

**U.S. District Court
District of Columbia (Washington, DC)
CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:24-cv-00720-LLA**

NATIONAL STUDENT LEGAL DEFENSE NETWORK v.
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Assigned to: Judge Loren L. AliKhan
Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act

Date Filed: 03/13/2024
Jury Demand: None
Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of
Information Act
Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

Plaintiff

**NATIONAL STUDENT LEGAL
DEFENSE NETWORK**

represented by **Kimberly Stratton**
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V.

Defendant

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Date Filed	#	Docket Text
03/13/2024	<u>1</u>	COMPLAINT against DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (Fee Status:Filing Fee Waived) filed by NATIONAL STUDENT LEGAL DEFENSE NETWORK. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Civil Cover Sheet, # <u>2</u> Summons, # <u>3</u> Summons, # <u>4</u> Summons)(Zibel, Daniel) (Attachment 1 replaced on 3/14/2024) (zed). (Entered: 03/13/2024)
03/13/2024	<u>2</u>	LCvR 26.1 CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE of Corporate Affiliations and Financial Interests by NATIONAL STUDENT LEGAL DEFENSE NETWORK (Zibel, Daniel) (Main Document 2 replaced on 3/14/2024) (zed). (Entered: 03/13/2024)
03/14/2024		Case Assigned to Judge Loren L. AliKhan. (zed) (Entered: 03/14/2024)
03/14/2024	<u>3</u>	SUMMONS (3) Issued Electronically as to DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, U.S. Attorney and U.S. Attorney General. (Attachment: # <u>1</u> Notice and Consent)(zed)

		(Entered: 03/14/2024)
03/20/2024	<u>4</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed as to the United States Attorney. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney on 3/20/2024. (Answer due for ALL FEDERAL DEFENDANTS by 4/19/2024.), RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed on United States Attorney General. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney General 3/20/2024., RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION served on 3/19/2024 (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit A – Proof of Service)(Zibel, Daniel) (Entered: 03/20/2024)
04/19/2024	<u>5</u>	ANSWER to Complaint by NATIONAL STUDENT LEGAL DEFENSE NETWORK.(Stratton, Kimberly) (Entered: 04/19/2024)
04/19/2024	<u>6</u>	ORDER directing the parties to meet and confer and file a Joint Status Report. See Order for details. Signed by Judge Loren L. AliKhan on 4/19/2024. (lc11a1) (Entered: 04/19/2024)
04/21/2024		Set/Reset Deadlines/Hearings: Joint Status Report due by 5/20/2024. (zcdw) (Entered: 04/21/2024)
05/20/2024	<u>7</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by NATIONAL STUDENT LEGAL DEFENSE NETWORK. (Stratton, Kimberly) (Entered: 05/20/2024)
05/23/2024		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the parties' Joint Status Report <u>7</u> , the court finds the following: Given the nature of Plaintiff's FOIA request, both the Plaintiff and the public have an interest in obtaining the requested documents before the November 2024 federal election. However, Defendant has indicated that Plaintiff's preferred production rate of 1,000 pages per month would be unduly burdensome. In an effort to balance these interests, it is hereby ORDERED that Defendant shall produce the requested documents at a rate of 750 pages per month from June 2024 through November 2024, and at a rate of 500 pages per month from December 2024 until document production is complete. It is further ORDERED that the parties shall file a joint status report on July 3, 2024, updating the court on the status of Plaintiff's FOIA request. In the meantime, should the production rate prove unduly burdensome, Defendant may – after consultation with Plaintiff pursuant to Local Civil Rule 7(m) – file a status report stating "clear, specific, and reasonably detailed" justifications for a revised production schedule. <i>Inst. for Just. v. Internal Revenue Serv.</i> , 547 F. Supp. 3d 1, *12 (D.D.C. 2021) (quoting <i>Voinche v. FBI</i> , 412 F. Supp. 2d 60, 64 (D.D.C. 2006)). Signed by Judge Loren L. AliKhan on 5/23/2024. (lc11a1) (Entered: 05/23/2024)
05/27/2024		Set/Reset Deadlines/Hearings: Joint Status Report due by 7/3/2024. (zcdw) (Entered: 05/27/2024)
07/03/2024	<u>8</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by NATIONAL STUDENT LEGAL DEFENSE NETWORK. (Stratton, Kimberly) (Entered: 07/03/2024)
07/08/2024		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the parties' Joint Status Report <u>8</u> , it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall file a joint status report on or before October 1, 2024, updating the court on the status of Plaintiff's FOIA request. Signed by Judge Loren L. AliKhan on 7/8/2024. (lc11a1) (Entered: 07/08/2024)
07/09/2024		Set/Reset Deadlines/Hearings: Joint Status Report due by 10/1/2024. (zcdw) (Entered: 07/09/2024)
07/12/2024	<u>9</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Tyler Scott Ritchie on behalf of NATIONAL STUDENT LEGAL DEFENSE NETWORK (Ritchie, Tyler) (Entered: 07/12/2024)