

**U.S. District Court
District of Columbia (Washington, DC)
CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:23-cv-01036-ACR**

CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEGRITY v. U.S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

Assigned to: Judge Ana C. Reyes
Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act

Date Filed: 04/13/2023
Date Terminated: 11/20/2023
Jury Demand: None
Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of
Information Act
Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

Plaintiff**CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEGRITY**

represented by **Peter Newbatt Smith**
CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEGRITY
910 17th Street, NW
7th Floor
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 481-1239
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ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

V.

Defendant**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

represented by **Fithawi Berhane**
U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
601 D Street NW
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Washington, DC 20001
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LEAD ATTORNEY
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Date Filed	#	Docket Text
04/13/2023	<u>1</u>	COMPLAINT against U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (Filing fee \$ 402 receipt number ADCDC-9997522) filed by CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEGRITY. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Civil Cover Sheet, # <u>2</u> Summons USDA, # <u>3</u> Summons US Atty, # <u>4</u> Summons Atty Gen)(Smith, Peter) (Entered: 04/13/2023)
04/13/2023	<u>2</u>	LCvR 26.1 CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE of Corporate Affiliations and Financial Interests by CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEGRITY (Smith, Peter) (Entered: 04/13/2023)
04/13/2023		Case Assigned to Judge Ana C. Reyes. (zljn) (Entered: 04/13/2023)
04/13/2023	<u>3</u>	SUMMONS (3) Issued Electronically as to U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, U.S. Attorney and U.S. Attorney General (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Notice and Consent)(zljn) (Entered: 04/13/2023)
04/17/2023	<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 4/14/2023. Answer due for ALL FEDERAL DEFENDANTS by 5/14/2023. (Smith, Peter) (Entered: 04/17/2023)
04/25/2023	<u>5</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE served on 4/20/2023, RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed on United States Attorney General. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney General 04/21/2023. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit USPS Tracking - USDA, # <u>2</u> Exhibit USPS Tracking -

		AttyGen)(Smith, Peter) (Entered: 04/25/2023)
05/15/2023	<u>6</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Fithawi Berhane on behalf of U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (Berhane, Fithawi) (Entered: 05/15/2023)
05/15/2023	<u>7</u>	ANSWER to Complaint by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.(Berhane, Fithawi) (Entered: 05/15/2023)
05/17/2023	<u>8</u>	SCHEDULING ORDER: The Initial Scheduling Conference in this matter is set for June 21, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. in Courtroom 12. Signed by Judge Ana C. Reyes on 5/17/2023. (lcsj) (Entered: 05/17/2023)
05/19/2023		Set/Reset Deadlines/Hearings: Initial Scheduling Conference set for 6/21/2023 at 10:30 AM in Courtroom 12 before Judge Ana C. Reyes. (zcdw) (Entered: 05/19/2023)
06/20/2023		MINUTE ORDER: The initial scheduling conference set for June 21, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. is hereby CANCELLED. Cases filed under FOIA are exempt from the requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(f) and Local Civil Rule 16.3. See LCvR 16.3(b)(10). Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall meet and confer and file a Joint Status Report on or before July 6, 2023. The Joint Status Report should address, among other things, (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 a 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. Signed by Judge Ana C. Reyes on 6/20/2023. (lcsj) (Entered: 06/20/2023)
06/20/2023		Set/Reset Deadlines/Hearings: Joint Status Report due by 7/6/2023. (zcdw) (Entered: 06/20/2023)
07/06/2023	<u>9</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. (Berhane, Fithawi) (Entered: 07/06/2023)
09/26/2023	<u>10</u>	STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. (Berhane, Fithawi) (Entered: 09/26/2023)
11/07/2023	<u>11</u>	STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. (Berhane, Fithawi) (Entered: 11/07/2023)
11/07/2023		MINUTE ORDER: Plaintiff is ORDERED to file a status report or notice of voluntary dismissal on or before November 17, 2023. Failure to comply with this deadline could result in dismissal. Signed by Judge Ana C. Reyes on 11/7/2023. (lcsj) (Entered: 11/07/2023)
11/07/2023		Set/Reset Deadlines/Hearings: Plaintiff's status report or notice of voluntary dismissal due by 11/17/2023. (zcdw) (Entered: 11/07/2023)
11/17/2023	<u>12</u>	STIPULATION of Dismissal by CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEGRITY. (Smith, Peter) (Entered: 11/17/2023)