

**U.S. District Court  
 District of Columbia (Washington, DC)  
 CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:22-cv-01034-BAH**

JUDICIAL WATCH, INC. v. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
 Assigned to: Judge Beryl A. Howell  
 Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act

Date Filed: 04/13/2022  
 Date Terminated: 11/28/2023  
 Jury Demand: None  
 Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of Information Act  
 Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

**Plaintiff**

**JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.**

represented by **Kathryn Brooke Blankenberg**  
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V.

**Defendant**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

represented by **Stephanie R. Johnson**  
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Date Filed	#	Docket Text
04/13/2022	<u>1</u>	COMPLAINT against U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ( Filing fee \$ 402 receipt number ADCDC-9169224) filed by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit A, # <u>2</u> Civil Cover Sheet, # <u>3</u> Summons for US Attorney for DC, # <u>4</u> Summons for US Attorney General, # <u>5</u> Summons for U.S. Department of Justice)(Orfanedes,

		Paul) (Entered: 04/13/2022)
04/13/2022	<u>2</u>	LCvR 26.1 CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE of Corporate Affiliations and Financial Interests by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC. (Orfanedes, Paul) (Entered: 04/13/2022)
04/14/2022		Case Assigned to Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell. (zsb) (Entered: 04/14/2022)
04/14/2022	<u>3</u>	STANDING ORDER. Signed by Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell on April 14, 2022. (lcbah4) (Entered: 04/14/2022)
04/19/2022	<u>4</u>	SUMMONS (3) Issued Electronically as to U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, U.S. Attorney and U.S. Attorney General (Attachment: # <u>1</u> Notice and Consent)(znmg) (Entered: 04/19/2022)
04/26/2022	<u>5</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed as to the United States Attorney. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney on 4/26/2022. Answer due for ALL FEDERAL DEFENDANTS by 5/26/2022. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Declaration of David Rothstein)(Orfanedes, Paul) (Entered: 04/26/2022)
04/26/2022	<u>6</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed on United States Attorney General. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney General 04/25/22. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Declaration of David Rothstein)(Orfanedes, Paul) (Entered: 04/26/2022)
04/26/2022	<u>7</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE served on 4/25/2022 (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Declaration of David Rothstein)(Orfanedes, Paul) (Entered: 04/26/2022)
05/05/2022	<u>8</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Stephanie R. Johnson on behalf of U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (Johnson, Stephanie) (Entered: 05/05/2022)
05/24/2022	<u>9</u>	ANSWER to Complaint by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.(Johnson, Stephanie) (Entered: 05/24/2022)
06/06/2022	<u>10</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Kathryn Brooke Blankenberg on behalf of JUDICIAL WATCH, INC. (Blankenberg, Kathryn) (Entered: 06/06/2022)
06/07/2022	<u>11</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Johnson, Stephanie) (Entered: 06/07/2022)
06/08/2022		MINUTE ORDER (paperless) DIRECTING, upon consideration of the parties' <u>11</u> Joint Status Report, the parties to file, by September 6, 2022, a joint status report advising the Court whether any disputes remain between the parties, and if so, proposing a schedule for further proceedings. Signed by Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell on June 8, 2022. (lcbah4) (Entered: 06/08/2022)
06/09/2022		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 9/6/2022. (ztg) (Entered: 06/09/2022)
09/06/2022	<u>12</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Johnson, Stephanie) (Entered: 09/06/2022)
09/06/2022		MINUTE ORDER (paperless) DIRECTING, upon consideration of the parties' <u>12</u> Joint Status Report, the parties to file, by December 5, 2022, a joint status report advising the Court whether any disputes remain between the parties, and if so, proposing a schedule for further proceedings. Signed by Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell on September 6, 2022. (lcbah4) (Entered: 09/06/2022)
09/07/2022		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 12/5/2022. (ztg) (Entered: 09/07/2022)
12/05/2022	<u>13</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Johnson, Stephanie) (Entered: 12/05/2022)
12/05/2022		MINUTE ORDER (paperless) ISSUING, upon consideration of the parties' <u>13</u> Joint Status Report, the following briefing schedule:  1. defendant will file its motion for summary judgment by January 20, 2023; 2. plaintiff will file its combined cross-motion for summary judgment and opposition by February 21, 2023; 3. defendant will file its combined opposition and reply by March 23, 2023; and

		4. plaintiff will file its reply by April 22, 2023. Signed by Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell on December 5, 2022. (lcbah4) (Entered: 12/05/2022)
12/06/2022		Set/Reset Deadlines: Summary judgment motion due by 1/20/2023; cross-motion and opposition to motion for summary judgment due by 2/21/2023; opposition to cross-motion and reply to opposition to motion for summary judgment due by 3/23/2023; reply to opposition to cross-motion due by 4/22/2023. (ztg) (Entered: 12/06/2022)
01/20/2023	<u>14</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Jimmy S. McBirney on behalf of U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (McBirney, Jimmy) (Entered: 01/20/2023)
01/20/2023	<u>15</u>	Consent MOTION for Extension of Time to <i>file Defendant's Motion for Summary Judgment</i> by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (McBirney, Jimmy) (Entered: 01/20/2023)
01/20/2023		MINUTE ORDER (paperless) GRANTING the defendant's <u>15</u> Consent Motion for Extension of Time to File, and AMENDING the SCHEDULING ORDER, previously entered on December 05, 2022, as follows:  1. By March 1, 2023, defendant shall file any motion for summary judgment; 2. By March 31, 2023, plaintiff shall file any combined cross-motion for summary judgment and opposition; 3. By May 1, 2023, defendant shall file any combined opposition and reply; and 4. By May 31, 2023, plaintiff shall file any reply. Signed by Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell on January 20, 2023. (lcbah4) (Entered: 01/20/2023)
01/23/2023		Set/Reset Deadlines: Summary judgment motion due by 3/1/2023; cross-motion and opposition to motion for summary judgment due by 3/31/2023; opposition to cross-motion and reply to opposition to motion for summary judgment due by 5/1/2023; reply to opposition to cross-motion due by 5/31/2023. (ztg) (Entered: 01/23/2023)
03/01/2023	<u>16</u>	MOTION for Summary Judgment by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Declaration of Michael G. Seidel)(Johnson, Stephanie) (Entered: 03/01/2023)
03/31/2023	<u>17</u>	Memorandum in opposition to re <u>16</u> Motion for Summary Judgment <i>and Plf's Cross-Motion for Summary Judgment</i> filed by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Statement of Facts Plf's Response to Def's Statement of Facts and Plf's Further Statement of Facts, # <u>2</u> Declaration Kathryn Blankenberg's Declaration on Exhibits, # <u>3</u> Exhibit Plf's Exhibit Table, # <u>4</u> Exhibit Plf's Exhibit 1, # <u>5</u> Exhibit Plf's Exhibit 2, # <u>6</u> Exhibit Plf's Exhibit 3, # <u>7</u> Exhibit Plf's Exhibit 4, # <u>8</u> Text of Proposed Order Plf's Proposed Order)(Blankenberg, Kathryn) (Entered: 03/31/2023)
03/31/2023	<u>18</u>	Cross MOTION for Summary Judgment <i>and Opposition to Def's Motion for Summary Judgment</i> by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Statement of Facts Plf's Response to Def's Statement of Facts and Plf's Further Statement of Facts, # <u>2</u> Declaration Kathryn Blankenberg's Declaration on Exhibits, # <u>3</u> Exhibit Plf's Exhibit Index, # <u>4</u> Exhibit Plf's Exhibit, # <u>5</u> Exhibit Plf's Exhibit, # <u>6</u> Exhibit Plf's Exhibit, # <u>7</u> Exhibit Plf's Exhibit 4, # <u>8</u> Text of Proposed Order Plf's Proposed Order)(Blankenberg, Kathryn) (Entered: 03/31/2023)
04/26/2023	<u>19</u>	Consent MOTION for Extension of Time to <i>FILE ITS COMBINED REPLY AND OPPOSITION TO PLAINTIFFS MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT</i> , Consent MOTION to Modify <i>THE BRIEFING SCHEDULE</i> by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Johnson, Stephanie) (Entered: 04/26/2023)
04/27/2023		MINUTE ORDER (paperless) GRANTING defendant's <u>19</u> Consent Motion for Extension of Time, and AMENDING the SCHEDULING ORDER, previously entered on January 20, 2023, as follows:  1. By May 31, 2023, defendant shall file any combined opposition and reply; and 2. By June 30, 2023, plaintiff shall file any reply. Signed by Judge Beryl A. Howell on April 27, 2023. (lcbah4) (Entered: 04/27/2023)

04/27/2023		Set/Reset Deadlines: Defendant's combined opposition and reply due by 5/31/2023; plaintiff's reply due by 6/30/2023. (ztg) (Entered: 04/27/2023)
05/31/2023	<u>20</u>	REPLY to opposition to motion re <u>16</u> MOTION for Summary Judgment filed by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Declaration of Joseph Bender, # <u>2</u> Defendant's Response to Plaintiffs Further Statement of Material Facts.)(Johnson, Stephanie) (Entered: 05/31/2023)
05/31/2023	<u>21</u>	Memorandum in opposition to re <u>18</u> Motion for Summary Judgment,, filed by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Declaration of Joseph Bender, # <u>2</u> Defendant's Response to Plaintiff's Further Statement of Material Facts)(Johnson, Stephanie) (Entered: 05/31/2023)
06/30/2023	<u>22</u>	REPLY to opposition to motion re <u>18</u> Cross MOTION for Summary Judgment <i>and Opposition to Def's Motion for Summary Judgment</i> , <u>16</u> MOTION for Summary Judgment filed by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.. (Blankenberg, Kathryn) (Entered: 06/30/2023)
11/27/2023	<u>23</u>	ORDER GRANTING defendant's <u>16</u> Motion for Summary Judgment and DENYING plaintiff's <u>18</u> Cross-Motion for Summary Judgment. See order for further details. The Clerk of the Court is directed to close this case. Signed by Judge Beryl A. Howell on November 27, 2023. (lcbah4) (Entered: 11/27/2023)
11/27/2023	<u>24</u>	MEMORANDUM OPINION regarding defendant's <u>16</u> Motion for Summary Judgment and plaintiff's <u>18</u> Cross-Motion for Summary Judgment. Signed by Judge Beryl A. Howell on November 27, 2023. (lcbah4) (Entered: 11/27/2023)