

**U.S. District Court  
District of Columbia (Washington, DC)  
CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:23-cv-00419-CJN**

AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION v. UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Assigned to: Judge Carl J. Nichols  
Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act

Date Filed: 02/14/2023  
Jury Demand: None  
Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of Information Act  
Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

**Petitioner**

**AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION**

represented by **Michael Ding**  
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#231  
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**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Jacob Meckler**  
AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION  
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**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

V.

**Defendant**

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

represented by **Jeremy S. Simon**  
DOJ-USAO  
Patrick Henry Building  
601 D. Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20530  
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**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

Date Filed	#	Docket Text
02/14/2023	<u>1</u>	COMPLAINT against UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE ( Filing fee \$ 402 receipt number ADCDC-9861149) filed by AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit, # <u>2</u> Exhibit, # <u>3</u> Exhibit, # <u>4</u> Exhibit, # <u>5</u> Exhibit, # <u>6</u> Exhibit, # <u>7</u> Exhibit, # <u>8</u> Exhibit, # <u>9</u> Exhibit, # <u>10</u> Exhibit, # <u>11</u> Exhibit, # <u>12</u> Exhibit, # <u>13</u> Civil Cover Sheet, # <u>14</u> Summons, # <u>15</u> Summons, # <u>16</u> Summons)(Meckler, Jacob) (Entered: 02/14/2023)
02/15/2023	<u>2</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Michael Ding on behalf of AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION (Ding, Michael) (Entered: 02/15/2023)
02/15/2023		Case Assigned to Judge Carl J. Nichols. (zsl) (Entered: 02/15/2023)
02/15/2023	<u>3</u>	SUMMONS (3) Issued Electronically as to UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE, U.S. Attorney and U.S. Attorney General (Attachment: # <u>1</u> Notice and Consent)(zsl) (Entered: 02/15/2023)

02/22/2023	<u>4</u>	LCvR 26.1 CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE of Corporate Affiliations and Financial Interests by AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION (Meckler, Jacob) (Entered: 02/22/2023)
02/22/2023	<u>5</u>	ERRATA by AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION. (Meckler, Jacob) (Entered: 02/22/2023)
03/02/2023	<u>6</u>	STANDING ORDER. Signed by Judge Carl J. Nichols on March 2, 2023. (lccjn3) (Entered: 03/02/2023)
03/07/2023	<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 02/27/2023. (Meckler, Jacob) (Entered: 03/07/2023)
03/07/2023	<u>8</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE served on 2/27/2023 (Meckler, Jacob) (Entered: 03/07/2023)
03/07/2023	<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 2/22/2023. Answer due for ALL FEDERAL DEFENDANTS by 3/24/2023. (Meckler, Jacob) (Entered: 03/07/2023)
03/24/2023	<u>10</u>	ANSWER to Complaint by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE.(Simon, Jeremy) (Entered: 03/24/2023)
04/10/2023		MINUTE ORDER. Before the Court in this Freedom of Information Act case are a Complaint and an Answer. Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 16.3, the requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(f) are inapplicable. It is hereby ORDERED that the Parties shall confer and file a Joint Status Report on or before April 21, 2023. The Joint Status Report shall address: (1) the status of Plaintiff's FOIA request; (2) the anticipated number of documents responsive to Plaintiff's FOIA request; (3) the anticipated dates for release of the documents requested by Plaintiff; (4) whether a motion for stay is likely under Open America v. Watergate Special Prosecution Force, 547 F.2d 605 (D.C. Cir. 1976); (5) the possibility of prioritizing documents responsive to Plaintiff's request and any discussions regarding whether Plaintiff's request 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 April 10, 2023. (lccjn3) (Entered: 04/10/2023)
04/21/2023	<u>11</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Plaintiff's Proposed Order, # <u>2</u> Defendant's Proposed Order)(Simon, Jeremy) (Entered: 04/21/2023)
05/02/2023		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of <u>11</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties submit their next status report on or before June 6, 2023, and every 60 days thereafter. The government shall make its first production on or before May 31, 2023, and every 30 days thereafter at a rate of 400 pages per month. The parties shall update the Court as to the status of narrowing the scope of the request and whether a modification to the schedule is warranted as a result. Signed by Judge Carl J. Nichols on May 2, 2023. (lccjn3) (Entered: 05/02/2023)
06/06/2023	<u>12</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Simon, Jeremy) (Entered: 06/06/2023)
08/07/2023	<u>13</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Simon, Jeremy) (Entered: 08/07/2023)
10/06/2023	<u>14</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Simon, Jeremy) (Entered: 10/06/2023)
12/05/2023	<u>15</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Simon, Jeremy) (Entered: 12/05/2023)
02/05/2024	<u>16</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Simon, Jeremy) (Entered: 02/05/2024)
04/05/2024	<u>17</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Simon, Jeremy) (Entered: 04/05/2024)

06/04/2024	<u>18</u>	Consent MOTION for Extension of Time to <i>File Joint Status Report</i> by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Proposed Order)(Simon, Jeremy) (Entered: 06/04/2024)
06/10/2024		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of Plaintiff's <u>18</u> Consent Motion for Extension of Time, it is hereby ORDERED that the Motion is GRANTED. The parties shall file their next joint status report on or before June 14, 2024. So Ordered by Judge Carl J. Nichols on 6/10/2024. (lccjn3) (Entered: 06/10/2024)
06/14/2024	<u>19</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Simon, Jeremy) (Entered: 06/14/2024)
08/09/2024	<u>20</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Simon, Jeremy) (Entered: 08/09/2024)