# U.S. District Court District of Columbia (Washington, DC) CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:20-cv-03679-TSC

WAHDAN v. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY Assigned to: Judge Tanya S. Chutkan Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act Date Filed: 12/15/2020 Date Terminated: 01/06/2022 Jury Demand: None Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of Information Act Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

### <u>Plaintiff</u>

**GHADA WAHDAN** 

# represented by Bradley Prescott Moss

LAW OFFICES OF MARK S. ZAID, P.C. 1250 Connecticut Avenue, NW Suite 700 Washington, DC 20036 (202) 454–2809 Fax: (202) 330–5610 Email: <u>brad@markzaid.com</u> *LEAD ATTORNEY ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED* 

# Mark Steven Zaid

LAW OFFICES OF MARK S. ZAID, P.C. 1250 Connecticut Avenue, NW Suite 700 Washington, DC 20036 (202) 454–2809 Fax: (202) 330–5610 Email: <u>Mark@MarkZaid.com</u> *LEAD ATTORNEY ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED* 

V.

# **Defendant**

# DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

## represented by Kenneth A. Adebonojo

U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 555 Fourth Street, NW Washington, DC 20530 (202) 252–2562 Fax: (202) 252–2599 Email: <u>kenneth.adebonojo@usdoj.gov</u> *LEAD ATTORNEY ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED* 

#### Heather D. Graham–Oliver

U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 555 Fourth Street, NW Washington, DC 20530 (202) 252–2520 Fax: (202) 252–2599 Email: <u>heather.graham–oliver@usdoj.gov</u> *TERMINATED: 09/09/2021* 

Date Filed	#	Docket Text
------------	---	-------------

12/15/2020	<u>1</u>	COMPLAINT against DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (Filing fee \$ 402 receipt number ADCDC–7960942) filed by GHADA WAHDAN. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Civil Cover Sheet, # <u>2</u> Summons DHS, # <u>3</u> Summons USADC, # <u>4</u> Summons USAG)(Moss, Bradley) (Entered: 12/15/2020)
12/15/2020		Case Assigned to Judge Tanya S. Chutkan. (adh, ) (Entered: 12/15/2020)
12/16/2020	2	SUMMONS (3) Issued Electronically as to DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, U.S. Attorney and U.S. Attorney General (Attachment: # <u>1</u> Notice and Consent)(adh, ) (Entered: 12/16/2020)
01/06/2021	<u>3</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY served on 12/21/2020 (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit DHS receipt)(Moss, Bradley) (Entered: 01/06/2021)
01/06/2021	<u>4</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed as to the United States Attorney. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney on 12/22/2020. Answer due for ALL FEDERAL DEFENDANTS by 1/21/2021. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit USADC receipt)(Moss, Bradley) (Entered: 01/06/2021)
01/28/2021	<u>5</u>	Consent MOTION for Extension of Time to <i>File Defendant's Answer or Other Response to Plaintiff's Complaint</i> by DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY. (Adebonojo, Kenneth) Modified event on 1/29/2021 (ztd). (Entered: 01/28/2021)
01/28/2021		MINUTE ORDER: Granting Consent <u>5</u> Motion for Extension of Time to File Answer. Defendant shall answer or otherwise respond to the Complaint by $3/1/21$ . However, to the extent the parties need time after $3/1/21$ to attempt resolving this litigation, the parties may instead file a joint motion to stay, accompanied by a proposed order. Signed by Judge Tanya S. Chutkan on $1/28/21$ . (DJS) (Entered: $01/28/2021$ )
02/01/2021		Set/Reset Deadlines: Answer due by 3/1/2021. (tb) (Entered: 02/01/2021)
02/18/2021	<u>6</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Kenneth A. Adebonojo on behalf of DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (Adebonojo, Kenneth) (Entered: 02/18/2021)
03/01/2021	2	ANSWER to Complaint by DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.(Adebonojo, Kenneth) Modified to correct filed date on 3/4/2021. Counsel had issues filing on 3/1/2021 cmecf and was instructed to file electronically to receive correct date. (ztd). (Entered: 03/03/2021)
03/03/2021		MINUTE ORDER: Before the Court in this FOIA case are a complaint and an answer. The requirements of LCvR 16.3 and Rule 26(f) of the Federal Rules of Civil procedure appear to be inapplicable. IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the parties shall meet and confer and propose a schedule for proceeding in this matter. The schedule shall address the status of Plaintiff's FOIA request, the anticipated number of documents responsive to Plaintiff's FOIA request, the anticipated date(s) for release of the documents requested by Plaintiff, whether a motion for an Open America stay is likely in this case, whether a Vaughn index will be required in this case, whether and when either party anticipates filing a dispositive motion, and any other pertinent issues. The parties shall file a joint status report that addresses these issues no later than 3/23/2021. The joint status report shall be accompanied by a proposed order. Signed by Judge Tanya S. Chutkan on 3/3/21. (DJS) (Entered: 03/03/2021)
03/04/2021		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 3/23/2021. (tb) (Entered: 03/04/2021)
03/23/2021	<u>8</u>	Consent MOTION for Extension of Time to <i>File the Parties' Joint Status Report</i> by DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY. (Adebonojo, Kenneth) (Entered: 03/23/2021)
03/24/2021		MINUTE ORDER: Granting <u>8</u> Motion for Extension of Deadlines. Joint status and proposed order due 3/30/21. Signed by Judge Tanya S. Chutkan on 3/24/21. (DJS) (Entered: 03/24/2021)
03/24/2021		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status due by 3/30/2021. (tb) (Entered: 03/24/2021)
03/30/2021	<u>9</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY. (Adebonojo, Kenneth) (Entered: 03/30/2021)

04/28/2021		MINUTE ORDER: Having considered the parties' joint status report 9, it is hereby ordered that that Defendant shall complete its production by 5/31/21. Defendant's Motion for summary judgment is due no later than 7/31/21. Plaintiff's Cross–Motion/Opposition is due not later than 8/31/21. Defendant's Reply is due not later that 9/21/21. Plaintiff's Reply is due 10/15/21. Signed by Judge Tanya S. Chutkan on 4/28/21. (DJS) (Entered: 04/28/2021)
04/28/2021	<u>10</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Mark Steven Zaid on behalf of GHADA WAHDAN (Zaid, Mark) (Entered: 04/28/2021)
04/29/2021		Set/Reset Deadlines: Cross Motion due by 8/31/2021. Reply to Cross Motion due by 10/15/2021. Summary Judgment motions due by 7/31/2021. Response to Motion for Summary Judgment due by 8/31/2021. Reply to Motion for Summary Judgment due by 9/21/2021. (tb) (Entered: 04/29/2021)
07/26/2021	<u>11</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Heather D. Graham–Oliver on behalf of DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (Graham–Oliver, Heather) (Entered: 07/26/2021)
07/26/2021	<u>12</u>	Consent MOTION for Extension of Time to <i>File Motion for Summary Judgment</i> ( <i>FOIA</i> ) by DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY. (Graham–Oliver, Heather) (Entered: 07/26/2021)
07/26/2021		MINUTE ORDER: Granting Consent <u>12</u> Motion for Extension of Deadlines. Defendant's Motion for Summary Judgement due 8/30/21. Signed by Judge Tanya S. Chutkan on 7/26/21. (DJS) (Entered: 07/26/2021)
07/27/2021		Set/Reset Deadlines: Summary Judgment motion due by 8/30/2021. (tb) (Entered: 07/27/2021)
08/27/2021	<u>13</u>	Consent MOTION for Extension of Time to <i>File Defendant's Motion for Summary Judgment</i> by DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY. (Adebonojo, Kenneth) Modified event on 8/31/2021 (ztd). (Entered: 08/27/2021)
09/02/2021		MINUTE ORDER: Granting Consent <u>13</u> Motion for Extension of Deadlines. The Defendant shall file its Motion for Summary Judgment on or before 10/12/21. Plaintiff's Combined Opposition/Cross Motion is on due 11/12/21. Defendant's combined Reply/Response is due 12/3/21. Signed by Judge Tanya S. Chutkan on 9/2/21.(DJS) (Entered: 09/02/2021)
09/08/2021		Set/Reset Deadlines: Cross Motion due by 11/12/2021. Response to Cross Motion due by 12/3/2021. Summary Judgment motion due by 10/12/2021. Response to Motion for Summary Judgment due by 11/12/2021. Reply to Motion for Summary Judgment due by 12/3/2021. (tb) (Entered: 09/08/2021)
09/09/2021	<u>14</u>	NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF APPEARANCE as to DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY. Attorney Heather D. Graham–Oliver terminated. (Graham–Oliver, Heather) (Entered: 09/09/2021)
10/12/2021	<u>15</u>	MOTION for Extension of Time to <i>File Defendant's Motion for Summary Judgment</i> by DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY. (Adebonojo, Kenneth) (Entered: 10/12/2021)
10/25/2021		MINUTE ORDER: Defendants' Motion for Extension of Deadlines <u>15</u> is hereby GRANTED, except that the court will hold in abeyance its ruling on the due date for Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment. A status conference is hereby set for 11/19/21, at 12:00 pm via teleconference. A courtroom deputy will provide the parties with dial–in instructions by email. The parties are instructed to meet and confer prior to the status conference to discuss whether this matter may be amicably resolved absent summary judgment briefing. The parties shall file a joint status report and proposed order by 11/17/21. Signed by Judge Tanya S. Chutkan on 10/25/22. (DJS) (Entered: 10/25/2021)
10/26/2021		Set/Reset Deadlines/Hearings: Joint Status Report due by 11/17/2021. Status Conference set for 11/19/2021 at 12:00 PM in Telephonic/VTC before Judge Tanya S. Chutkan. (tb) (Entered: 10/26/2021)
11/18/2021		MINUTE ORDER: On November 17, 2021, the parties notified the court via email that they have resolved the outstanding disputes previously necessitating a status hearing, and that the parties jointly request vacating the November 19, 2021, status

		hearing. Accordingly, the status hearing scheduled for November 19, 2021, is hereby VACATED. Signed by Judge Tanya S. Chutkan on 11/18/2021. (lcwk) (Entered: 11/18/2021)
12/01/2021		MINUTE ORDER: The parties are hereby ordered to file a joint status report on or before December 15, 2021. In the event that either party believes summary judgment briefing is the only path forward for resolving this case, the joint status report shall be accompanied by a proposed briefing schedule. The joint status report shall also be accompanied by a proposed order. Signed by Judge Tanya S. Chutkan on 12/01/2021. (lcwk) (Entered: 12/01/2021)
12/07/2021		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 12/15/2021. (jth) (Entered: 12/07/2021)
12/15/2021	<u>16</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY. (Adebonojo, Kenneth) (Entered: 12/15/2021)
12/31/2021	<u>17</u>	ORDER OF PROVISIONAL DISMISSAL: Dismissing case without prejudice. If the settlement is not finalized, either party may reopen this action until 1/31/22 upon motion approved by the Court. Should counsel fail to move to reopen the case within the prescribed period, the case shall, without further order, stand dismissed with prejudice. Signed by Judge Tanya S. Chutkan on 12/31/21. (DJS) (Entered: 12/31/2021)