33</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION, OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. (Lowenstein, Jody) (Entered: 01/04/2022)