

**U.S. District Court
District of Columbia (Washington, DC)
CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:20-cv-01741-CJN**

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT v. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
STATE

Assigned to: Judge Carl J. Nichols
Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act

Date Filed: 06/26/2020
Date Terminated: 02/14/2024
Jury Demand: None
Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of
Information Act
Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

Plaintiff

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

represented by **Daniel Alexander McGrath**
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V.

Defendant

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Date Filed	#	Docket Text
06/26/2020	<u>1</u>	COMPLAINT against U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Filing fee \$ 400 receipt number ADCDC–7272812) filed by AMERICAN OVERSIGHT. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Civil Cover Sheet, # <u>2</u> Summons as to US Attorney's Office, # <u>3</u> Summons as to Attorney General, # <u>4</u> Summons as to US Department of State)(Rasheed, Mehreen) (Entered: 06/26/2020)
06/26/2020	<u>2</u>	LCvR 26.1 CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE of Corporate Affiliations and Financial Interests by AMERICAN OVERSIGHT (Rasheed, Mehreen) (Entered: 06/26/2020)
06/26/2020		Case assigned to Judge Carl J. Nichols. (zmc) (Entered: 06/26/2020)
06/26/2020	<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)(zmc) (Entered: 06/26/2020)
06/29/2020	<u>4</u>	STANDING ORDER. Signed by Judge Carl J. Nichols on June 29, 2020. (lccjn1) (Entered: 06/29/2020)
07/15/2020	<u>5</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE served on 7/6/2020, RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed on United States Attorney General. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney General 7/06/2020., RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed as to the United States Attorney. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney on 7/6/2020. (Answer due for ALL FEDERAL DEFENDANTS by 8/5/2020.) (Rasheed, Mehreen) (Entered: 07/15/2020)

08/05/2020	<u>6</u>	ANSWER to Complaint by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit A, # <u>2</u> Exhibit B, # <u>3</u> Exhibit C, # <u>4</u> Exhibit D, # <u>5</u> Exhibit E, # <u>6</u> Exhibit F, # <u>7</u> Exhibit G)(Brudy–Everett, Kristin) (Entered: 08/05/2020)
08/06/2020		MINUTE ORDER. Before the Court in this Freedom of Information Act case are a Complaint and an Answer. The requirements of Local Civil Rule 16.3 and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(f) appear to be inapplicable. It is hereby ORDERED that the Parties shall confer and file a Joint Status Report on or before August 27, 2020. The Joint Status Report shall address: (1) the status of Plaintiff's FOIA requests; (2) the anticipated number of documents responsive to Plaintiff's FOIA requests; (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); (5) the possibility of prioritizing documents responsive to Plaintiff's requests and any discussions regarding whether Plaintiff's requests can be narrowed; and (6) whether the Parties anticipate summary judgment briefing and, if so, a proposed briefing schedule. Signed by Judge Carl J. Nichols on August 6, 2020. (lccjn1) (Entered: 08/06/2020)
08/06/2020		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 8/27/2020. (zcal) (Entered: 08/07/2020)
08/27/2020	<u>7</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Brudy–Everett, Kristin) (Entered: 08/27/2020)
08/29/2020		MINUTE ORDER. Upon review of the Parties' <u>7</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that the Parties shall file a Joint Status Report by October 26, 2020. Signed by Judge Carl J. Nichols on August 29, 2020. (lccjn2) (Entered: 08/29/2020)
08/29/2020		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 10/26/2020. (zcal) (Entered: 08/31/2020)
09/30/2020	<u>8</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Daniel Alexander McGrath on behalf of AMERICAN OVERSIGHT (McGrath, Daniel) (Main Document 8 replaced on 9/30/2020) (zeg). (Entered: 09/30/2020)
10/26/2020	<u>9</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Brudy–Everett, Kristin) (Entered: 10/26/2020)
10/28/2020		MINUTE ORDER. After review of the Parties' <u>9</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that the Parties shall file an additional joint status report by November 25, 2020. Signed by Judge Carl J. Nichols on October 28, 2020. (lccjn1) (Entered: 10/28/2020)
10/28/2020		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 11/25/2020. (zcal) (Entered: 10/28/2020)
11/25/2020	<u>10</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Brudy–Everett, Kristin) (Entered: 11/25/2020)
12/07/2020		MINUTE ORDER. After review of the Parties' <u>10</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that the Parties shall file an additional joint status report by January 22, 2021. Signed by Judge Carl J. Nichols on December 7, 2020. (lccjn1) (Entered: 12/07/2020)
12/07/2020		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 1/22/2021. (zkh) (Entered: 12/07/2020)
01/22/2021	<u>11</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by AMERICAN OVERSIGHT. (Rasheed, Mehreen) (Entered: 01/22/2021)
01/22/2021		MINUTE ORDER. After review of the Parties' <u>11</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that the Parties shall file an additional joint status report by March 23, 2021. Signed by Judge Carl J. Nichols on January 22, 2021. (lccjn1) (Entered: 01/22/2021)
01/22/2021		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 3/23/2021. (zcal) (Entered: 01/25/2021)

03/23/2021	<u>12</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Brudy–Everett, Kristin) (Entered: 03/23/2021)
05/21/2021	<u>13</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by AMERICAN OVERSIGHT. (Rasheed, Mehreen) (Entered: 05/21/2021)
05/21/2021		MINUTE ORDER. After review of the Parties' <u>13</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that the Parties shall file an additional joint status report by July 20, 2021. Signed by Judge Carl J. Nichols on May 21, 2021. (lccjn1) (Entered: 05/21/2021)
05/21/2021		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 7/20/2021. (zkh) (Entered: 05/21/2021)
06/29/2021	<u>14</u>	NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTION OF COUNSEL by Sian Jones on behalf of All Defendants Substituting for attorney Kristin Brudy–Everett (Jones, Sian) (Entered: 06/29/2021)
07/06/2021	<u>15</u>	Consent MOTION for Leave to Appear Pro Hac Vice :Attorney Name– J. Zachery Morris, Filing fee \$ 100, receipt number ADCDC–8578333. Fee Status: Fee Paid. by AMERICAN OVERSIGHT. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Declaration of J. Zachery Morris, # <u>2</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Rasheed, Mehreen) (Entered: 07/06/2021)
07/20/2021	<u>16</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Jones, Sian) (Entered: 07/20/2021)
07/29/2021		MINUTE ORDER. The Court having considered Plaintiff's <u>15</u> Motion For Admission <i>Pro Hac Vice</i> of J. Zachery Morris, and it appearing to the Court that the attorney referenced therein meets the requirements for <i>pro hac vice</i> admission under Local Civil Rule 83.2(d), it is hereby ORDERED that the motion is GRANTED. It is further ORDERED that J. Zachery Morris is ADMITTED to practice before the Court <i>pro hac vice</i> . 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 Carl J. Nichols on July 29, 2021. (lccjn1) (Entered: 07/29/2021)
08/10/2021	<u>17</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by John Zachery Morris on behalf of AMERICAN OVERSIGHT (Morris, John) (Entered: 08/10/2021)
08/20/2021		MINUTE ORDER. After review of the Parties' <u>16</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that the Parties shall file an additional joint status report by September 22, 2021. Signed by Judge Carl J. Nichols on August 20, 2021. (lccjn1) (Entered: 08/20/2021)
08/20/2021		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 9/22/2021. (zcal) (Entered: 08/20/2021)
09/22/2021	<u>18</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Jones, Sian) (Entered: 09/22/2021)
09/23/2021		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the Parties' <u>18</u> Joint Status Report, it is ORDERED the Parties file an additional status report by November 19, 2021, including a recommendation for further proceedings. Signed by Judge Carl J. Nichols on September 23, 2021. (lccjn1) (Entered: 09/23/2021)
09/23/2021		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 11/19/2021. (zcal) (Entered: 09/24/2021)
11/19/2021	<u>19</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Jones, Sian) (Entered: 11/19/2021)
11/29/2021		MINUTE ORDER. Upon Consideration of the <u>19</u> Joint Status Report, it is ORDERED that the Parties submit an additional joint status report by January 19, 2022, including a recommendation for further proceedings. Signed by Judge Carl J. Nichols on November 29, 2021. (lccjn1) (Entered: 11/29/2021)
11/29/2021		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 1/19/2022. (zcal) (Entered: 11/29/2021)
01/19/2022	<u>20</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Jones, Sian) (Entered: 01/19/2022)

01/19/2022		MINUTE ORDER. Upon review of the <u>20</u> Joint Status Report, it is ORDERED that the Parties shall file, by March 18, 2022, an additional joint status report, including a proposal for further proceedings. Signed by Judge Carl J. Nichols on January 19, 2022. (lccjn1) (Entered: 01/19/2022)
03/18/2022	<u>21</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Jones, Sian) (Entered: 03/18/2022)
03/23/2022		MINUTE ORDER. Upon review of the <u>21</u> Joint Status Report, it is ORDERED that the Parties shall file, by May 17, 2022, an additional joint status report, including a proposal for further proceedings. Signed by Judge Carl J. Nichols on March 23, 2022. (lccjn1) (Entered: 03/23/2022)
05/17/2022	<u>22</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Jones, Sian) (Entered: 05/17/2022)
05/19/2022		MINUTE ORDER. Upon review of the <u>22</u> Joint Status Report, it is ORDERED that the Parties shall file, by July 18, 2022, an additional joint status report, including a proposal for further proceedings. Signed by Judge Carl J. Nichols on May 19, 2022. (lccjn1) (Entered: 05/19/2022)
07/14/2022	<u>23</u>	NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF APPEARANCE as to AMERICAN OVERSIGHT. Attorney John Zachery Morris terminated. (Morris, John) (Entered: 07/14/2022)
07/18/2022	<u>24</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Jones, Sian) (Entered: 07/18/2022)
07/21/2022		MINUTE ORDER. Upon review of the <u>24</u> Joint Status Report, it is ORDERED that the Parties shall file, by September 16, 2022, an additional joint status report, including a proposal for further proceedings. Signed by Judge Carl J. Nichols on July 19, 2022. (lccjn1) (Entered: 07/21/2022)
07/26/2022	<u>25</u>	Unopposed MOTION for Leave to Appear Pro Hac Vice :Attorney Name– Rachel Baron, Filing fee \$ 100, receipt number ADCDC–9396317. Fee Status: Fee Paid. by AMERICAN OVERSIGHT. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Declaration of Rachel Baron, # <u>2</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Rasheed, Mehreen) (Entered: 07/26/2022)
08/15/2022		MINUTE ORDER. The Court having considered Plaintiff's <u>25</u> Motion for Leave to Appear <i>Pro Hac Vice</i> of Rachel Baron, and it appearing to the Court that the attorney referenced therein meets the requirements for <i>pro hac vice</i> admission under Local Civil Rule 83.2(d), it is hereby ORDERED that the Motion is GRANTED. It is further ORDERED that Rachel Baron is ADMITTED to practice before the Court <i>pro hac vice</i> . 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 Carl J. Nichols on August 15, 2022. (lccjn1) (Entered: 08/15/2022)
08/18/2022	<u>26</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Rachel Baron on behalf of AMERICAN OVERSIGHT (Baron, Rachel) (Main Document 26 replaced on 8/19/2022) (zed). (Entered: 08/18/2022)
09/16/2022	<u>27</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Jones, Sian) (Entered: 09/16/2022)
09/19/2022		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the <u>27</u> Joint Status Report, it is ORDERED that the Parties shall file an additional joint status report by November 15, 2022, and every 60 days thereafter until either party moves for a briefing schedule for dispositive motions, files a dispositive motion, or the case is terminated. Signed by Judge Carl J. Nichols on September 19, 2022. (lccjn1) (Entered: 09/19/2022)
09/19/2022		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 11/15/2022. (zcal) (Entered: 09/22/2022)
11/15/2022	<u>28</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Jones, Sian) (Entered: 11/15/2022)
01/17/2023	<u>29</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Jones, Sian) (Entered: 01/17/2023)

03/20/2023	<u>30</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Jones, Sian) (Entered: 03/20/2023)
05/19/2023	<u>31</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Jones, Sian) (Entered: 05/19/2023)
07/18/2023	<u>32</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Jones, Sian) (Entered: 07/18/2023)
08/29/2023	<u>33</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Michael David Wagner on behalf of All Defendants (Wagner, Michael) (Entered: 08/29/2023)
09/18/2023	<u>34</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Wagner, Michael) (Entered: 09/18/2023)
11/16/2023	<u>35</u>	NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF APPEARANCE as to AMERICAN OVERSIGHT. Attorney Rachel Baron terminated. (Baron, Rachel) (Entered: 11/16/2023)
11/17/2023	<u>36</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Wagner, Michael) (Entered: 11/17/2023)
01/16/2024	<u>37</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Wagner, Michael) (Entered: 01/16/2024)
02/08/2024	<u>38</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Katherine Marie Anthony on behalf of AMERICAN OVERSIGHT (Anthony, Katherine) (Entered: 02/08/2024)
02/09/2024	<u>39</u>	STIPULATION of Dismissal by AMERICAN OVERSIGHT. (Rasheed, Mehreen) (Entered: 02/09/2024)