# U.S. District Court District of Columbia (Washington, DC) CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:21-cv-01294-DLF

# REPORTERS COMMITTEE FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS Date Filed: 05/11/2021

v. OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL et al Assigned to: Judge Dabney L. Friedrich Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act Date Filed: 05/11/2021 Jury Demand: None Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of Information Act Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

## **Plaintiff**

#### **REPORTERS COMMITTEE FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS**

#### represented by Adam Alexander Marshall

REPORTERS COMMITTEE FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS 1156 15th St, NW Suite 1020 Washington, DC 20005 (202) 795–9300 Fax: (202) 795–9310 Email: <u>amarshall@rcfp.org</u> ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

## **Gunita Singh**

REPORTERS COMMITTEE FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS 1156 15th St, NW Suite 1020 Washington, DC 20005 646–352–2956 Email: <u>gsingh@rcfp.org</u> ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

#### KatieLynn Boyd Townsend

REPORTERS COMMITTEE FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS 1156 15th St, NW Suite 1020 Washington, DC 20005 (202) 795–9300 Fax: (202) 795–9310 Email: <u>ktownsend@rcfp.org</u> *ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED* 

V.

## **Defendant**

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

## represented by Michael James Gaffney

U.S. DEPARTMENT OFJUSTICE Federal Programs Branch 1100 L St. NW Ste 11012 Washington, DC 20005 (202) 514–2356 Fax: (202) 616–8470 Email: <u>Michael.J.Gaffney@usdoj.gov</u> LEAD ATTORNEY ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

# <u>Defendant</u>

#### **OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Michael James Gaffney (See above for address) *LEAD ATTORNEY ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED* 

# <u>Defendant</u>

OFFICE OF INFORMATION POLICY

# represented by Michael James Gaffney (See above for address)

(See above for address) LEAD ATTORNEY ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

# <u>Defendant</u>

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

#### represented by Michael James Gaffney (See above for address) LEAD ATTORNEY ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

| Date Filed | #        | Docket Text  |
|------------|----------|--|
| 05/11/2021 | 1        | COMPLAINT against OFFICE OF INFORMATION POLICY, OFFICE OF THE<br>ATTORNEY GENERAL, OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL,<br>UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (Filing fee \$ 402 receipt number<br>ADCDC-8440631) filed by REPORTERS COMMITTEE FOR FREEDOM OF THE<br>PRESS. (Attachments: # 1 Exhibit 1, # 2 Exhibit 2, # 3 Exhibit 3, # 4 Civil Cover<br>Sheet, # 5 Summons)(Townsend, KatieLynn) (Entered: 05/11/2021)  |
| 05/11/2021 |          | Case Assigned to Judge Dabney L. Friedrich. (adh, ) (Entered: 05/11/2021)  |
| 05/11/2021 | 2        | SUMMONS (6) Issued Electronically as to OFFICE OF INFORMATION POLICY, OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, U.S. Attorney and U.S. Attorney General (Attachment: # <u>1</u> Notice and Consent)(adh, ) (Entered: 05/11/2021)   |
| 05/12/2021 | <u>3</u> | STANDARD ORDER for civil cases. See text for details. Signed by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on May 12, 2021. (lcdlf3) (Entered: 05/12/2021)  |
| 05/25/2021 | 4        | RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed as to the United States Attorney. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney on 5/17/2021. (<br>Answer due for ALL FEDERAL DEFENDANTS by 6/16/2021.), RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed on United States Attorney General. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney General 5/17/21., RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. OFFICE OF INFORMATION POLICY served on 5/17/2021; OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL served on 5/17/2021; OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL served on 5/17/2021; UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE served on 5/17/2021 (Attachments: # 1 Combined Affidavits of Mailing)(Townsend, KatieLynn) (Entered: 05/25/2021) |
| 06/16/2021 | <u>5</u> | ANSWER to Complaint by OFFICE OF INFORMATION POLICY, OFFICE OF<br>THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY<br>GENERAL, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.(Gaffney, Michael)<br>(Entered: 06/16/2021)  |
| 06/16/2021 | <u>6</u> | NOTICE of Appearance by Adam Alexander Marshall on behalf of REPORTERS<br>COMMITTEE FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS (Marshall, Adam) (Entered:<br>06/16/2021)   |
| 06/16/2021 |          | MINUTE ORDER directing the parties to MEET AND CONFER and file a joint status report proposing a schedule for further proceedings. The report should address the status of the plaintiff's FOIA request, including the anticipated number of documents responsive to the request and the anticipated date(s) for release of the requested documents. The parties shall file the joint status report on or before July 7, 2021. So ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on June 16, 2021. (lcdlf3) (Entered: 06/16/2021)  |

| 06/16/2021 |           | Set/Reset Deadlines: Status Report due by 7/7/2021 (zjch) (Entered: 06/17/2021)   |
|------------|-----------|---|
| 06/24/2021 | 7         | NOTICE of Appearance by Gunita Singh on behalf of REPORTERS COMMITTEE<br>FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS (Singh, Gunita) (Entered: 06/24/2021)   |
| 07/07/2021 | <u>8</u>  | Joint STATUS REPORT by OFFICE OF INFORMATION POLICY, OFFICE OF<br>THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY<br>GENERAL, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Gaffney, Michael)<br>(Entered: 07/07/2021)  |
| 07/08/2021 |           | MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' joint status report, the parties are directed to file another joint status report on or before August 6, 2021. So ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on July 8, 2021. (lcdlf3) (Entered: 07/08/2021)                 |
| 07/08/2021 |           | Set/Reset Deadlines: Status Report due by 8/6/2021 (zjch) (Entered: 07/08/2021)   |
| 08/06/2021 | 2         | Joint STATUS REPORT by REPORTERS COMMITTEE FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. (Townsend, KatieLynn) (Entered: 08/06/2021)  |
| 08/06/2021 |           | MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' joint status report, the parties are directed to file another joint status report on or before October 6, 2021. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on August 6, 2021. (lcdlf3) (Entered: 08/06/2021)              |
| 08/06/2021 |           | Set/Reset Deadlines: Status Report due by 10/6/2021 (zjch) (Entered: 08/06/2021)  |
| 10/06/2021 | <u>10</u> | Joint STATUS REPORT by OFFICE OF INFORMATION POLICY, OFFICE OF<br>THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY<br>GENERAL, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Gaffney, Michael)<br>(Entered: 10/06/2021)  |
| 10/06/2021 |           | MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>10</u> Joint Status Report, the parties are directed to file another joint status report on or before December 6, 2021. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on October 6, 2021. (lcdlf3) (Entered: 10/06/2021)  |
| 12/06/2021 | <u>11</u> | Joint STATUS REPORT by OFFICE OF INFORMATION POLICY, OFFICE OF<br>THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY<br>GENERAL, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Gaffney, Michael)<br>(Entered: 12/06/2021)  |
| 12/07/2021 |           | MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>11</u> Joint Status Report, the parties are directed to file another joint status report on or before February 4, 2022. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on December 7, 2021. (lcdlf3) (Entered: 12/07/2021) |
| 02/04/2022 | <u>12</u> | Joint STATUS REPORT by REPORTERS COMMITTEE FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. (Marshall, Adam) (Entered: 02/04/2022)   |
| 02/04/2022 |           | MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>12</u> Joint Status Report, the parties are directed to file another joint status report on or before April 5, 2022. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on February 4, 2022. (lcdlf3) (Entered: 02/04/2022)    |
| 04/05/2022 | <u>13</u> | Joint STATUS REPORT by OFFICE OF INFORMATION POLICY, OFFICE OF<br>THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY<br>GENERAL, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Gaffney, Michael)<br>(Entered: 04/05/2022)  |
| 04/05/2022 |           | MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>13</u> Joint Status Report, the parties are directed to file another joint status report on or before June 6, 2022. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on April 5, 2022. (lcdlf3) (Entered: 04/05/2022)        |
| 06/06/2022 | <u>14</u> | Joint STATUS REPORT by OFFICE OF INFORMATION POLICY, OFFICE OF<br>THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY<br>GENERAL, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Gaffney, Michael)<br>(Entered: 06/06/2022)  |

| 06/07/2022 |           | MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>14</u> Joint Status Report, the parties are directed to file another joint status report on or before August 5, 2022. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on June 7, 2022. (lcdlf3) (Entered: 06/07/2022)   |
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| 08/05/2022 | <u>15</u> | Joint STATUS REPORT by OFFICE OF INFORMATION POLICY, OFFICE OF<br>THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY<br>GENERAL, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Gaffney, Michael)<br>(Entered: 08/05/2022)  |
| 08/05/2022 |           | MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>15</u> Joint Status Report, they are directed to file another joint status report on or before September 2, 2022. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on August 5, 2022. (lcdlf3) (Entered: 08/05/2022)   |
| 09/02/2022 | <u>16</u> | Joint STATUS REPORT by REPORTERS COMMITTEE FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. (Townsend, KatieLynn) (Entered: 09/02/2022)  |
| 09/02/2022 |           | MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>16</u> Joint Status Report, it is<br>hereby ORDERED that the parties complete summary judgment briefing on the<br>following schedule: Defendants' motion shall be filed by October 27, 2022; Plaintiff's<br>opposition and cross-motion shall be filed by December 16, 2022; Defendants' reply<br>and opposition to the cross-motion shall be filed by January 20, 2023; and Plaintiff's<br>reply in support of the cross-motion shall be filed by February 10, 2023. So Ordered<br>by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on September 2, 2022. (lcdlf3) (Entered: 09/02/2022) |
| 09/02/2022 |           | Set/Reset Deadlines: Cross Motions due by 12/16/2022. Response to Cross Motions due by 1/20/2023. Reply to Cross Motions due by 2/10/2023. Motions due by 10/27/2022. Responses due by 12/16/2022. Replies due by 1/20/2023. (zjch, ) (Entered: 09/02/2022)   |
| 10/25/2022 | <u>17</u> | Consent MOTION for Extension of Time to <i>File Summary Judgment Motions</i> by<br>OFFICE OF INFORMATION POLICY, OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,<br>OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL, UNITED STATES<br>DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Gaffney,<br>Michael) (Entered: 10/25/2022)  |
| 10/26/2022 |           | MINUTE ORDER granting the defendants' <u>17</u> Motion for Extension of Time. It is<br>ORDERED that the parties complete summary judgment briefing on the following<br>schedule: Defendants' motion shall be filed by November 4, 2022; Plaintiff's<br>opposition and cross-motion shall be filed by December 23, 2022; Defendants' reply<br>and opposition to the cross-motion shall be filed by January 25, 2023; and Plaintiff's<br>reply in support of the cross-motion shall be filed by February 17, 2023. So Ordered<br>by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on October 26, 2022. (lcdlf2) (Entered: 10/26/2022)           |
| 10/26/2022 |           | Set/Reset Deadlines: Cross Motions due by 12/23/2022. Response to Cross Motions due by 1/25/2023. Reply to Cross Motions due by 2/17/2023. (zjch, ) (Entered: 10/27/2022)   |
| 11/04/2022 | <u>18</u> | MOTION for Summary Judgment by OFFICE OF INFORMATION POLICY,<br>OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY<br>ATTORNEY GENERAL, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.<br>(Attachments: # 1 Memorandum in Support, # 2 Exhibit 1 (Brinkmann Declaration), #<br>3 Exhibit 2 (Seidel Declaration), # 4 Statement of Facts, # 5 Text of Proposed<br>Order)(Gaffney, Michael) (Entered: 11/04/2022)   |
| 12/19/2022 | <u>19</u> | Consent MOTION to Modify <i>Briefing Schedule</i> by REPORTERS COMMITTEE FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. (Townsend, KatieLynn) (Entered: 12/19/2022)  |
| 12/20/2022 |           | MINUTE ORDER granting the defendants' <u>19</u> Motion for Extension of Time. It is<br>ORDERED that the parties complete the remaining summary judgment briefing on the<br>following schedule: Plaintiff's opposition and cross-motion shall be filed by January<br>23, 2023; Defendants' reply and opposition to the cross-motion shall be filed by<br>March 2, 2023; and Plaintiff's reply in support of the cross-motion shall be filed by<br>March 23, 2023. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on December 20, 2022.<br>(lcdlf2) (Entered: 12/20/2022)  |
| 12/20/2022 |           | Set/Reset Deadlines: Cross Motions due by 1/23/2023. Response to Cross Motions due by 3/2/2023. Reply to Cross Motions due by 3/23/2023. (zsmc) (Entered: 12/20/2022)   |

| 01/17/2023 | <u>20</u> | Consent MOTION to Modify <i>Briefing Schedule</i> by REPORTERS COMMITTEE FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. (Townsend, KatieLynn) (Entered: 01/17/2023)  |
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| 01/18/2023 |           | MINUTE ORDER granting the <u>20</u> Consent Motion for Extension of Time. It is<br>ORDERED that the parties complete the remaining summary judgment briefing on the<br>following schedule: Plaintiff's opposition and cross-motion shall be filed by March 6,<br>2023; Defendants' reply and opposition to the cross-motion shall be filed by April 10,<br>2023; and Plaintiff's reply in support of the cross-motion shall be filed by May 5,<br>2023. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on January 18, 2023. (lcdlf2)<br>(Entered: 01/18/2023)  |
| 01/18/2023 |           | Set/Reset Deadlines: Opposition and Cross Motion due by 3/6/2023. Reply and Opposition to Cross Motion due by 4/10/2023. Reply in Support of the Cross Motion due by 5/5/2023. (smc) (Entered: 01/18/2023)  |
| 02/27/2023 | <u>21</u> | Consent MOTION to Modify <i>Briefing Schedule</i> by REPORTERS COMMITTEE FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. (Townsend, KatieLynn) (Entered: 02/27/2023)  |
| 02/27/2023 |           | MINUTE ORDER granting the plaintiff's <u>21</u> Consent Motion for Modification of<br>Briefing Schedule. It is ORDERED that the parties complete the remaining summary<br>judgment briefing on the following schedule: Plaintiff's opposition and cross-motion<br>shall be filed by April 7, 2023; Defendants' reply and opposition to the cross-motion<br>shall be filed by May 9, 2023; and Plaintiff's reply in support of the cross-motion shall<br>be filed by June 2, 2023. No further extensions will be granted absent extraordinary<br><u>circumstances or a motion to stay the case</u> . So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich<br>on February 27, 2023. (Icdlf2) (Entered: 02/27/2023) |
| 02/27/2023 |           | Set/Reset Deadlines: Cross Motions due by 4/7/2023. Response to Cross Motions due by 5/9/2023. Reply to Cross Motions due by 6/2/2023. Response to Motion for Summary Judgment due by 4/7/2023. Reply to Motion for Summary Judgment due by 5/9/2023. (zjch, ) (Entered: 02/27/2023)  |
| 03/31/2023 | <u>22</u> | Joint MOTION to Stay <i>Case</i> by REPORTERS COMMITTEE FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. (Townsend, KatieLynn) (Entered: 03/31/2023)   |
| 03/31/2023 |           | MINUTE ORDER granting the parties' <u>22</u> Joint Motion to Stay. This case is<br>STAYED. The parties are directed to file a joint status report on or before May 1, 2023<br>if a stipulation of dismissal is not filed before then. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L.<br>Friedrich on March 31, 2023. (lcdlf2) (Entered: 03/31/2023)  |
| 05/01/2023 | <u>23</u> | Joint STATUS REPORT by OFFICE OF INFORMATION POLICY, OFFICE OF<br>THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY<br>GENERAL, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Gaffney, Michael)<br>(Entered: 05/01/2023)  |
| 05/01/2023 |           | MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>23</u> Joint Status Report, the parties are directed to file a joint status report on or before May 31, 2023 if a stipulation of dismissal is not filed before then. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on May 1, 2023. (lcdlf2) (Entered: 05/01/2023)   |
| 05/31/2023 | <u>24</u> | Joint STATUS REPORT by REPORTERS COMMITTEE FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. (Townsend, KatieLynn) (Entered: 05/31/2023)  |
| 05/31/2023 |           | MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>24</u> Joint Status Report, the parties are directed to file a joint status report on or before June 30, 2023 if a stipulation of dismissal is not filed before then. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on May 31, 2023. (lcdlf2) (Entered: 05/31/2023)   |
| 06/21/2023 | <u>25</u> | STIPULATION of Dismissal by REPORTERS COMMITTEE FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. (Townsend, KatieLynn) (Entered: 06/21/2023)   |
| 06/26/2023 |           | MINUTE ORDER dismissing this case with prejudice in light of the parties' <u>25</u><br>Stipulation of Dismissal. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(a). The Clerk of Court is directed to<br>close this case. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on June 26, 2023. (lcdlf2)<br>(Entered: 06/26/2023)   |