

**U.S. District Court  
District of Columbia (Washington, DC)  
CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:23-cv-03664-RCL**

INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ASSISTANCE PROJECT,  
INC. v. U.S. CITIZENSHIP & IMMIGRATION SERVICES  
Assigned to: Judge Royce C. Lamberth  
Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act

Date Filed: 12/08/2023  
Jury Demand: None  
Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of  
Information Act  
Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

**Plaintiff**

**INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE  
ASSISTANCE PROJECT, INC.**

represented by **Chris Opila**  
AMERICAN IMMIGRATION COUNCIL  
Pmb2026  
2001 L Street N.W.,  
Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-507-7699  
Email: [copila@immcouncil.org](mailto:copila@immcouncil.org)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Deepa Alagesan**  
INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE  
ASSISTANCE PROJECT  
One Battery Park Plaza  
Suite 33rd Floor  
New York, NY 10004  
516-838-7044  
Email: [dalagesan@refugeerights.org](mailto:dalagesan@refugeerights.org)  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Linda B. Evarts**  
INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE  
ASSISTANCE PROJECT  
One Battery Park Plaza, 33rd Floor  
New York, NY 10004  
516-838-1655  
Fax: 516-324-2267  
Email: [levarts@refugeerights.org](mailto:levarts@refugeerights.org)  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Mariko Hirose**  
INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE  
ASSISTANCE PROJECT, INC.  
One Battery Park Plaza  
33rd Floor  
New York, NY 10004  
516-701-4620  
Email: [mhirose@refugeerights.org](mailto:mhirose@refugeerights.org)  
**TERMINATED: 04/26/2024**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

V.

**Defendant**

**U.S. CITIZENSHIP &  
IMMIGRATION SERVICES**

represented by **Kenneth A. Adebonojo**  
U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
555 Fourth Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

(202) 252-2562  
 Fax: (202) 252-2599  
 Email: [kenneth.adebonojo@usdoj.gov](mailto:kenneth.adebonojo@usdoj.gov)  
 LEAD ATTORNEY  
 ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Date Filed	#	Docket Text
12/08/2023	<u>1</u>	COMPLAINT against U.S. CITIZENSHIP & IMMIGRATION SERVICES ( Filing fee \$ 405 receipt number BDCDC-10546707) filed by INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ASSISTANCE PROJECT, INC.. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit A, # <u>2</u> Exhibit B, # <u>3</u> Civil Cover Sheet, # <u>4</u> Summons)(Opila, Chris) (Entered: 12/08/2023)
12/08/2023	<u>2</u>	LCvR 26.1 CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE of Corporate Affiliations and Financial Interests by INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ASSISTANCE PROJECT, INC. (Opila, Chris) (Entered: 12/08/2023)
12/08/2023		NOTICE OF ERROR re <u>1</u> Complaint; emailed to copila@refugeerights.org, cc'd 0 associated attorneys -- The PDF file you docketed contained errors: 1. Noncompliance with LCvR 5.1(c). Please file an errata correcting the initiating pleading to include the name & full residence address of each party using the event Errata., 2. Missing summonses--government. When naming a government agent or agency as a defendant, you must supply a summons for each defendant & two additional summonses for the U.S. Attorney & U.S. Attorney General. Please submit using the event Request for Summons to Issue., 3. <b>COMPLIANCE DEADLINE is by close of business today. This case will not proceed any further until all errors are satisfied.</b> (zrtw, ) (Entered: 12/08/2023)
12/12/2023	<u>3</u>	ERRATA by INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ASSISTANCE PROJECT, INC. re <u>1</u> Complaint,. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit A (Corrected Complaint))(Opila, Chris) (Entered: 12/12/2023)
12/12/2023	<u>4</u>	REQUEST FOR SUMMONS TO ISSUE <i>as to AUSA</i> filed by INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ASSISTANCE PROJECT, INC.. Related document: <u>1</u> Complaint, filed by INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ASSISTANCE PROJECT, INC.. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit (Request for Summons to Issue as to US Attorney General))(Opila, Chris) (Entered: 12/12/2023)
12/13/2023		Case Assigned to Judge Royce C. Lamberth. (zrtw) (Entered: 12/13/2023)
12/13/2023	<u>5</u>	SUMMONS (3) Issued Electronically as to U.S. CITIZENSHIP & IMMIGRATION SERVICES, U.S. Attorney and U.S. Attorney General (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Notice and Consent)(zrtw) (Entered: 12/13/2023)
12/13/2023	<u>6</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Mariko Hirose on behalf of INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ASSISTANCE PROJECT, INC. (Hirose, Mariko) (Entered: 12/13/2023)
12/19/2023	<u>7</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. U.S. CITIZENSHIP & IMMIGRATION SERVICES served on 12/18/2023 (Opila, Chris) (Entered: 12/19/2023)
12/19/2023	<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 12/19/2023. Answer due for ALL FEDERAL DEFENDANTS by 1/18/2024. (Opila, Chris) (Entered: 12/19/2023)
12/19/2023	<u>9</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed on United States Attorney General. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney General 12/19/2023. (Opila, Chris) (Entered: 12/19/2023)
01/02/2024	<u>10</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Kenneth A. Adebonojo on behalf of U.S. CITIZENSHIP & IMMIGRATION SERVICES (Adebonojo, Kenneth) (Entered: 01/02/2024)
01/18/2024	<u>11</u>	Consent MOTION for Extension of Time to <i>Respond</i> by U.S. CITIZENSHIP & IMMIGRATION SERVICES. (Adebonojo, Kenneth) (Entered: 01/18/2024)

01/22/2024	<u>12</u>	ORDER granting Motion <u>11</u> for Extension of Time to Respond. Response due by 2/29/2024. Signed by Judge Royce C. Lamberth on 1/22/2024. (lcrcl2) (Entered: 01/22/2024)
02/22/2024	<u>13</u>	NOTICE of Change of Address by Chris Opila (Opila, Chris) (Entered: 02/22/2024)
02/29/2024	<u>14</u>	ANSWER to Complaint by U.S. CITIZENSHIP & IMMIGRATION SERVICES.(Adebonojo, Kenneth) (Entered: 02/29/2024)
03/01/2024	<u>15</u>	ORDER: Local Rule 16.3(b)(10) exempts parties to a FOIA action from typical scheduling order requirements. Instead, the government has the burden to produce a Vaughn index with a supporting dispositive motion. The Court therefore ORDERS the government to file the index and supporting motion within 30 days. Signed by Judge Royce C. Lamberth on 3/1/2024. (lcrcl2) (Entered: 03/01/2024)
03/15/2024	<u>16</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Deepa Alagesan on behalf of INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ASSISTANCE PROJECT, INC. (Alagesan, Deepa) (Entered: 03/15/2024)
04/01/2024	<u>17</u>	MOTION to Stay by U.S. CITIZENSHIP & IMMIGRATION SERVICES. (Adebonojo, Kenneth) (Entered: 04/01/2024)
04/03/2024	<u>18</u>	RESPONSE re <u>17</u> MOTION to Stay filed by INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ASSISTANCE PROJECT, INC.. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Opila, Chris) (Entered: 04/03/2024)
04/11/2024	<u>19</u>	ORDER granting Motion <u>17</u> to Stay. Status Report due by 7/9/2024. Signed by Judge Royce C. Lamberth on 4/11/2024. (lcrcl2) (Entered: 04/11/2024)
04/23/2024	<u>20</u>	Consent MOTION to Withdraw as Attorney <i>Mariko Hirose</i> by INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ASSISTANCE PROJECT, INC.. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Hirose, Mariko) (Entered: 04/23/2024)
04/26/2024	<u>21</u>	ORDER granting Motion <u>20</u> to Withdraw as Attorney. Attorney Mariko Hirose terminated. Signed by Judge Royce C. Lamberth on 4/26/2024. (lcrcl2) (Entered: 04/26/2024)
07/09/2024	<u>22</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Linda B. Evarts on behalf of INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ASSISTANCE PROJECT, INC. (Evarts, Linda) (Entered: 07/09/2024)
07/09/2024	<u>23</u>	STATUS REPORT by U.S. CITIZENSHIP & IMMIGRATION SERVICES. (Adebonojo, Kenneth) (Entered: 07/09/2024)
07/10/2024	<u>24</u>	ORDER: Upon consideration of Defendant's Status Report <u>23</u> and the entire record herein, and for good cause shown, it is hereby ORDERED that Defendant's proposal is ADOPTED; and it is further ORDERED that Defendant shall file another Status Report no later than September 30, 2024. SO ORDERED. Signed by Judge Royce C. Lamberth on 07/10/2024. (lcrcl2) (Entered: 07/10/2024)
07/11/2024	<u>25</u>	NOTICE of Change of Address by Chris Opila (Opila, Chris) (Entered: 07/11/2024)