

**U.S. District Court
District of Columbia (Washington, DC)
CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:21-cv-00579-RDM**

LEOPOLD et al v. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR et al
Assigned to: Judge Randolph D. Moss
Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act

Date Filed: 03/04/2021
Date Terminated: 03/18/2024
Jury Demand: None
Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of Information Act
Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

Plaintiff

JASON LEOPOLD

represented by **Merrick Jason Wayne**
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Plaintiff

BUZZFEED INC.

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Matthew Topic
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V.

Defendant

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE
INTERIOR**

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TERMINATED: 11/08/2022
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Defendant

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

represented by **Clifford Lee Reeves , II**
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LEAD ATTORNEY
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Lisa Newman
(See above for address)
TERMINATED: 11/08/2022
LEAD ATTORNEY
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Date Filed	#	Docket Text
03/04/2021	<u>1</u>	COMPLAINT against NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR (Filing fee \$ 402 receipt number ADCDC-8277952) filed by JASON LEOPOLD, BUZZFEED INC.. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit 1-9, # <u>2</u> Civil Cover Sheet, # <u>3</u> Summons)(Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 03/04/2021)
03/04/2021	<u>2</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Matthew Topic on behalf of BUZZFEED INC., JASON LEOPOLD (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 03/04/2021)
03/04/2021	<u>3</u>	LCvR 26.1 CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE of Corporate Affiliations and Financial Interests by BUZZFEED INC. (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 03/04/2021)
03/04/2021		Case Assigned to Judge Randolph D. Moss. (adh,) (Entered: 03/04/2021)
03/04/2021	<u>4</u>	SUMMONS (4) Issued Electronically as to NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, U.S. Attorney and U.S. Attorney General (Attachment: # <u>1</u> Notice and Consent)(adh,) (Entered: 03/04/2021)
03/05/2021	<u>5</u>	STANDING ORDER: The parties are hereby ORDERED to comply with the directives set forth in the attached Standing Order. See document for details. Signed by Judge Randolph D. Moss on 3/5/2021. (lcrdm3) (Entered: 03/05/2021)
04/05/2021	<u>6</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR served on 3/25/2021 (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 04/05/2021)
04/05/2021	<u>7</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE served on 3/25/2021 (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 04/05/2021)

04/05/2021	<u>8</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed on United States Attorney General. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney General 3/26/2021. (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 04/05/2021)
04/05/2021	<u>9</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed as to the United States Attorney. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney on 3/26/2021. Answer due for ALL FEDERAL DEFENDANTS by 4/25/2021. (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 04/05/2021)
04/26/2021	<u>10</u>	ANSWER to Complaint by NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR.(Newman, Lisa) (Entered: 04/26/2021)
04/28/2021		MINUTE ORDER: It is hereby ORDERED that, on or before June 4, 2021, the parties shall meet, confer, and then file a joint status report addressing (1) any documents still to be produced pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act; (2) an anticipated schedule for processing and producing any such documents; and (3) any substantive areas of disagreement between the parties. It is further ORDERED that the parties shall appear telephonically for an Initial Scheduling Conference on June 11, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. The parties can obtain a teleconference number and access code from the Deputy Clerk prior to the conference. Signed by Judge Randolph D. Moss on 4/28/2021. (lcrdm3) (Entered: 04/28/2021)
05/04/2021	<u>11</u>	MOTION for Leave to Appear Pro Hac Vice :Attorney Name– Josh Loevy, Filing fee \$ 100, receipt number ADCDC–8424449. Fee Status: Fee Paid. by BUZZFEED INC., JASON LEOPOLD. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Declaration, # <u>2</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 05/04/2021)
05/04/2021	<u>12</u>	DECLARATION <i>CORRECTED</i> by BUZZFEED INC., JASON LEOPOLD. (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 05/04/2021)
05/05/2021		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the motion for admission pro hac vice filed on behalf of Josh Lovey, Dkt. <u>11</u> , it is hereby ORDERED that the motion is DENIED without prejudice. Under Local Civil Rule 83.2(d), "[a]ny attorney seeking to appear pro hac vice must file a motion signed by a sponsoring member of the Bar of this Court, accompanied by a declaration by the non–member that sets forth," among other things, "the number of times the attorney has been admitted pro hac vice in this Court within the last two years." Here, Mr. Lovey's declaration states that he has "previously been admitted pro hac vice in this Court," Dkt. <u>12</u> at 2, but does not specify "the number of times [he] has been admitted," LCvR 83.2(d). Mr. Lovey may renew his motion upon the filing of a declaration that complies with Local Civil Rule 83.2(d). Signed by Judge Randolph D. Moss on 5/5/2021. (lcrdm3) (Entered: 05/05/2021)
05/06/2021	<u>13</u>	MOTION for Leave to Appear Pro Hac Vice :Attorney Name– Josh Loevy, Fee Status: No Fee Paid. by BUZZFEED INC., JASON LEOPOLD. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Declaration, # <u>2</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 05/06/2021)
05/06/2021		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the pending Motion for Admission Pro Hac Vice, Dkt. <u>13</u> , it is hereby ORDERED that the Motion is GRANTED. Josh Loevy is hereby GRANTED leave to appear pro hac vice in this case. Counsel should register for e–filing via PACER and file a notice of appearance pursuant to Local Civil Rule 83.6(a). Click for Instructions. Signed by Judge Randolph D. Moss on 5/6/2021. (lcrdm3) (Entered: 05/06/2021)
05/07/2021	<u>14</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Joshua Loevy on behalf of BUZZFEED INC., JASON LEOPOLD (Loevy, Joshua) (Entered: 05/07/2021)
06/04/2021	<u>15</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by BUZZFEED INC., JASON LEOPOLD. (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 06/04/2021)
06/04/2021		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the parties' Joint Status Report, Dkt. <u>15</u> , it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall file a further joint status report on or before July 9, 2021. Signed by Judge Randolph D. Moss on 6/4/2021. (lcrdm3) (Entered: 06/04/2021)
06/08/2021	<u>16</u>	Joint MOTION to Continue <i>Initial Scheduling Conference</i> by NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Newman, Lisa) (Entered: 06/08/2021)

06/09/2021		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the parties Joint Motion to Reschedule the Initial Scheduling Conference, Dkt. <u>16</u> , it is hereby ORDERED that the Motion is GRANTED. It is further ORDERED that the Initial Scheduling Conference set for June 11, 2021, at 2:00PM is VACATED and RESCHEDULED for June 21, 2021 at 11:30AM. The parties can obtain a teleconference number and access code from the Deputy Clerk prior to the conference. Signed by Judge Randolph D. Moss on 6/9/2021. (lcrdm3) (Entered: 06/09/2021)
06/21/2021		Minute Entry for proceedings held before Judge Randolph D. Moss: Telephonic Initial Scheduling Conference held on 6/21/2021. Joint Status Report due by 7/9/2021. (Court Reporter: Jeff Hook.) (kt) (Entered: 06/21/2021)
06/21/2021		MINUTE ORDER: Due to the termination of a family trust, Judge Moss's spouse will soon receive a distribution including stock in Comcast Corporation, which has a significant interest in BuzzFeed, Inc. This stock will be sold promptly after it is received to avoid any conflict of interest in this case and any other case. See Advisory Opinion No. 69, Committee on Codes of Conduct, Judicial Conference of the United States ("[D]isqualification is not required if the judge (or the judge's spouse or minor child) divests the interest that provides the grounds for the disqualification." (quoting Canon 3C(4))). If any party to this action would like further information regarding the distribution and disposition of the stock or would like to discuss the matter with the Court, counsel are directed to jointly contact the Deputy Clerk to schedule a telephonic status conference. Signed by Judge Randolph D. Moss on 06/21/2021. (lcrdm1) (Entered: 06/21/2021)
07/09/2021	<u>17</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR. (Newman, Lisa) (Entered: 07/09/2021)
07/28/2021		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the parties' joint status report, Dkt. <u>17</u> , it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall file a further joint status report on or before September 7, 2021. Signed by Judge Randolph D. Moss on 07/28/2021. (lcrdm3) (Entered: 07/28/2021)
08/17/2021		MINUTE ORDER: As a follow up to the Court's Order of June 21, 2021, the shares in Comcast Corporation were transferred to Judge Moss's spouse from the trust account on July 27, 2021, and were promptly sold on July 28, 2021. Signed by Judge Randolph D. Moss on 08/17/2021. (lcrdm3) (Entered: 08/17/2021)
09/07/2021	<u>18</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR. (Newman, Lisa) (Entered: 09/07/2021)
09/07/2021		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the parties' joint status report, Dkt. <u>18</u> , it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall file a further joint status report on or before November 9, 2021. Signed by Judge Randolph D. Moss on 09/07/2021. (lcrdm3) (Entered: 09/07/2021)
11/09/2021	<u>19</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR. (Newman, Lisa) (Entered: 11/09/2021)
11/09/2021		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the parties' joint status report, Dkt. <u>19</u> , it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall submit a further joint status report on or before January 11, 2022. Signed by Judge Randolph D. Moss on 11/9/2021. (lcrdm3) (Entered: 11/09/2021)
01/11/2022	<u>20</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR. (Newman, Lisa) (Entered: 01/11/2022)
01/12/2022		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the joint status report, Dkt. <u>20</u> , it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall submit a further status report on or before March 10, 2022. Signed by Judge Randolph D. Moss on 1/12/2022. (lcrdm3) (Entered: 01/12/2022)
03/10/2022	<u>21</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR. (Newman, Lisa) (Entered: 03/10/2022)
03/12/2022		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the joint status report, Dkt. <u>21</u> , it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall submit a further status report on or before May 10, 2022. Signed by Judge Randolph D. Moss on 03/12/2022. (lcrdm3) (Entered: 03/12/2022)

		03/12/2022)
05/10/2022	<u>22</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR. (Newman, Lisa) (Entered: 05/10/2022)
05/10/2022		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the joint status report, Dkt. <u>22</u> , it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall submit a further status report on or before July 12, 2022. Signed by Judge Randolph D. Moss on 05/10/2022. (lcrdm3) (Entered: 05/10/2022)
07/12/2022	<u>23</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR. (Newman, Lisa) (Entered: 07/12/2022)
07/12/2022		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the parties' joint status report, Dkt. <u>23</u> , it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall submit a further joint status report on or before September 10, 2022. Signed by Judge Randolph D. Moss on 07/12/2022. (lcrdm3) (Entered: 07/12/2022)
09/10/2022	<u>24</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR. (Newman, Lisa) (Entered: 09/10/2022)
09/12/2022		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the parties' joint status report, Dkt. <u>24</u> , it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall file a further joint status report on or before November 8, 2022, to advise the Court of any outstanding issues with the production of documents and to propose a schedule for briefing, if necessary. Signed by Judge Randolph D. Moss on 09/12/2022. (lcrdm3) (Entered: 09/12/2022)
11/08/2022	<u>25</u>	NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTION OF COUNSEL by Clifford Lee Reeves, II on behalf of NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR Substituting for attorney Lisa Newman (Reeves, Clifford) (Entered: 11/08/2022)
11/08/2022	<u>26</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR. (Reeves, Clifford) (Entered: 11/08/2022)
11/08/2022		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the parties' joint status report, Dkt. <u>26</u> , it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall file a further joint status report on or before January 9, 2023 to update the Court on the status of the case and to propose a briefing schedule if necessary. Signed by Judge Randolph D. Moss on 11/8/2022. (lcrdm3) (Entered: 11/08/2022)
01/09/2023	<u>27</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR. (Reeves, Clifford) (Entered: 01/09/2023)
01/09/2023		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the parties' joint status report, Dkt. <u>27</u> , it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall file a further joint status report on or before March 9, 2023, updating the Court on the status of the case and proposing a briefing schedule, if necessary. Signed by Judge Randolph D. Moss on 1/9/2023. (lcrdm3) (Entered: 01/09/2023)
02/21/2023	<u>28</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Merrick Jason Wayne on behalf of BUZZFEED INC., JASON LEOPOLD (Wayne, Merrick) (Entered: 02/21/2023)
02/22/2023		RESOLVED...NOTICE of Provisional/Government Not Certified Status re NOTICE of Appearance by Merrick Jason Wayne on behalf of BUZZFEED INC., JASON LEOPOLD (Wayne, Merrick), 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 . 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 3/1/2023. (zbaj) Modified on 2/23/2023 (znmw). Modified on 3/2/2023 (zbaj). (Entered: 02/22/2023)

03/09/2023	<u>29</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR. (Reeves, Clifford) (Entered: 03/09/2023)
03/10/2023		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the parties' joint status report, Dkt. <u>29</u> , it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall file a further joint status report on or before May 9, 2023, updating the Court on the status of the case and proposing a briefing schedule, if necessary. Signed by Judge Randolph D. Moss on 3/10/2023. (lcrdm3) (Entered: 03/10/2023)
05/09/2023	<u>30</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR. (Reeves, Clifford) (Entered: 05/09/2023)
05/15/2023		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the parties' joint status report, Dkt. <u>30</u> , it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall file a further joint status report on or before July 12, 2023. Signed by Judge Randolph D. Moss on 5/15/2023. (lcrdm3) (Entered: 05/15/2023)
07/12/2023	<u>31</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR. (Reeves, Clifford) (Entered: 07/12/2023)
07/13/2023		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the parties' joint status report, Dkt. <u>31</u> , the parties are hereby ORDERED to file a further joint status report on or before September 13, 2023 to update the Court on the status of the case if it is not voluntarily dismissed before that date. Signed by Judge Randolph D. Moss on 07/13/2023. (lcrdm3) (Entered: 07/13/2023)
09/13/2023	<u>32</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR. (Reeves, Clifford) (Entered: 09/13/2023)
09/15/2023		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the parties' joint status report, Dkt. <u>32</u> , it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall file a further joint status report on or before November 14, 2023. Signed by Judge Randolph D. Moss on 09/15/2023. (lcrdm3) (Entered: 09/15/2023)
11/14/2023	<u>33</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR. (Reeves, Clifford) (Entered: 11/14/2023)
11/15/2023		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the parties' joint status report, Dkt. <u>33</u> , it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall submit a further joint status report on or before January 16, 2024. Signed by Judge Randolph D. Moss on 11/15/2023. (lcrdm3) (Entered: 11/15/2023)
01/16/2024	<u>34</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR. (Reeves, Clifford) (Entered: 01/16/2024)
01/17/2024		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the parties' joint status report, Dkt. <u>34</u> , it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall submit a further joint status report on or before March 18, 2024. Signed by Judge Randolph D. Moss on 1/17/2024. (lcrdm3) (Entered: 01/17/2024)
03/18/2024	<u>35</u>	STIPULATION of Dismissal <i>with Prejudice</i> by NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR. (Reeves, Clifford) (Entered: 03/18/2024)
03/18/2024		MINUTE ORDER: Pursuant to the parties' stipulation of dismissal, Dkt. <u>35</u> , it is hereby ORDERED that the case is DISMISSED with prejudice pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(a)(1)(A)(ii). The Clerk of Court is directed to terminate this case. Signed by Judge Randolph D. Moss on 3/18/2024. (lcrdm3) (Entered: 03/18/2024)