U.S. District Court District of Columbia (Washington, DC) CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:21-cv-01735-CKK

JUDICIAL WATCH, INC. v. U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

Assigned to: Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act Date Filed: 06/29/2021 Jury Demand: None

Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of

Information Act

Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

Plaintiff

JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.

represented by Kathryn Brooke Blankenberg

JUDIČIAL WATCH, INC. 425 Third Street, SW

Suite 800

Washington, DC 20024

(202)646-5172Fax: (202) 646-5199

Email: kblankenberg@judicialwatch.org

LEAD ATTORNEY

ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Paul J. Orfanedes

JUDICIAL WATCH, INC. 425 Third Street, SW

Suite 800

Washington, DC 20024 (202)646-5172Fax: (202) 646-5199

Email: porfanedes@judicialwatch.org

ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

V.

Defendant

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

represented by Alexandra Rachel Saslaw

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE 1100 L Street NW

Washington, DC 20005 202-514-4520

Email: alexandra.r.saslaw@usdoj.gov

TERMINATED: 09/04/2024

LEAD ATTORNEY

ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Cormac A. Early

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, CIVIL

DIVISION

Federal Programs Branch

1100 L St. NW

Washington, DC 20005

(202) 616–7420

Email: cormac.a.early@usdoj.gov

LEAD ATTORNEY

ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Cynthia Liao

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE Civil Division, Federal Programs Branch 1100 L Street NW Suite 12010

Washington, DC 20005 202–531–1325 Email: cynthia.f.liao@usdoj.gov LEAD ATTORNEY ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

John Moustakas U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 555 Fourth Street, NW Washington, DC 20530 (202) 252–2518

Email: john.moustakas@usdoj.gov LEAD ATTORNEY ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Date Filed	#	Docket Text
06/29/2021	<u>1</u>	COMPLAINT against U.S. POSTAL SERVICE (Filing fee \$ 402 receipt number ADCDC–8564439) filed by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC (Attachments: # 1 Civil Cover Sheet, # 2 Summons for US Attorney for DC, # 3 Summons for US Attorney General, # 4 Summons for U.S. Postal Service)(Orfanedes, Paul) (Entered: 06/29/2021)
06/29/2021	<u>2</u>	LCvR 26.1 CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE of Corporate Affiliations and Financial Interests by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC. (Orfanedes, Paul) (Entered: 06/29/2021)
06/29/2021		Case Assigned to Judge Colleen Kollar–Kotelly. (znmg) (Entered: 06/29/2021)
06/29/2021	<u>3</u>	SUMMONS (3) Issued Electronically as to U.S. POSTAL SERVICE, U.S. Attorney and U.S. Attorney General (Attachment: # 1 Notice and Consent)(znmg) (Entered: 06/29/2021)
07/01/2021	4	ORDER ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR CASES ASSIGNED TO JUDGE COLLEEN KOLLAR–KOTELLY. Signed by Judge Colleen Kollar–Kotelly on 07/01/2021.(DM) (Entered: 07/01/2021)
07/09/2021	<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 7/2/2021. Answer due for ALL FEDERAL DEFENDANTS by 8/1/2021. (Attachments: # 1 Declaration of David Rothstein)(Orfanedes, Paul) (Entered: 07/09/2021)
07/09/2021	<u>6</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed on United States Attorney General. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney General 07/09/21. (Attachments: # 1 Declaration of David Rothstein)(Orfanedes, Paul) (Entered: 07/09/2021)
07/09/2021	7	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. U.S. POSTAL SERVICE served on 7/9/2021 (Attachments: # 1 Declaration of David Rothstein)(Orfanedes, Paul) (Entered: 07/09/2021)
08/02/2021	<u>8</u>	Consent MOTION for Extension of Time to File Answer by U.S. POSTAL SERVICE. (Moustakas, John) (Entered: 08/02/2021)
08/03/2021		MINUTE ORDER. The Court is in receipt of Defendant's <u>8</u> Consent Motion to Extend Time to Respond to Complaint, in which Defendant requests a 30–day extension of time to respond to Plaintiff's Complaint. Plaintiff consents to Defendant's request. The Court GRANTS Defendant's Motion and ORDERS Defendant to answer or otherwise respond to Plaintiffs Complaint by SEPTEMBER 1, 2021. Signed by Judge Colleen Kollar–Kotelly on 8/3/21. (lcckk3) (Entered: 08/03/2021)
08/03/2021		Set/Reset Deadlines: Answer or otherwise respond to <u>1</u> Complaint due by 9/1/2021. (dot) (Entered: 08/03/2021)
08/23/2021	9	Unopposed MOTION for Leave to Appear Pro Hac Vice :Attorney Name— Kathryn B. Blankenberg, Filing fee \$ 100, receipt number ADCDC–8685447. Fee Status: Fee Paid. by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC (Attachments: # 1 Declaration of Kathryn B.

		Blankenberg, # 2 Text of Proposed Order)(Orfanedes, Paul) (Entered: 08/23/2021)
08/25/2021		MINUTE ORDER granting <u>26</u> Motion for Admission of Attorney Pro Hac Vice with respect to Kathryn B. Blankenberg, in order for her to appear as co–counsel for Plaintiff, CONTINGENT on said attorney filing a declaration certifying familiarity with this Court's Local Rules by no later than AUGUST 31, 2021. Counsel should register for e–filing via PACER and file a notice of appearance pursuant to LCvR 83.6(a). Click for in structions. Signed by Judge Colleen Kollar–Kotelly on 8/25/21. (lcckk3) (Entered: 08/25/2021)
08/25/2021	<u>10</u>	NOTICE of Filing Supplemental Declaration of Kathryn B. Blankenberg by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC. re Order on Motion for Leave to Appear Pro Hac Vice,, (Attachments: # 1 Declaration)(Orfanedes, Paul) (Entered: 08/25/2021)
08/25/2021	<u>11</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Kathryn Brooke Blankenberg on behalf of All Plaintiffs (Blankenberg, Kathryn) (Entered: 08/25/2021)
09/01/2021	<u>12</u>	ANSWER to Complaint by U.S. POSTAL SERVICE.(Saslaw, Alexandra) (Entered: 09/01/2021)
09/01/2021	<u>13</u>	Unopposed MOTION to Consolidate Cases by U.S. POSTAL SERVICE. (Attachments: # 1 Text of Proposed Order, # 2 Exhibit A)(Saslaw, Alexandra) (Entered: 09/01/2021)
09/17/2021	<u>14</u>	ORDER denying without prejudice <u>13</u> Motion to Consolidate Cases. Signed by Judge Colleen Kollar–Kotelly on 9/17/21. (lcckk3) (Entered: 09/17/2021)
09/17/2021	<u>15</u>	ORDER requiring the parties to meet and confer and file a joint status report by OCTOBER 15, 2021. See Order for details. Signed by Judge Colleen Kollar–Kotelly on 9/17/21. (lcckk3) (Entered: 09/17/2021)
09/17/2021		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Meet & Confer Statement due by 10/15/2021. (dot) (Entered: 09/17/2021)
10/14/2021	<u>16</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC (Blankenberg, Kathryn) (Entered: 10/14/2021)
10/14/2021		MINUTE ORDER. The Court is in receipt of the parties' 16 Joint Status Report. The parties indicate that Defendant has identified approximately 12,000 documents that may be responsive to Plaintiff's FOIA request, and that the parties are discussing a schedule for rolling productions of responsive, non–exempt records. The parties request that they submit a further joint status report on November 22, 2021 to update the Court on Defendant's progress in processing responsive records. The Court ORDERS that the parties shall file another Joint Status Report by no later than NOVEMBER 22, 2021, updating the Court on Defendant's processing and production of records responsive to Plaintiff's FOIA request. Signed by Judge Colleen Kollar–Kotelly on 10/14/21. (lcckk3) (Entered: 10/14/2021)
10/14/2021		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 11/22/2021. (kt) (Entered: 10/14/2021)
11/19/2021	<u>17</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. POSTAL SERVICE. (Saslaw, Alexandra) (Entered: 11/19/2021)
11/19/2021		MINUTE ORDER. The Court is in receipt of the parties' 17 Joint Status Report. The parties indicate that Defendant is processing records responsive to Plaintiff's FOIA request and anticipates "providing a final response" by December 13, 2021. As requested by the parties, the Court ORDERS the parties to file another Joint Status Report by no later than JANUARY 12, 2022, updating the Court on the status of Defendant's response to Plaintiff's FOIA request and whether any further proceedings are necessary. Signed by Judge Colleen Kollar–Kotelly on 11/19/21. (lcckk3) (Entered: 11/19/2021)
11/19/2021		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 1/12/2022, updating the Court on the status of Defendant's response to Plaintiff's FOIA request and whether any further proceedings are necessary. (dot) (Entered: 11/22/2021)

01/12/2022	<u>18</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. POSTAL SERVICE. (Saslaw, Alexandra) (Entered: 01/12/2022)
01/13/2022		MINUTE ORDER. The Court is in receipt of the parties' 18 Joint Status Report. The parties indicate that Defendant provided an interim response to Plaintiff's FOIA request on December 17, 2021, but that additional records are being reviewed and processed. Defendant indicates that it intends to provide the next interim response by January 18, 2022, with additional responses to issue every 30 days.
		The Court ORDERS the parties to file another Joint Status Report by no later than MARCH 13, 2022, and <i>every 30 days thereafter</i> , updating the Court on the status of Defendant's response to Plaintiff's FOIA request and whether any further proceedings are necessary. If the parties require more immediate attention, they may file a status report between deadlines. Signed by Judge Colleen Kollar–Kotelly on 1/13/22. (lcckk3) (Entered: 01/13/2022)
01/13/2022		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 3/13/2022. (dot) (Entered: 01/17/2022)
03/10/2022	<u>19</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC (Blankenberg, Kathryn) (Entered: 03/10/2022)
04/11/2022	<u>20</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC (Blankenberg, Kathryn) (Entered: 04/11/2022)
05/10/2022	<u>21</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. POSTAL SERVICE. (Saslaw, Alexandra) (Entered: 05/10/2022)
06/07/2022	<u>22</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC (Blankenberg, Kathryn) (Entered: 06/07/2022)
07/07/2022	<u>23</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC (Blankenberg, Kathryn) (Entered: 07/07/2022)
08/05/2022	<u>24</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC (Blankenberg, Kathryn) (Entered: 08/05/2022)
08/05/2022		MINUTE ORDER. The Court is in receipt of the parties' 24 Joint Status Report, updating the Court on the status of Defendant's response to Plaintiff's FOIA Requests. The parties indicate that Defendant has run a revised search regarding certain requests and "anticipates providing an interim response regarding responsive records on or around August 17, 2022, with additional responses to follow monthly until review is completed." Pursuant to the Court's January 13, 2022 minute order, the parties' next status report is due in 30 days. However, the parties propose that they submit their next status report on or before October 7, 2022. Accordingly, the Court ORDERS the parties to file another Joint Status Report by no later than OCTOBER 7, 2022 , and every 60 days thereafter, updating the Court on the status of Defendant's response to Plaintiff's FOIA requests and whether any further proceedings are necessary. If the parties require more immediate attention, they may file a status report between deadlines. Signed by Judge Colleen Kollar–Kotelly on 8/5/22. (lcckk3) (Entered: 08/05/2022)
08/05/2022		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 10/7/2022, and every 60 days thereafter, updating the Court on the status of Defendant's response to Plaintiff's FOIA requests and whether any further proceedings are necessary. (dot) (Entered: 08/22/2022)
10/06/2022	<u>25</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC (Blankenberg, Kathryn) (Entered: 10/06/2022)
12/01/2022	<u>26</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. POSTAL SERVICE. (Saslaw, Alexandra) (Entered: 12/01/2022)
02/06/2023	<u>27</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Cormac A. Early on behalf of All Defendants (Early, Cormac) (Main Document 27 replaced on 2/7/2023) (zjm). (Entered: 02/06/2023)
02/06/2023	<u>28</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. POSTAL SERVICE. (Early, Cormac) (Entered: 02/06/2023)

04/07/2023	<u>29</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. POSTAL SERVICE. (Early, Cormac) (Entered: 04/07/2023)
05/31/2023	<u>30</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Cynthia Liao on behalf of U.S. POSTAL SERVICE (Liao, Cynthia) (Entered: 05/31/2023)
06/06/2023	<u>31</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. POSTAL SERVICE. (Liao, Cynthia) (Entered: 06/06/2023)
08/07/2023	<u>32</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. POSTAL SERVICE. (Liao, Cynthia) (Entered: 08/07/2023)
10/05/2023	<u>33</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. POSTAL SERVICE. (Liao, Cynthia) (Entered: 10/05/2023)
12/05/2023	<u>34</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. POSTAL SERVICE. (Liao, Cynthia) (Entered: 12/05/2023)
02/06/2024	<u>35</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. POSTAL SERVICE. (Early, Cormac) (Entered: 02/06/2024)
04/05/2024	<u>36</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. POSTAL SERVICE. (Early, Cormac) (Entered: 04/05/2024)
06/04/2024	<u>37</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. POSTAL SERVICE. (Early, Cormac) (Entered: 06/04/2024)
08/05/2024	<u>38</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. POSTAL SERVICE. (Early, Cormac) (Entered: 08/05/2024)
09/04/2024	<u>39</u>	NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF APPEARANCE as to U.S. POSTAL SERVICE. Attorney Alexandra Rachel Saslaw terminated. (Saslaw, Alexandra) (Entered: 09/04/2024)