

**U.S. District Court
District of Columbia (Washington, DC)
CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:21-cv-00125-APM**

MAERSK LINE, LIMITED v. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
STATE

Assigned to: Judge Amit P. Mehta
Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act

Date Filed: 01/14/2021
Date Terminated: 08/11/2023
Jury Demand: None
Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of
Information Act
Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

Plaintiff

MAERSK LINE, LIMITED

represented by **Gary Emery English**
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V.

Defendant

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

represented by **Daniel Patrick Schaefer**
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Date Filed	#	Docket Text
01/14/2021	<u>1</u>	COMPLAINT against MAERSK LINE, LIMITED (Filing fee \$ 402 receipt number ADCDC-8079666) filed by MAERSK LINE, LIMITED. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit 1, # <u>2</u> Exhibit 2, # <u>3</u> Exhibit 3, # <u>4</u> Exhibit 4, # <u>5</u> Exhibit 5, # <u>6</u> Exhibit 6, # <u>7</u> Exhibit 7, # <u>8</u> Civil Cover Sheet Civil Cover Sheet, # <u>9</u> Summons Summons in a Civil Action, # <u>10</u> Summons Summons in a Civil Action, # <u>11</u> Summons Summons in a Civil Action)(Benjamin, Myra) (Entered: 01/14/2021)
01/14/2021	<u>2</u>	LCvR 26.1 CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE of Corporate Affiliations and Financial Interests by MAERSK LINE, LIMITED (Benjamin, Myra) (Entered: 01/14/2021)
01/15/2021		Case Assigned to Judge Amit P. Mehta. (adh,) (Entered: 01/15/2021)
01/15/2021	<u>3</u>	SUMMONS (3) Issued Electronically as to U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, U.S. Attorney and U.S. Attorney General (Attachment: # <u>1</u> Notice and Consent)(adh,) (Entered: 01/15/2021)
01/26/2021	<u>4</u>	ENTERED IN ERROR.....NOTICE of Filing of Proof of Service by MAERSK LINE, LIMITED re <u>3</u> Summons Issued Electronically as to AUSA, <u>1</u> Complaint, (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Declaration Declaration of Service, # <u>2</u> Supplement U.S. Postal Service Certified Mail Receipt, # <u>3</u> Supplement U.S. Postal Service Certified Mail Receipt)(Benjamin, Myra) Modified on 1/29/2021 (eg). (Entered: 01/26/2021)
01/29/2021		NOTICE OF CORRECTED DOCKET ENTRY: re <u>4</u> Notice (Other), was entered in error and counsel was instructed to refile said pleading using correct Summons Returned Executed event. (eg) (Entered: 01/29/2021)
01/29/2021	<u>5</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE served on 1/22/2021, RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed on United States Attorney General. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney General 01/22/2021., RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed as to the United States Attorney. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney on 1/22/2021. (Answer due for ALL FEDERAL DEFENDANTS by 2/21/2021.) (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit US Postal Service Certified Mail Receipts, # <u>2</u> Exhibit US Postal Service Certified Mail Receipts)(Benjamin, Myra) (Entered: 01/29/2021)
02/16/2021	<u>6</u>	MOTION for Leave to Appear Pro Hac Vice :Attorney Name- Gary Emery English, Filing fee \$ 100, receipt number ADCDC-8205601. Fee Status: Fee Paid. by MAERSK LINE, LIMITED. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Declaration Declaration of Gary Emery English, # <u>2</u> Text of Proposed Order Proposed Order)(Benjamin, Myra) (Entered: 02/16/2021)
02/17/2021		MINUTE ORDER granting <u>6</u> Motion for Leave to Appear Pro Hac Vice. Attorney Gary Emery English is hereby admitted pro hac vice to appear in this matter. Counsel should register for e-filing via PACER and file a notice of appearance pursuant to LCvR 83.6(a). Click for instructions. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on

		2/17/2021. (lcapm3) (Entered: 02/17/2021)
02/22/2021	<u>7</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Daniel Patrick Schaefer on behalf of U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Schaefer, Daniel) (Entered: 02/22/2021)
02/22/2021	<u>8</u>	ANSWER to Complaint by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE.(Schaefer, Daniel) (Entered: 02/22/2021)
02/23/2021	<u>9</u>	MINUTE ORDER. Both a Complaint and an Answer are now before the court in this FOIA case. It is hereby ordered that the parties shall meet and confer and file a Joint Status Report on or before March 9, 2021. The Joint Status Report shall include (1) the status of Plaintiffs FOIA request; (2) the anticipated number of documents responsive to Plaintiffs FOIA request; (3) the anticipated date(s) for release of the documents requested by Plaintiff; (4) whether a motion for stay is likely under Open America v. Watergate Special Prosecution Force, 547 F.2d 605 (D.C. Cir. 1976); and (5) whether the parties anticipate summary judgment briefing and, if so, a proposed briefing schedule. See attached Order for additional details. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 2/23/2021. (lcapm3) (Entered: 02/23/2021)
02/26/2021	<u>10</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Gary English on behalf of MAERSK LINE, LIMITED (English, Gary) (Entered: 02/26/2021)
03/09/2021	<u>11</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Schaefer, Daniel) (Entered: 03/09/2021)
03/10/2021		MINUTE ORDER. The parties shall file an additional Joint Status Report by May 4, 2021, which updates the court on the status of processing and production of responsive records. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 3/10/2021. (lcapm3) (Entered: 03/10/2021)
05/04/2021	<u>12</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Schaefer, Daniel) (Entered: 05/04/2021)
05/04/2021		MINUTE ORDER. The parties shall file an additional Joint Status Report by July 1, 2021, which updates the court on the status of processing and production of responsive records. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 5/4/2021. (lcapm3) (Entered: 05/04/2021)
06/16/2021	<u>13</u>	NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTION OF COUNSEL by Myra Benjamin on behalf of MAERSK LINE, LIMITED Substituting for attorney Myra A. Benjamin (Benjamin, Myra) (Entered: 06/16/2021)
07/01/2021	<u>14</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Schaefer, Daniel) (Entered: 07/01/2021)
07/02/2021		MINUTE ORDER. The parties shall file an additional Joint Status Report by September 7, 2021, which updates the court on the status of processing and production of responsive records. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 7/2/2021. (lcapm3) (Entered: 07/02/2021)
08/17/2021	<u>15</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Syed M. Reza on behalf of MAERSK LINE, LIMITED (Reza, Syed) (Entered: 08/17/2021)
09/07/2021	<u>16</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Schaefer, Daniel) (Entered: 09/07/2021)
09/07/2021		MINUTE ORDER. The parties shall file an additional Joint Status Report by December 6, 2021, which updates the court on the status of processing and production of responsive records. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 09/07/2021. (lcapm3) (Entered: 09/07/2021)
12/06/2021	<u>17</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Schaefer, Daniel) (Entered: 12/06/2021)
12/07/2021		MINUTE ORDER. The parties shall file an additional Joint Status Report by February 15, 2022, which updates the court on the status of processing and production of responsive records. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 12/07/2021. (lcapm3) (Entered: 12/07/2021)

02/15/2022	<u>18</u>	STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Schaefer, Daniel) (Entered: 02/15/2022)
02/16/2022	<u>19</u>	NOTICE by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE re <u>18</u> Status Report (Schaefer, Daniel) (Entered: 02/16/2022)
02/18/2022		MINUTE ORDER. The parties shall file an additional Joint Status Report by April 15, 2022, which updates the court on the status of processing and production of responsive records. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 02/18/2022. (lcapm3) (Entered: 02/18/2022)
04/14/2022	<u>20</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Schaefer, Daniel) (Entered: 04/14/2022)
04/17/2022		MINUTE ORDER. The parties shall file an additional Joint Status Report by May 16, 2022, which advises whether any disputes remain and, if so, proposes a schedule for further proceedings. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 04/17/2022. (lcapm3) (Entered: 04/17/2022)
05/16/2022	<u>21</u>	STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Schaefer, Daniel) (Entered: 05/16/2022)
05/17/2022	<u>22</u>	ORDER entering briefing schedule for Plaintiff's planned Motion for Leave to Amend the Complaint. Plaintiff's Motion shall be due by May 23, 2022. Defendant's Opposition to Plaintiff's Motion for Leave shall be due on or before June 6, 2022. Plaintiff's Reply, if any, shall be due on or before June 13, 2022. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 05/16/2022. (lcapm3) (Entered: 05/17/2022)
05/23/2022	<u>23</u>	MOTION to Amend/Correct <u>1</u> Complaint, by MAERSK LINE, LIMITED. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Memorandum in Support, # <u>2</u> Exhibit A, # <u>3</u> Exhibit B, # <u>4</u> Exhibit C, # <u>5</u> Exhibit D, # <u>6</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Reza, Syed) (Entered: 05/23/2022)
06/06/2022	<u>24</u>	Memorandum in opposition to re <u>23</u> MOTION to Amend/Correct <u>1</u> Complaint, filed by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit 1)(Schaefer, Daniel) (Entered: 06/06/2022)
06/07/2022	<u>25</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Randy C. Sparks, Jr on behalf of MAERSK LINE, LIMITED (Sparks, Randy) (Entered: 06/07/2022)
06/13/2022	<u>26</u>	REPLY to opposition to motion re <u>23</u> MOTION to Amend/Correct <u>1</u> Complaint, filed by MAERSK LINE, LIMITED. (Sparks, Randy) (Entered: 06/13/2022)
07/06/2022	<u>27</u>	MOTION for Leave to Appear Pro Hac Vice :Attorney Name– Ryan T. Gibson, Filing fee \$ 100, receipt number ADCDC–9353254. Fee Status: Fee Paid. by MAERSK LINE, LIMITED. (Sparks, Randy) (Entered: 07/06/2022)
07/06/2022	<u>28</u>	DECLARATION of Ryan T. Gibson Motion for Admission Pro Hac Vice by MAERSK LINE, LIMITED re <u>27</u> MOTION for Leave to Appear Pro Hac Vice :Attorney Name– Ryan T. Gibson, Filing fee \$ 100, receipt number ADCDC–9353254. Fee Status: Fee Paid. filed by MAERSK LINE, LIMITED. (Sparks, Randy) (Entered: 07/06/2022)
07/07/2022	<u>29</u>	NOTICE of Proposed Order by MAERSK LINE, LIMITED re <u>27</u> MOTION for Leave to Appear Pro Hac Vice :Attorney Name– Ryan T. Gibson, Filing fee \$ 100, receipt number ADCDC–9353254. Fee Status: Fee Paid. (Sparks, Randy) (Entered: 07/07/2022)
07/08/2022		ORDER granting <u>27</u> Motion for Admission of Attorney Pro Hac Vice. Attorney Ryan T. Gibson is hereby admitted pro hac vice to appear in this matter. Counsel should register for e-filing via PACER and file a notice of appearance pursuant to LCvR 83.6(a). Click for instructions . Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 07/08/2022. (lcapm3) (Entered: 07/08/2022)
07/12/2022	<u>30</u>	ORDER granting Plaintiff's <u>23</u> Motion to Amend/Supplement the Complaint. The Clerk of Court shall accept and file the Amended Complaint at ECF No. 23–5 as the operative pleading in this matter. Please see attached Order for further details. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 07/12/2022. (lcapm3) (Entered: 07/12/2022)

07/19/2022	<u>31</u>	MOTION for Leave to Appear Pro Hac Vice :Attorney Name– John E. Holloway, Filing fee \$ 100, receipt number ADCDC–9380267. Fee Status: Fee Paid. by MAERSK LINE, LIMITED. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Declaration of John E. Holloway, # <u>2</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Sparks, Randy) (Entered: 07/19/2022)
07/25/2022		MINUTE ORDER granting <u>31</u> Motion for Admission of Attorney Pro Hac Vice. Attorney John E. Holloway is hereby admitted pro hac vice to appear in this matter. Counsel should register for e-filing via PACER and file a notice of appearance pursuant to LCvR 83.6(a). Click for instructions. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 07/25/2022. (lcapm3) (Entered: 07/25/2022)
07/26/2022	<u>32</u>	ANSWER to Complaint by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE.(Schaefer, Daniel) (Entered: 07/26/2022)
07/27/2022	<u>33</u>	ORDER. An Amended Complaint and an Answer are now before the court in this FOIA case. It is hereby ordered that the parties shall meet and confer and file a Joint Status Report on or before August 12, 2022, with respect to the additional FOIA Request introduced in the Amended Complaint. The Joint Status Report shall include (1) the status of Plaintiff's March 2022 FOIA request; (2) the anticipated number of documents responsive to Plaintiff's March 2022 FOIA request; (3) the anticipated date(s) for release of the documents requested by Plaintiff; (4) whether a motion for stay is likely under <i>Open America v. Watergate Special Prosecution Force</i> , 547 F.2d 605 (D.C. Cir. 1976); and (5) whether the parties anticipate summary judgment briefing and, if so, a proposed briefing schedule. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 07/27/2022. (lcapm3) (Entered: 07/27/2022)
08/02/2022	<u>34</u>	Consent MOTION for Extension of Time to File <i>Joint Status Report</i> by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Schaefer, Daniel) (Entered: 08/02/2022)
08/02/2022		MINUTE ORDER granting Defendant's <u>34</u> Consent Motion for Extension of Time. The parties may file their Joint Status Report by August 26, 2022. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 08/02/2022. (lcapm3) (Entered: 08/02/2022)
08/26/2022	<u>35</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Schaefer, Daniel) (Entered: 08/26/2022)
08/29/2022		MINUTE ORDER. The parties shall file an additional Joint Status Report by November 29, 2022, which updates the court on the processing and production of responsive records. The parties shall proposed a schedule for further proceedings if the production is completed but disputes remain unresolved. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 08/29/2022. (lcapm3) (Entered: 08/29/2022)
10/14/2022	<u>36</u>	NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTION OF COUNSEL by Dedra Seibel Curteman on behalf of All Defendants Substituting for attorney Daniel P. Schaefer (Curteman, Dedra) (Entered: 10/14/2022)
11/29/2022	<u>37</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Curteman, Dedra) (Entered: 11/29/2022)
11/30/2022		MINUTE ORDER. The parties shall file an additional Joint Status Report by February 14, 2023, which updates the court on the processing and production of responsive records. The parties shall propose a schedule for further proceedings if the production is completed but disputes remain unresolved. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 11/30/2022. (lcapm3) (Entered: 11/30/2022)
02/14/2023	<u>38</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT <i>with Proposed Order</i> by MAERSK LINE, LIMITED. (Sparks, Randy) (Entered: 02/14/2023)
02/15/2023		MINUTE ORDER. The parties shall file an additional Joint Status Report by March 17, 2023, which advises whether any disputes remain and, if so, proposes a schedule for further proceedings. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 02/15/2023. (lcapm3) (Entered: 02/15/2023)
02/15/2023		NOTICE of Provisional/Government Not Certified Status re <u>38</u> Joint STATUS REPORT <i>with Proposed Order</i> by MAERSK LINE, LIMITED. (Sparks, Randy).

		<p>Your attorney renewal/government certification has not been received. As a result, your membership with the U.S. District & Bankruptcy Courts for the District of Columbia is not in good standing, and you are not permitted to file. Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 83.9, you must immediately correct your membership status by following the appropriate instructions on this page of our website: https://www.dcd.uscourts.gov/attorney-renewal.</p> <p>Please be advised that the presiding judge in this case has been notified that you are currently not in good standing to file in this court. Renewal Due by 2/22/2023. (zbaj) (Entered: 02/15/2023)</p>
03/17/2023	<u>39</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Curteman, Dedra) (Entered: 03/17/2023)
03/19/2023		MINUTE ORDER. The parties shall file an additional Joint Status Report by April 17, 2023, which advises whether any dispute remains over fees and, if so, proposes a schedule for further proceedings. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 03/19/2023. (lcapm3) (Entered: 03/19/2023)
04/17/2023	<u>40</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Curteman, Dedra) (Entered: 04/17/2023)
04/18/2023		MINUTE ORDER. The parties shall file an additional Joint Status Report by May 17, 2023, which advises whether any dispute remains over fees and, if so, proposes a schedule for further proceedings. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 04/18/2023. (lcapm3) (Entered: 04/18/2023)
04/18/2023		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 5/17/2023. (smc) (Entered: 04/18/2023)
05/17/2023	<u>41</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Curteman, Dedra) (Entered: 05/17/2023)
05/20/2023		MINUTE ORDER. The parties shall file an additional Joint Status Report by July 3, 2023, which updates the court on the status of settlement, unless a stipulation of dismissal is filed by that date. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 05/19/2023. (lcapm3) (Entered: 05/20/2023)
06/29/2023	<u>42</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Curteman, Dedra) (Entered: 06/29/2023)
07/05/2023		MINUTE ORDER. The parties shall file an additional Joint Status Report by August 17, 2023, which updates the court on the status of settlement, unless a stipulation of dismissal is filed by that date. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 07/05/2023. (lcapm3) (Entered: 07/05/2023)
08/11/2023	<u>43</u>	STIPULATION of Dismissal by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Curteman, Dedra) (Entered: 08/11/2023)