

**U.S. District Court
District of Columbia (Washington, DC)
CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:19-cv-01349-JMC**

SPARACINO PLLC v. UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE Date Filed: 05/08/2019
Assigned to: Judge Jia M. Cobb Jury Demand: None
Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of Information Act
Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

Plaintiff

SPARACINO PLLC

represented by **Andrew Edward Goldsmith**
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V.

Defendant

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF STATE**

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Date Filed	#	Docket Text
05/08/2019	<u>1</u>	COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATION OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT against UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Filing fee \$ 400 receipt number 0090-6112629) filed by SPARACINO PLLC. (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> Exhibit 8, # <u>9</u> Exhibit 9, # <u>10</u> Exhibit 10, # <u>11</u> Exhibit 11, # <u>12</u> Exhibit 12, # <u>13</u> Exhibit 13, # <u>14</u> Exhibit 14, # <u>15</u> Exhibit 15, # <u>16</u> Exhibit 16, # <u>17</u> Exhibit 17, # <u>18</u> Exhibit 18, # <u>19</u> Exhibit 19, # <u>20</u> Exhibit 20, # <u>21</u> Exhibit 21, # <u>22</u> Exhibit 22, # <u>23</u> Exhibit 23, # <u>24</u> Exhibit 24, # <u>25</u> Exhibit 25, # <u>26</u> Exhibit 26, # <u>27</u> Civil Cover Sheet, # <u>28</u> Summons)(Branson, Joshua) (Entered: 05/08/2019)
05/08/2019	<u>2</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Andrew Edward Goldsmith on behalf of SPARACINO PLLC (Goldsmith, Andrew) (Entered: 05/08/2019)
05/08/2019	<u>3</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Matthew M. Duffy on behalf of SPARACINO PLLC (Duffy, Matthew) (Entered: 05/08/2019)
05/09/2019		Case Assigned to Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson. (zrdj) (Entered: 05/09/2019)
05/09/2019	<u>4</u>	SUMMONS (1) Issued Electronically as to UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Notice and Consent)(zrdj) (Entered: 05/09/2019)
05/31/2019	<u>5</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Benton Gregory Peterson on behalf of All Defendants (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 05/31/2019)
06/05/2019	<u>6</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed as to the United States Attorney. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney on 5/13/2019. Answer due for ALL FEDERAL DEFENDANTS by 6/12/2019. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit A)(Duffy, Matthew) (Entered: 06/05/2019)
06/05/2019	<u>7</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed on United States Attorney General. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney General May 13, 2019. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit A)(Duffy, Matthew) (Entered: 06/05/2019)
06/05/2019	<u>8</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE served on 5/13/2019 (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit A)(Duffy, Matthew) (Entered: 06/05/2019)
06/05/2019	<u>9</u>	GENERAL ORDER AND GUIDELINES APPLICABLE TO FOIA CASES ASSIGNED TO JUDGE KETANJI BROWN JACKSON. The Court will hold the parties and counsel responsible for following these directives, and parties and counsel should pay particular attention to the Court's instructions for processing and production of records, batching motions, and filing exhibits. Failure to adhere to this Order may, when appropriate, result the imposition of sanctions and/or sua sponte denial of non-conforming motions. Signed by Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on 6/5/2019. (lckbj1) (Entered: 06/05/2019)
06/11/2019	<u>10</u>	Consent MOTION for Extension of Time to File Answer by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 06/11/2019)
06/12/2019		MINUTE ORDER granting <u>10</u> Motion for Extension of Time to Answer. It is hereby ORDERED that Defendant shall answer or otherwise respond to the complaint on or before 6/20/2019. Signed by Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on 6/12/2019. (lckbj1) (Entered: 06/12/2019)
06/20/2019	<u>11</u>	ANSWER to Complaint by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE.(Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 06/20/2019)
06/21/2019		MINUTE ORDER. Before the Court in this FOIA case are a complaint and an answer. It is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall review this Court's <u>9</u> General Order and Guidelines Applicable to FOIA Cases, and promptly confer and file a joint proposed schedule for disclosure or briefing motions for summary judgment, on or before 7/8/2019. Signed by Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on 6/21/2019. (lckbj1) (Entered: 06/21/2019)

07/08/2019	<u>12</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT <i>and Proposed Schedule</i> by SPARACINO PLLC. (Branson, Joshua) (Entered: 07/08/2019)
07/12/2019		MINUTE ORDER. In light of the representations in the parties' <u>12</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that, on or before 8/1/2019, the parties shall file a further joint status report, which shall include a proposed schedule for further proceedings if litigation is going to be necessary. Signed by Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on 7/12/2019. (lckbj1) (Entered: 07/12/2019)
08/01/2019	<u>13</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT <i>and Proposed Schedule</i> by SPARACINO PLLC. (Branson, Joshua) (Entered: 08/01/2019)
08/02/2019		MINUTE ORDER. In light of the representations in the parties' <u>13</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that, on or before 8/30/2019, the parties shall file a further joint status report, which shall include a proposed schedule for further proceedings if litigation is going to be necessary. Signed by Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on 8/2/2019. (lckbj2) (Entered: 08/02/2019)
08/30/2019	<u>14</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT <i>and Proposed Schedule</i> by SPARACINO PLLC. (Branson, Joshua) (Entered: 08/30/2019)
09/11/2019		MINUTE ORDER. In light of the representations in the parties' <u>14</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that, on or before 9/30/2019, the parties shall file a further joint status report, which shall include a proposed schedule for further proceedings if litigation is going to be necessary. Signed by Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on 9/11/2019. (lckbj1) (Entered: 09/11/2019)
09/30/2019	<u>15</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by SPARACINO PLLC. (Branson, Joshua) (Entered: 09/30/2019)
10/03/2019		MINUTE ORDER. In light of the representations in the parties' <u>15</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that, on or before 11/1/2019, the parties shall file a further joint status report, which shall include a proposed schedule for further proceedings if litigation is going to be necessary. Signed by Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on 10/3/2019. (lckbj1) (Entered: 10/03/2019)
10/08/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 11/1/2019 (hs) (Entered: 10/08/2019)
11/01/2019	<u>16</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by SPARACINO PLLC. (Branson, Joshua) (Entered: 11/01/2019)
11/12/2019		MINUTE ORDER. In light of the representations in the parties' <u>16</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that, on or before 12/2/2019, the parties shall file a further joint status report, which shall include a proposed schedule for further proceedings if litigation is going to be necessary. Signed by Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on 11/12/2019. (jag) (Entered: 11/12/2019)
12/02/2019	<u>17</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by SPARACINO PLLC. (Branson, Joshua) (Entered: 12/02/2019)
12/04/2019		MINUTE ORDER. In light of the representations in the parties' <u>17</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that, on or before 1/10/2020, the parties shall file a further joint status report, which shall include a proposed schedule for further proceedings if litigation is going to be necessary. Signed by Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on 12/4/2019. (jag) (Entered: 12/04/2019)
01/10/2020	<u>18</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by SPARACINO PLLC. (Branson, Joshua) (Entered: 01/10/2020)
01/16/2020		MINUTE ORDER. In light of the representations in the parties' <u>18</u> status report, it is hereby ORDERED that parties shall continue to negotiate in good faith regarding the disputed matters addressed in the report and that, on or before 1/31/2020, they shall file a further joint status report, which shall contain a proposed schedule for further proceedings if litigation is going to be necessary. Signed by Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on 1/16/2020. (jag) (Entered: 01/16/2020)
01/31/2020	<u>19</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT <i>and Proposed Schedule</i> by SPARACINO PLLC. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit Attachment 1)(Branson, Joshua) (Entered: 01/31/2020)

02/13/2020		MINUTE ORDER setting a Status Conference for 3/12/2020 at 10:45 AM in Courtroom 17 before Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson. Signed by Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on 2/13/2020. (jag) (Entered: 02/13/2020)
03/12/2020		Minute Entry for Status Conference proceedings held on 3/12/2020 before Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson. Joint Status Report due by 4/1/2020. (Court Reporter Nancy Meyer) (zgdf) (Entered: 03/12/2020)
03/19/2020	<u>20</u>	<p>TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS before Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson held on 03/12/2020; Page Numbers: 1–14; Date of Issuance: 03/19/2020; Court Reporter: Nancy J. Meyer; Telephone Number: (202) 354–3118; Tape Number: nancymeyercourtreporter@gmail.com. Transcripts may be ordered by submitting the Transcript Order Form</p> <p>For the first 90 days after this filing date, the transcript may be viewed at the courthouse at a public terminal or purchased from the court reporter referenced above. After 90 days, the transcript may be accessed via PACER. Other transcript formats, (multi–page, condensed, CD or ASCII) may be purchased from the court reporter.</p> <p>NOTICE RE REDACTION OF TRANSCRIPTS: The parties have 21 days to file with the court and the court reporter any request to redact personal identifiers from this transcript. If no such requests are filed, the transcript will be made available to the public via PACER without redaction after 90 days. The policy, which includes the five personal identifiers specifically covered, is located on our website at www.dcd.uscourts.gov.</p> <p>Redaction Request due 4/9/2020. Redacted Transcript Deadline set for 4/19/2020. Release of Transcript Restriction set for 6/17/2020.(Meyer, Nancy) (Entered: 03/19/2020)</p>
03/27/2020	<u>21</u>	Unopposed MOTION to Stay by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Declaration, # <u>2</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 03/27/2020)
03/30/2020		MINUTE ORDER granting <u>21</u> Unopposed Motion to Stay. It is hereby ORDERED that this matter is STAYED until further Order of this Court. Notwithstanding this stay, it is FURTHER ORDERED that, on or before 4/29/2020, and every 30 days thereafter, the parties shall file a joint status report advising the Court whether the REAs have been cleared to resume work and, ifso, proposing a revised schedule for productions to resume in this case. Signed by Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on 3/30/2020. (jag) (Entered: 03/30/2020)
04/29/2020	<u>22</u>	STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 04/29/2020)
05/28/2020	<u>23</u>	STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 05/28/2020)
06/29/2020	<u>24</u>	STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 06/29/2020)
07/29/2020	<u>25</u>	STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 07/29/2020)
08/28/2020	<u>26</u>	STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 08/28/2020)
09/29/2020	<u>27</u>	STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 09/29/2020)
10/29/2020	<u>28</u>	STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 10/29/2020)
12/15/2020	<u>29</u>	STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 12/15/2020)
02/01/2021	<u>30</u>	STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 02/01/2021)

04/08/2021	<u>31</u>	STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 04/08/2021)
05/27/2021	<u>32</u>	ENTERED IN ERROR.....STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) Modified on 5/28/2021 (zjf). (Entered: 05/27/2021)
05/28/2021		NOTICE OF CORRECTED DOCKET ENTRY: Document No. re <u>32</u> Status Report was entered in error and counsel was instructed to refile said pleading. (zjf) (Entered: 05/28/2021)
06/01/2021	<u>33</u>	STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 06/01/2021)
06/28/2021		Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson has been elevated to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. She is therefore no longer assigned to this case, and this matter has been reassigned to the Calendar Committee, which will oversee it until it is assigned to another district judge. Any questions should be directed to Judge Jackson's former deputy clerk, Gwendolyn Franklin, at 202-354-3145 or gwen_franklin@dcd.uscourts.gov. (rj) (Entered: 06/28/2021)
07/30/2021	<u>34</u>	STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 07/30/2021)
09/30/2021	<u>35</u>	STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 09/30/2021)
11/15/2021		Case directly reassigned to Judge Jia M. Cobb. Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson has been appointed to the D.C. Circuit and is no longer assigned to the case. (rj) (Entered: 11/15/2021)
11/29/2021	<u>36</u>	STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 11/29/2021)
12/01/2021		MINUTE ORDER re <u>36</u> Status Report filed by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE: The Court has reviewed the Joint Status Report and directs the Parties to file another joint status report by January 24, 2022. Signed by Judge Jia M. Cobb on December 1, 2021. (lcjmc1) (Entered: 12/01/2021)
01/24/2022	<u>37</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 01/24/2022)
01/25/2022		MINUTE ORDER re <u>37</u> Status Report filed by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE: The Court has reviewed the Joint Status Report and directs the Parties to file another Joint Status Report by February 24, 2022. Signed by Judge Jia M. Cobb January 25, 2022. (lcjmc3) (Entered: 01/25/2022)
02/24/2022	<u>38</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by SPARACINO PLLC. (Branson, Joshua) (Entered: 02/24/2022)
02/24/2022		MINUTE ORDER re <u>38</u> Status Report filed by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE: The Court has reviewed the Joint Status Report and directs the Parties to file another Joint Status Report by April 21, 2022. Signed by Judge Jia M. Cobb on February 24, 2022. (lcjmc3) (Entered: 02/24/2022)
04/21/2022	<u>39</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 04/21/2022)
04/22/2022		MINUTE ORDER re <u>39</u> Status Report filed by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE: The Court has reviewed the Joint Status Report and directs the Parties to file another Joint Status Report by June 20, 2022. Signed by Judge Jia M. Cobb on April 22, 2022. (lcjmc3) (Entered: 04/22/2022)
06/17/2022	<u>40</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by SPARACINO PLLC. (Duffy, Matthew) (Entered: 06/17/2022)
06/21/2022		MINUTE ORDER: The Court has reviewed <u>40</u> Joint Status Report and directs the Parties to file another joint status report by September 19, 2022. It is further ordered that the Parties shall file joint status reports every 90 days thereafter until further order of the Court. Signed by Judge Jia M. Cobb on June 21, 2022. (lcjmc1) (Entered: 06/21/2022)

09/19/2022	<u>41</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by SPARACINO PLLC. (Duffy, Matthew) (Entered: 09/19/2022)
12/19/2022	<u>42</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 12/19/2022)
03/20/2023	<u>43</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 03/20/2023)
06/20/2023	<u>44</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by SPARACINO PLLC. (Duffy, Matthew) (Entered: 06/20/2023)
09/01/2023	<u>45</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by SPARACINO PLLC. (Duffy, Matthew) (Entered: 09/01/2023)
09/05/2023		MINUTE ORDER: The Court has reviewed <u>45</u> Joint Status Report and directs the Parties to file another joint status report by September 29, 2023. Signed by Judge Jia M. Cobb on September 5, 2023. (lcjmc1) (Entered: 09/05/2023)
09/29/2023	<u>46</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by SPARACINO PLLC. (Duffy, Matthew) (Entered: 09/29/2023)
10/02/2023		MINUTE ORDER: The Court has reviewed the Parties' Status Report and directs the Parties to file another joint status report by October 27, 2023. It is further ORDERED that the Parties shall file joint status reports every 90 days thereafter until further order of the Court. Signed by Judge Jia M. Cobb on October 2, 2023. (lcjmc3) (Entered: 10/02/2023)
10/27/2023	<u>47</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by SPARACINO PLLC. (Duffy, Matthew) (Entered: 10/27/2023)
01/25/2024	<u>48</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by SPARACINO PLLC. (Duffy, Matthew) (Entered: 01/25/2024)
03/22/2024	<u>49</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 03/22/2024)
03/26/2024		MINUTE ORDER: The Court has reviewed the Joint Status Report <u>49</u> and directs the Parties to file another joint status report by May 3, 2024. Signed by Judge Jia M. Cobb on March 26, 2024. (lcjmc3) (Entered: 03/26/2024)
05/03/2024	<u>50</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by SPARACINO PLLC. (Duffy, Matthew) (Entered: 05/03/2024)
05/06/2024		MINUTE ORDER: The Court has reviewed the Joint Status Report <u>50</u> and directs the Parties to file another joint status report by June 14, 2024. Signed by Judge Jia M. Cobb on May 6, 2024. (lcjmc3) (Entered: 05/06/2024)
06/14/2024	<u>51</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by SPARACINO PLLC. (Duffy, Matthew) (Entered: 06/14/2024)
06/20/2024		MINUTE ORDER: The Court has reviewed the Joint Status Report <u>51</u> and directs the Defendant to submit a declaration explaining its current FOIA processing capacity by July 5, 2024. If Plaintiff has additional arguments, not already included in the joint status report, in response to the forthcoming declaration, Plaintiff may submit a status report by July 12, 2024. Signed by Judge Jia M. Cobb on June 20, 2024. (lcjmc3) (Entered: 06/20/2024)
07/05/2024	<u>52</u>	NOTICE of Filing by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE re Order., Set Deadlines, (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Declaration)(Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 07/05/2024)
07/12/2024	<u>53</u>	STATUS REPORT by SPARACINO PLLC. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit A)(Duffy, Matthew) (Entered: 07/12/2024)
07/18/2024		MINUTE ORDER: The Court has reviewed the recent filings <u>52</u> , <u>53</u> . Considering the Parties' arguments, particularly the age of the case and the State Department's current FOIA processing capacity, the Court ORDERS the Defendant to process 500 pages per month. The Court finds it unnecessary to set a briefing schedule at this time. It is further ORDERED that the Parties shall file joint status reports every 90 days until further order of the Court. Signed by Judge Jia M. Cobb on July 18, 2024. (lcjmc3)

		(Entered: 07/18/2024)
07/24/2024		Set/Reset Deadlines: Status Report due by 10/18/2024 (zakb) (Entered: 07/24/2024)