

**U.S. District Court
District of Columbia (Washington, DC)
CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:23-cv-03296-CKK**

AMERICAN CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE v. UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE Date Filed: 11/03/2023
Assigned to: Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly Jury Demand: None
Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of Information Act
Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

Plaintiff

**AMERICAN CENTER FOR LAW
AND JUSTICE**

represented by **John A. Monaghan**
AMERICAN CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE
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RH-422
Virginia Beach, VA 23464
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ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

V.

Defendant

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
STATE**

represented by **John Bardo**
DOJ-USAO
601 D Street NW
Washington, DC 20530
(202) 870-6770
Email: john.bardo@usdoj.gov
LEAD ATTORNEY
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Date Filed	#	Docket Text
11/03/2023	<u>1</u>	COMPLAINT against UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Filing fee \$ 402 receipt number ADCDC-10469693) filed by AMERICAN CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit, # <u>2</u> Exhibit, # <u>3</u> Civil Cover Sheet, # <u>4</u> Summons, # <u>5</u> Summons, # <u>6</u> Summons)(Monaghan, John) Modified on 11/3/2023 (zljn). (Attachment 3 replaced on 11/3/2023) (zljn). (Entered: 11/03/2023)
11/03/2023	<u>2</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by John A. Monaghan on behalf of AMERICAN CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE (Monaghan, John) (Entered: 11/03/2023)
11/03/2023	<u>3</u>	LCvR 26.1 CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE of Corporate Affiliations and Financial Interests by AMERICAN CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE (Monaghan, John) (Entered: 11/03/2023)
11/03/2023		Case Assigned to Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly. (zljn) (Entered: 11/03/2023)
11/03/2023	<u>4</u>	SUMMONS (3) Issued Electronically as to UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE, U.S. Attorney and U.S. Attorney General (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Notice and Consent)(zljn) (Entered: 11/03/2023)
11/06/2023	<u>5</u>	ORDER ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR CASES ASSIGNED TO JUDGE COLLEEN KOLLAR-KOTELLY. Signed by Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly on 11/6/23. (DM) (Entered: 11/06/2023)
12/14/2023	<u>6</u>	MOTION for Extension of Time to <i>Respond to Complaint</i> by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Bardo, John) (Entered: 12/14/2023)

12/14/2023		MINUTE ORDER: The Court is in receipt of Defendant's <u>6</u> Motion for Extension of Time to Respond. Defendant requests for a 30–day extension to respond to the complaint, setting the new deadline for January 17, 2024. Defendant explains that the U.S. Attorney's Office has experienced an increase in case volume, which has overwhelmed the Office's "already swollen civil intake, triage, and assignment queues," and "delay[s] certain case assignments to Assistant U.S. Attorneys and initial coordination efforts with agency clients, including in this case." As a result, counsel for Defendant "requires a reasonable period of additional time to discuss this matter with the relevant agency," and explore whether the matter can be resolved without further litigation. Counsel for Defendant states that he attempted to confer with counsel for Plaintiff, but has not yet received a response. Although Plaintiff's position is unclear, upon good cause shown, the Court GRANTS Defendant's <u>6</u> Motion for Extension of Time to Respond. Defendant shall file an answer or otherwise respond to the complaint on or before January 17, 2024 . Signed by Judge Colleen Kollar–Kotelly on December 14, 2023. (lcckk1) (Entered: 12/14/2023)
12/14/2023		Set/Reset Deadlines: Defendant shall file an answer or otherwise respond to the complaint on or before 1/17/2024. (dot) (Entered: 12/15/2023)
01/05/2024	<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 11/28/2023. (Monaghan, John) (Entered: 01/05/2024)
01/05/2024	<u>8</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed as to the United States Attorney. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney on 11/16/2023. Answer due for ALL FEDERAL DEFENDANTS by 12/16/2023. (Monaghan, John) (Entered: 01/05/2024)
01/05/2024	<u>9</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE served on 11/28/2023 (Monaghan, John) (Entered: 01/05/2024)
01/17/2024	<u>10</u>	ANSWER to Complaint by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE.(Bardo, John) (Entered: 01/17/2024)
01/17/2024	<u>11</u>	ORDER directing the parties to file a joint status report on or before February 29, 2024 . See Order for more details. Signed by Judge Colleen Kollar–Kotelly on 1/17/2024. (lcckk1) (Entered: 01/17/2024)
01/17/2024		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 2/29/2024. (dot) (Entered: 01/22/2024)
02/29/2024	<u>12</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Bardo, John) (Entered: 02/29/2024)
02/29/2024		MINUTE ORDER: The Court is in receipt of the parties' <u>12</u> Joint Status Report. Therein, Defendant explains that it is conducting searches and reviewing records potentially responsive to Plaintiff's FOIA request. Defendant anticipates that it will release its first production of records to Plaintiff by late–March 2024. As such, the Court shall ADOPT the parties' proposal. The parties are directed to file a joint status report on or before April 29, 2024 , and every sixty days thereafter, if necessary. Signed by Judge Colleen Kollar–Kotelly on 2/29/2024. (lcckk1) (Entered: 02/29/2024)
02/29/2024		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 4/29/2024, and every sixty days thereafter, if necessary.(dot) (Entered: 03/01/2024)
04/29/2024	<u>13</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Bardo, John) (Entered: 04/29/2024)
06/28/2024	<u>14</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Bardo, John) (Entered: 06/28/2024)
08/27/2024	<u>15</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Bardo, John) (Entered: 08/27/2024)