

**U.S. District Court
District of Columbia (Washington, DC)
CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:20-cv-02076-DLF**

CITIZENS FOR RESPONSIBILITY AND ETHICS IN
WASHINGTON v. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Assigned to: Judge Dabney L. Friedrich
Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act

Date Filed: 07/30/2020
Date Terminated: 07/24/2024
Jury Demand: None
Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of
Information Act
Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

Plaintiff

**CITIZENS FOR RESPONSIBILITY
AND ETHICS IN WASHINGTON**

represented by **Nikhel Sus**
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ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

V.

Defendant

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

represented by **Benton Gregory Peterson**
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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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Date Filed	#	Docket Text
07/30/2020	<u>1</u>	COMPLAINT against U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Filing fee \$400, receipt number ADCDC-7403476) filed by CITIZENS FOR RESPONSIBILITY AND ETHICS IN WASHINGTON. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Civil Cover Sheet, # <u>2</u> Summons Attorney General, # <u>3</u> Summons State Dept OLA, # <u>4</u> Summons US Attorney)(Sus, Nikhel) Modified on 7/31/2020 to add receipt number(rj). (Entered: 07/30/2020)
07/30/2020	<u>2</u>	LCvR 26.1 CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE of Corporate Affiliations and Financial Interests by CITIZENS FOR RESPONSIBILITY AND ETHICS IN WASHINGTON (Sus, Nikhel) (Entered: 07/30/2020)
07/30/2020		Case assigned to Judge Dabney L. Friedrich. (zmc) (Entered: 07/30/2020)
07/30/2020	<u>3</u>	STANDARD ORDER for Civil Cases. See text for details. Signed by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on July 30, 2020. (lcldf3) (Entered: 07/30/2020)
07/30/2020	<u>4</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: 07/30/2020)
08/10/2020	<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 8/5/2020. (Answer due for ALL FEDERAL DEFENDANTS by 9/4/2020.), RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. U.S. DEPARTMENT

		OF STATE served on 8/5/2020, RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed on United States Attorney General. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney General 8/5/20. (Sus, Nikhel) (Entered: 08/10/2020)
08/12/2020	<u>6</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Benton Gregory Peterson on behalf of U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 08/12/2020)
09/04/2020	<u>7</u>	ANSWER to Complaint by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE.(Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 09/04/2020)
09/04/2020		MINUTE ORDER requiring the parties to MEET AND CONFER and file a joint status report proposing a schedule for further proceedings. The status report should address the status of the plaintiff's FOIA request, including the anticipated number of documents responsive to the request and the anticipated date(s) for release of the requested documents. The parties shall file the joint status report on or before October 5, 2020. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on September 4, 2020. (lcldf3) (Entered: 09/04/2020)
09/04/2020		Set/Reset Deadlines: Status Report due by 10/5/2020 (zjch) (Entered: 09/08/2020)
10/05/2020	<u>8</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 10/05/2020)
10/05/2020		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>8</u> Joint Status Report, it is ORDERED that the parties shall file another joint status report on or before November 20, 2020. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on October 5, 2020. (lcldf1) (Entered: 10/05/2020)
11/20/2020	<u>9</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 11/20/2020)
11/23/2020		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>9</u> Joint Status Report, it is ORDERED that the parties shall file another joint status report on or before November 27, 2020. So ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on November 23, 2020. (lcldf3) (Entered: 11/23/2020)
11/23/2020		Set/Reset Deadlines: Status Report due by 11/27/2020 (zjch) (Entered: 11/24/2020)
11/27/2020	<u>10</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit)(Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 11/27/2020)
11/30/2020		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>10</u> joint status report, it is ORDERED that the defendant shall make its initial production on or before December 4, 2020. It is further ordered that on or before December 4, 2020, the parties (including appropriate representatives from the U.S. Department of State) shall meet and confer regarding the contents of the defendant's initial production and proposed next steps in this case, including ways to prioritize or narrow aspects of the plaintiff's FOIA request. The parties shall then file a joint status report on or before December 11, 2020. So ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on November 30, 2020. (lcldf3) (Entered: 11/30/2020)
12/11/2020	<u>11</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 12/11/2020)
12/11/2020		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>11</u> Joint Status Report, it is ORDERED that the parties shall file another joint status report on or before January 7, 2021. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on December 11, 2020. (lcldf3) (Entered: 12/11/2020)
12/11/2020		Set/Reset Deadlines: Status Report due by 1/7/2021 (zjch) (Entered: 12/11/2020)
01/07/2021	<u>12</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 01/07/2021)
01/07/2021		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>12</u> Joint Status Report, it is ORDERED that the parties shall file another joint status report on or before February 7, 2021. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on January 7, 2021. (lcldf3) (Entered: 01/07/2021)

01/07/2021		Set/Reset Deadlines: Status Report due by 2/7/2021 (zjch) (Entered: 01/07/2021)
02/05/2021	<u>13</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 02/05/2021)
02/05/2021		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>13</u> Joint Status Report, it is ORDERED that the parties shall file another joint status report on or before March 9, 2021. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on February 5, 2021. (lcldf3) (Entered: 02/05/2021)
02/05/2021		Set/Reset Deadlines: Status Report due by 3/9/2021 (zjch) (Entered: 02/08/2021)
03/09/2021	<u>14</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 03/09/2021)
03/09/2021		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>14</u> Joint Status Report, the parties are directed to file another joint status report on or before April 9, 2021. So ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on March 9, 2021. (lcldf3) (Entered: 03/09/2021)
03/09/2021		Set/Reset Deadlines: Status Report due by 4/9/2021 (zjch) (Entered: 03/09/2021)
04/09/2021	<u>15</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by CITIZENS FOR RESPONSIBILITY AND ETHICS IN WASHINGTON. (Sus, Nikhel) (Entered: 04/09/2021)
04/09/2021		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>15</u> Joint Status Report, the parties are ORDERED to file another joint status report on or before May 10, 2021. So ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on April 9, 2021. (lcldf3) (Entered: 04/09/2021)
04/09/2021		Set/Reset Deadlines: Status Report due by 5/10/2021 (zjch) (Entered: 04/09/2021)
05/10/2021	<u>16</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by CITIZENS FOR RESPONSIBILITY AND ETHICS IN WASHINGTON. (Sus, Nikhel) (Entered: 05/10/2021)
05/10/2021		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' joint status report, the parties are directed to file another joint status report on or before June 9, 2021. So ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on May 10, 2021. (lcldf3) (Entered: 05/10/2021)
05/10/2021		Set/Reset Deadlines: Status Report due by 6/9/2021 (zjch) (Entered: 05/10/2021)
06/14/2021		MINUTE ORDER. On May 10, 2021, the parties were ordered to file a joint status report on or before June 9, 2021. The docket reflects that the parties did not file a report by that date. Accordingly, the parties are directed to file a joint status report. So ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on June 14, 2021. (lcldf3) (Entered: 06/14/2021)
06/14/2021	<u>17</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 06/14/2021)
06/14/2021		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' joint status report, the parties are directed to file another joint status report on or before July 9, 2021. So ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on June 14, 2021. (lcldf3) (Entered: 06/14/2021)
06/14/2021		Set/Reset Deadlines: Status Report due by 7/9/2021 (zjch) (Entered: 06/15/2021)
07/12/2021	<u>18</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 07/12/2021)
07/12/2021		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' joint status report, the parties are directed to file another joint status report on or before August 9, 2021. So ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on July 12, 2021. (lcldf3) (Entered: 07/12/2021)
07/12/2021		Set/Reset Deadlines: Status Report due by 8/9/2021 (zjch) (Entered: 07/13/2021)
08/09/2021	<u>19</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by CITIZENS FOR RESPONSIBILITY AND ETHICS IN WASHINGTON. (Sus, Nikhel) (Entered: 08/09/2021)
08/09/2021		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>19</u> Joint Status Report, the parties are directed to file another joint status report on or before September 9, 2021. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on August 9, 2021. (lcldf3) (Entered: 08/09/2021)

09/09/2021	<u>20</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 09/09/2021)
09/14/2021		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>20</u> Joint Status Report, the parties are directed to file another joint status report on or before October 11, 2021. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on September 14, 2021. (lcldf3) (Entered: 09/14/2021)
10/08/2021	<u>21</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by CITIZENS FOR RESPONSIBILITY AND ETHICS IN WASHINGTON. (Sus, Nikhel) (Entered: 10/08/2021)
10/08/2021		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>21</u> Joint Status Report, the parties are directed to file another joint status report on or before November 9, 2021. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on October 8, 2021. (lcldf3) (Entered: 10/08/2021)
11/08/2021	<u>22</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by CITIZENS FOR RESPONSIBILITY AND ETHICS IN WASHINGTON. (Sus, Nikhel) (Entered: 11/08/2021)
11/08/2021		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>22</u> Joint Status Report, the parties are directed to file another joint status report on or before December 9, 2021. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on November 8, 2021. (lcldf3) (Entered: 11/08/2021)
12/08/2021	<u>23</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by CITIZENS FOR RESPONSIBILITY AND ETHICS IN WASHINGTON. (Sus, Nikhel) (Entered: 12/08/2021)
12/08/2021		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>23</u> Joint Status Report, the parties are directed to file another joint status report on or before January 10, 2022. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on December 8, 2021. (lcldf3) (Entered: 12/08/2021)
01/10/2022	<u>24</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 01/10/2022)
01/10/2022		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>24</u> Joint Status Report, the parties are directed to file another joint status report on or before February 9, 2022. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on January 10, 2022. (lcldf3) (Entered: 01/10/2022)
02/09/2022	<u>25</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by CITIZENS FOR RESPONSIBILITY AND ETHICS IN WASHINGTON. (Sus, Nikhel) (Entered: 02/09/2022)
02/09/2022		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>25</u> Joint Status Report, the parties are directed to file another joint status report on or before March 11, 2022. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on February 9, 2022. (lcldf3) (Entered: 02/09/2022)
03/09/2022	<u>26</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 03/09/2022)
03/09/2022		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>26</u> Joint Status Report, the parties are directed to file another joint status report on or before April 11, 2022. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on March 9, 2022. (lcldf3) (Entered: 03/09/2022)
04/08/2022	<u>27</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 04/08/2022)
04/08/2022		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>27</u> Joint Status Report, the parties are directed to file another joint status report on or before May 11, 2022. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on April 8, 2022. (lcldf3) (Entered: 04/08/2022)
04/08/2022		Set/Reset Deadlines: Status Report due by 5/11/2022 (zjch,) (Entered: 04/08/2022)
05/11/2022	<u>28</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 05/11/2022)

05/11/2022		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>28</u> Joint Status Report, the parties are directed to file another joint status report on or before June 13, 2022. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on May 11, 2022. (lcldf3) (Entered: 05/11/2022)
06/10/2022	<u>29</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 06/10/2022)
06/10/2022		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>29</u> Joint Status Report, the parties are directed to file another joint status report on or before July 13, 2022. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on June 10, 2022. (lcldf3) (Entered: 06/10/2022)
07/13/2022	<u>30</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 07/13/2022)
07/13/2022		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>30</u> Joint Status Report, the parties are directed to file another joint status report on or before September 12, 2022. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on July 13, 2022. (lcldf3) (Entered: 07/13/2022)
09/12/2022	<u>31</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 09/12/2022)
09/13/2022		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>31</u> Joint Status Report, the parties are directed to file another joint status report on or before November 14, 2022. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on September 13, 2022. (lcldf2) (Entered: 09/13/2022)
11/14/2022	<u>32</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by CITIZENS FOR RESPONSIBILITY AND ETHICS IN WASHINGTON. (Sus, Nikhel) (Entered: 11/14/2022)
11/14/2022		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>32</u> Joint Status Report, the parties are directed to file another joint status report on or before January 23, 2023. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on November 14, 2022. (lcldf2) (Entered: 11/14/2022)
01/23/2023	<u>33</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 01/23/2023)
01/24/2023		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>33</u> Joint Status Report, the parties are directed to file another joint status report on or before March 24, 2023. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on January 24, 2023. (lcldf2) (Entered: 01/24/2023)
03/22/2023	<u>34</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 03/22/2023)
03/22/2023		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>34</u> Joint Status Report, the parties are directed to file another joint status report on or before May 23, 2023. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on March 22, 2023. (lcldf2) (Entered: 03/22/2023)
05/23/2023	<u>35</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 05/23/2023)
05/23/2023		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>35</u> Joint Status Report, the parties are directed to file another joint status report on or before July 23, 2023. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on May 23, 2023. (lcldf2) (Entered: 05/23/2023)
07/24/2023	<u>36</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 07/24/2023)
07/25/2023		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>36</u> Joint Status Report, the parties are directed to file another joint status report on or before September 21, 2023. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on July 25, 2023. (lcldf2) (Entered: 07/25/2023)

09/21/2023	<u>37</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 09/21/2023)
09/21/2023		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>37</u> Joint Status Report, the parties are directed to file another joint status report on or before November 20, 2023. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on September 21, 2023. (lcldf2) (Entered: 09/21/2023)
09/21/2023		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 11/20/2023. (zsmc) (Entered: 09/21/2023)
11/20/2023	<u>38</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 11/20/2023)
11/20/2023		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>38</u> Joint Status Report, the parties are directed to file another joint status report on or before January 19, 2024. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on November 20, 2023. (lcldf2) (Entered: 11/20/2023)
01/19/2024	<u>39</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by CITIZENS FOR RESPONSIBILITY AND ETHICS IN WASHINGTON. (Sus, Nikhel) (Entered: 01/19/2024)
01/19/2024		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>39</u> Joint Status Report, the parties are directed to file another joint status report on or before March 19, 2024. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on January 19, 2024. (lcldf2) (Entered: 01/19/2024)
03/19/2024	<u>40</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Peterson, Benton) (Entered: 03/19/2024)
03/19/2024		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>40</u> Joint Status Report, the parties are directed to file another joint status report on or before May 19, 2024. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on March 19, 2024. (lcldf2) (Entered: 03/19/2024)
05/20/2024	<u>41</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by CITIZENS FOR RESPONSIBILITY AND ETHICS IN WASHINGTON. (Sus, Nikhel) (Entered: 05/20/2024)
05/21/2024		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>41</u> Joint Status Report, the parties are directed to file another joint status report on or before July 22, 2024. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on May 21, 2024. (lcldf2) (Entered: 05/21/2024)
07/22/2024	<u>42</u>	STIPULATION of Dismissal by CITIZENS FOR RESPONSIBILITY AND ETHICS IN WASHINGTON. (Sus, Nikhel) (Entered: 07/22/2024)
07/24/2024		MINUTE ORDER dismissing this case without prejudice in light of the parties' <u>42</u> Stipulation of Dismissal. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(a)(1)(A)(ii). The Clerk of Court is directed to close this case. So Ordered by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich on July 24, 2024. (lcldf2) (Entered: 07/24/2024)