

**U.S. District Court  
Eastern District of Virginia – (Alexandria)  
CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:22-cv-00190-PTG-IDD**

Empower Oversight Whistleblowers & Research v. U.S.  
Department of Justice  
Assigned to: District Judge Patricia Tolliver Giles  
Referred to: Magistrate Judge Ivan D. Davis  
Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act

Date Filed: 02/22/2022  
Date Terminated: 11/17/2022  
Jury Demand: None  
Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of  
Information Act  
Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

**Plaintiff**

**Empower Oversight Whistleblowers &  
Research**

represented by **Jeffrey S. Beelaert**  
Stein Mitchell Beato & Missner LLP  
901 15th Street NW  
Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20005  
202-661-0923  
Fax: 202-296-8312  
Email: [jbeelaert@steinmitchell.com](mailto:jbeelaert@steinmitchell.com)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Michael Jay Schrier**  
Husch Blackwell LLP  
1801 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20006  
202-378-2313  
Fax: 202-378-2319  
Email: [michael.schrier@huschblackwell.com](mailto:michael.schrier@huschblackwell.com)  
**TERMINATED: 05/03/2022**

**Defendant**

**U.S. Department of Justice**

represented by **Lauren A. Wetzler**  
US Attorney's Office (Alexandria)  
2100 Jamieson Avenue  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
703-299-3700  
Fax: 703-299-3983  
Email: [lauren.wetzler@usdoj.gov](mailto:lauren.wetzler@usdoj.gov)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

Date Filed	#	Docket Text
02/22/2022	<u>1</u>	Complaint for Declaratory And Injunctive Relief ( Filing fee \$ 402, receipt number AVAEDC-8256748.), filed by Empower Oversight Whistleblowers & Research. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit 7-21-21 Letter, # <u>2</u> Exhibit 7-22-21 Letter, # <u>3</u> Exhibit 8-19-21 Letter, # <u>4</u> Exhibit 8-27-21 Letter, # <u>5</u> Exhibit 9-2-21 Letter, # <u>6</u> Exhibit 12-7-21 Letter, # <u>7</u> Exhibit 12-15-21 Email, # <u>8</u> Civil Cover Sheet)(Schrier, Michael) (Entered: 02/22/2022)
02/22/2022	<u>2</u>	Proposed Summons re <u>1</u> Complaint, to Department of Justice by Empower Oversight Whistleblowers & Research. (Schrier, Michael) (Entered: 02/22/2022)
02/22/2022	<u>3</u>	Proposed Summons re <u>1</u> Complaint, to Merrick Garland, Attorney General by Empower Oversight Whistleblowers & Research. (Schrier, Michael) (Entered: 02/22/2022)

02/22/2022	<u>4</u>	Proposed Summons re <u>1</u> Complaint, to <i>Jessica Aber, US Atty EDVA</i> by Empower Oversight Whistleblowers & Research. (Schrier, Michael) (Entered: 02/22/2022)
02/22/2022	<u>5</u>	Financial Interest Disclosure Statement (Local Rule 7.1) by Empower Oversight Whistleblowers & Research. (Schrier, Michael) (Entered: 02/22/2022)
02/24/2022	<u>6</u>	Summons Issued as to U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Attorney and U.S. Attorney General (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Summons Notice)(swil) (Entered: 02/24/2022)
03/16/2022	<u>7</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Lauren A. Wetzler on behalf of U.S. Department of Justice (Wetzler, Lauren) (Entered: 03/16/2022)
03/16/2022	<u>8</u>	MOTION for Extension of Time to File Answer ( <i>Unopposed</i> ) by U.S. Department of Justice. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Proposed Order)(Wetzler, Lauren) (Entered: 03/16/2022)
03/16/2022	<u>9</u>	ORDER granting <u>8</u> MOTION for Extension of Time to File Answer (Unopposed). Defendant shall file its response to the Complaint on or before April 27, 2022. Signed by Magistrate Judge Ivan D. Davis on 3/16/2022. (swil) (Entered: 03/16/2022)
04/24/2022	<u>10</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Jeffrey S. Beelaert on behalf of Empower Oversight Whistleblowers & Research (Beelaert, Jeffrey) (Entered: 04/24/2022)
04/25/2022	<u>11</u>	Second MOTION for Extension of Time to File Answer ( <i>Unopposed</i> ) by U.S. Department of Justice. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Receipt)(Wetzler, Lauren) (Entered: 04/25/2022)
04/26/2022	<u>12</u>	ORDER granting <u>11</u> Second Motion for Extension of Time to File Answer (Unopposed). ORDERED that Defendant shall file its response to the Complaint on or before May 27, 2022. It is further ORDERED that no further extensions will be granted absent extraordinary circumstances. Signed by Magistrate Judge Ivan D. Davis on 4/26/2022. (swil) (Entered: 04/27/2022)
05/02/2022	<u>13</u>	MOTION to Withdraw as Attorney by Empower Oversight Whistleblowers & Research. (Schrier, Michael) (Entered: 05/02/2022)
05/03/2022	<u>14</u>	ORDER granting <u>13</u> Motion to Withdraw as Attorney. Attorney Michael Jay Schrier terminated. Signed by Magistrate Judge John F. Anderson on 5/3/2022. (swil) (Entered: 05/03/2022)
05/27/2022	<u>15</u>	ANSWER to Complaint by U.S. Department of Justice.(Wetzler, Lauren) (Entered: 05/27/2022)
07/29/2022	<u>16</u>	<b>[VACATED per ECF 18]</b> SCHEDULING ORDER: Initial Pretrial Conference set for 8/31/2022 at 11:00 AM in Alexandria Courtroom 301 before Magistrate Judge Ivan D. Davis. Final Pretrial Conference set for 12/21/2022 at 10:00 AM in Alexandria Telephonically before District Judge Patricia Tolliver Giles. Discovery due by 12/16/2022. Signed by District Judge Patricia Tolliver Giles on 07/29/22. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Pretrial Notice, # <u>2</u> Magistrate Judge Consent Form)(pmil) Modified on 8/8/2022 (swil). (Entered: 08/01/2022)
08/02/2022	<u>17</u>	MOTION to Vacate <u>16</u> Scheduling Order, ( <i>UNOPPOSED</i> ) by U.S. Department of Justice. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Proposed Order)(Wetzler, Lauren) (Entered: 08/02/2022)
08/08/2022	<u>18</u>	ORDER granting <u>17</u> Motion to Vacate <u>16</u> Scheduling Order (see Order for details). Signed by District Judge Patricia Tolliver Giles on 8/8/2022. (swil) (Entered: 08/08/2022)
08/18/2022	<u>19</u>	Joint MOTION to Continue <i>Deadlines for Filing Amended Complaint and Summary Judgment Briefing Schedule</i> by U.S. Department of Justice. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Proposed Order)(Wetzler, Lauren) (Entered: 08/18/2022)
08/22/2022	<u>20</u>	ORDER granting <u>19</u> Joint Motion to Continue Deadlines for Filing Amended Complaint and Summary Judgment Briefing Schedule (see Order for details). Signed by District Judge Patricia Tolliver Giles on 8/22/2022. (swil) (Entered: 08/22/2022)
09/28/2022	<u>21</u>	Joint MOTION to Continue by Empower Oversight Whistleblowers & Research. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Proposed Order)(Beelaert, Jeffrey) (Entered: 09/28/2022)
10/03/2022	<u>22</u>	ORDER granting <u>21</u> Joint Motion to Continue. ORDERED that Plaintiff shall file an Amended Complaint by no later than November 14, 2022. It is further ORDERED that

		the parties shall meet and confer after Plaintiff has filed its Amended Complaint and, by November 30, 2022, submit a proposed summary judgement briefing schedule to the Court. It is further ORDERED that no further extensions will be granted absent extraordinary circumstances. Signed by Magistrate Judge Ivan D. Davis on 10/3/2022. (swil) (Entered: 10/03/2022)
11/14/2022	<u>23</u>	STIPULATION of Dismissal by Empower Oversight Whistleblowers & Research. (Beelaert, Jeffrey) (Entered: 11/14/2022)
11/17/2022	<u>24</u>	So Ordered in re <u>23</u> Stipulation of Dismissal. IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by the parties that the above-captioned action is voluntarily dismissed without prejudice, pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41 (a)( I )(A)(ii). Signed by District Judge Patricia Tolliver Giles on 11/17/2022. (Dest) (Entered: 11/17/2022)