

**U.S. District Court
District of Columbia (Washington, DC)
CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:23-cv-01939-LLA**

AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION v. UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Assigned to: Judge Loren L. AliKhan
Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act

Date Filed: 07/05/2023
Jury Demand: None
Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of Information Act
Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

Plaintiff

AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

represented by **Jacob Meckler**
AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION
611 Pennsylvania Avenue SE
#231
Washington, DC 20003
530-830-8168
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LEAD ATTORNEY
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Michael Ding
611 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
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Washington, DC 20003
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ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

V.

Defendant

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

represented by **Stephanie R. Johnson**
DOJ-USAO
601 D Street, NW
Washington, DC 20530
(202) 252-7874
Email: Stephanie.Johnson5@usdoj.gov
LEAD ATTORNEY
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

| Date Filed | # | Docket Text |
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| 07/05/2023 | <u>1</u> | COMPLAINT against UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Filing fee \$ 402 receipt number ADCDC-10182605) 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> Exhibit, # <u>14</u> Exhibit, # <u>15</u> Exhibit, # <u>16</u> Exhibit, # <u>17</u> Exhibit, # <u>18</u> Exhibit, # <u>19</u> Exhibit, # <u>20</u> Exhibit, # <u>21</u> Summons, # <u>22</u> Summons, # <u>23</u> Summons, # <u>24</u> Civil Cover Sheet)(Meckler, Jacob) (Entered: 07/05/2023) |
| 07/07/2023 | | Case Assigned to Judge Tanya S. Chutkan. (zsl) (Entered: 07/07/2023) |
| 07/07/2023 | <u>2</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: 07/07/2023) |
| 08/03/2023 | <u>3</u> | RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed as to the United States Attorney. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney on 7/13/2023. Answer due for ALL FEDERAL DEFENDANTS by 8/12/2023. (Meckler, Jacob) |

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| | | (Entered: 08/03/2023) |
| 08/03/2023 | <u>4</u> | ENTERED IN ERROR.....RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed on United States Attorney General. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney General 07/10/2023. (Meckler, Jacob) Modified on 8/4/2023 (mg). (Entered: 08/03/2023) |
| 08/03/2023 | <u>5</u> | RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE served on 7/10/2023 (Meckler, Jacob) (Entered: 08/03/2023) |
| 08/04/2023 | | NOTICE OF ERROR regarding <u>4</u> Summons Returned Executed as to U.S. Attorney General. The following error(s) need correction: Incorrect document. Please refile. (mg) (Entered: 08/04/2023) |
| 08/04/2023 | <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 07/10/2023. (Meckler, Jacob) (Entered: 08/04/2023) |
| 08/09/2023 | <u>7</u> | NOTICE of Appearance by Stephanie R. Johnson on behalf of UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Johnson, Stephanie) (Entered: 08/09/2023) |
| 08/11/2023 | <u>8</u> | Consent MOTION for Extension of Time to <i>Respond to Complaint</i> by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Johnson, Stephanie) (Entered: 08/11/2023) |
| 08/11/2023 | | MINUTE ORDER: Defendant's <u>8</u> Consent Motion for Extension of Time is hereby GRANTED. Defendant shall respond to Plaintiff's Complaint by September 13, 2023. Signed by Judge Tanya S. Chutkan on 08/11/2023. (lcc) (Entered: 08/11/2023) |
| 08/11/2023 | | Set/Reset Deadline: Defendant shall respond to Plaintiff's Complaint by 9/13/2023. (jth) (Entered: 08/11/2023) |
| 09/13/2023 | <u>9</u> | ANSWER to Complaint by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE.(Johnson, Stephanie) (Entered: 09/13/2023) |
| 10/17/2023 | | MINUTE ORDER: Before the Court in this FOIA case are a Complaint and an Answer. The requirements of LCvR 16.3 and Rule 26(f) of the Federal Rules of Civil procedure appear to be inapplicable. IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the parties shall meet and confer and propose a schedule for proceeding in this matter. The schedule shall address the status of Plaintiff's FOIA request, the anticipated number of documents responsive to Plaintiff's FOIA request, the anticipated date(s) for release of the documents requested by Plaintiff, whether a motion for an Open America stay is likely in this case, whether a Vaughn index will be required in this case, whether and when either party anticipates filing a dispositive motion, and any other pertinent issues. The parties shall file a joint status report that addresses these issues no later than November 28, 2023. The joint status report shall be accompanied by a proposed order. Signed by Judge Tanya S. Chutkan on 10/17/23. (lcd) (Entered: 10/17/2023) |
| 10/17/2023 | | Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 11/28/2023. (ztl) (Entered: 11/13/2023) |
| 10/20/2023 | <u>10</u> | NOTICE of Appearance by Michael Ding on behalf of AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION (Ding, Michael) (Entered: 10/20/2023) |
| 11/28/2023 | <u>11</u> | Joint STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Johnson, Stephanie) (Entered: 11/28/2023) |
| 11/29/2023 | | MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the parties' <u>11</u> joint status report, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall file another joint status report apprising the Court as to the progress in this action by January 29, 2024. Signed by Judge Tanya S. Chutkan on 11/29/2023. (lcd) (Entered: 11/29/2023) |
| 11/29/2023 | | Set/Reset Deadlines: Parties Joint Status Report due by 1/29/2024 (mac) (Entered: 11/29/2023) |
| 12/15/2023 | | Case directly reassigned to Judge Loren L. AliKhan. Judge Tanya S. Chutkan is no longer assigned to the case. (rj) (Entered: 12/15/2023) |

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| 01/29/2024 | <u>12</u> | Joint STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Johnson, Stephanie) (Entered: 01/29/2024) |
| 01/30/2024 | | MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the parties' joint status report <u>12</u> , it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall file a joint status report on or before March 15, 2024, and every 45 days thereafter, updating the court on the status of Plaintiff's FOIA request. Signed by Judge Loren L. AliKhan on 01/30/2024. (lc1la3) (Entered: 01/30/2024) |
| 01/31/2024 | | Set/Reset Deadlines/Hearings: Joint Status Report due by 3/15/2024. (zcdw) (Entered: 01/31/2024) |
| 03/15/2024 | <u>13</u> | Joint STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Johnson, Stephanie) (Entered: 03/15/2024) |
| 04/25/2024 | <u>14</u> | Joint STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Johnson, Stephanie) (Entered: 04/25/2024) |
| 06/10/2024 | <u>15</u> | Joint STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Johnson, Stephanie) (Entered: 06/10/2024) |
| 07/24/2024 | <u>16</u> | Joint STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Johnson, Stephanie) (Entered: 07/24/2024) |
| 09/09/2024 | <u>17</u> | Joint STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Johnson, Stephanie) (Entered: 09/09/2024) |