

**U.S. District Court  
District of Columbia (Washington, DC)  
CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:23-cv-01948-RBW**

AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION v. DEPARTMENT  
OF JUSTICE et al  
Assigned to: Judge Reggie B. Walton  
Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act

Date Filed: 07/06/2023  
Jury Demand: None  
Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of  
Information Act  
Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

**Plaintiff**

**AMERICA FIRST LEGAL  
FOUNDATION**

represented by **Juli Zsuzsa Haller**  
AMERICA FIRST LEGAL  
FOUNDATION  
611 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE  
#231  
Washington, DC 20003  
202-670-3304  
Email: [juli.haller@aflegal.org](mailto:juli.haller@aflegal.org)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Michael Ding**  
611 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE  
#231  
Washington, DC 20003  
(202) 964-3721  
Email: [michael.ding@aflegal.org](mailto:michael.ding@aflegal.org)  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

V.

**Defendant**

**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

represented by **Cynthia Liao**  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
Civil Division, Federal Programs Branch  
1100 L Street NW  
Suite 12010  
Washington, DC 20005  
202-531-1325  
Email: [cynthia.f.liao@usdoj.gov](mailto:cynthia.f.liao@usdoj.gov)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Agbeko C. Petty**  
DOJ-CIV  
Department of Justice  
1100 L Street NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
202-616-8267  
Email: [agbeko.c.petty@usdoj.gov](mailto:agbeko.c.petty@usdoj.gov)  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Defendant**

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

represented by **Cynthia Liao**  
(See above for address)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Agbeko C. Petty**

(See above for address)  
*ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED*

**Defendant**

**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND  
SECURITY**

represented by **Cynthia Liao**  
(See above for address)  
*LEAD ATTORNEY*  
*ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED*

**Agbeko C. Petty**  
(See above for address)  
*ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED*

Date Filed	#	Docket Text
07/06/2023	<u>1</u>	COMPLAINT against All Defendants ( Filing fee \$ 402 receipt number ADCDC-10184920) 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> Civil Cover Sheet, # <u>20</u> Summons, # <u>21</u> Summons, # <u>22</u> Summons, # <u>23</u> Summons)(Ding, Michael) (Entered: 07/06/2023)
07/06/2023	<u>2</u>	LCvR 26.1 CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE of Corporate Affiliations and Financial Interests by AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION (Ding, Michael) (Entered: 07/06/2023)
07/06/2023		Case Assigned to Judge Reggie B. Walton. (zcb) (Entered: 07/06/2023)
07/06/2023	<u>3</u>	SUMMONS (4) Issued Electronically as to DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, U.S. Attorney and U.S. Attorney General (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Notice and Consent)(zcb) (Entered: 07/06/2023)
07/11/2023	<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 7/7/2023. Answer due for ALL FEDERAL DEFENDANTS by 8/6/2023. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit)(Ding, Michael) (Entered: 07/11/2023)
07/11/2023	<u>5</u>	GENERAL ORDER FOR CIVIL CASES BEFORE THE HONORABLE REGGIE B. WALTON. Signed by Judge Reggie B. Walton on July 11, 2023. (lcrbw3) (Entered: 07/11/2023)
08/04/2023	<u>6</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Cynthia Liao on behalf of All Defendants (Liao, Cynthia) (Entered: 08/04/2023)
08/04/2023	<u>7</u>	MOTION for Extension of Time to File Answer re <u>1</u> Complaint., by DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Liao, Cynthia) (Entered: 08/04/2023)
08/07/2023		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the defendants' <u>7</u> Unopposed Motion for Extension of Time to File Answer, and for good cause shown, it is hereby ORDERED that the defendants' <u>7</u> Unopposed Motion for Extension of Time to File Answer is GRANTED. It is further ORDERED that, on or before August 14, 2023, the defendants shall respond to the Complaint in this case. Signed by Judge Reggie B. Walton on August 7, 2023. (lcrbw3) (Entered: 08/07/2023)
08/08/2023	<u>8</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Juli Zsuzsa Haller on behalf of AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION (Haller, Juli) (Entered: 08/08/2023)
08/09/2023	<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 07/17/2023. (Ding, Michael) (Entered: 08/09/2023)

08/09/2023	<u>10</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY served on 7/17/2023 (Ding, Michael) (Entered: 08/09/2023)
08/09/2023		MINUTE ORDER. To ensure the expeditious resolution of this action, and because this qualifies as an exempted case under Local Civil Rule 16.3(b), it is hereby ORDERED that, on or before September 6, 2023, the parties shall file a joint proposed briefing schedule governing further proceedings. Signed by Judge Reggie B. Walton on August 9, 2023. (lcrbw3) (Entered: 08/09/2023)
08/09/2023		Set/Reset Deadlines: Parties Proposed Joint Briefing Schedule due by 9/6/2023 (mac) (Entered: 08/09/2023)
08/14/2023	<u>11</u>	ANSWER to Complaint by DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, DEPARTMENT OF STATE.(Liao, Cynthia) (Entered: 08/14/2023)
08/14/2023		MINUTE ORDER. To ensure the expeditious resolution of this action, and because this qualifies as an exempted case under Local Civil Rule 16.3(b), it is hereby ORDERED that, on or before September 11, 2023, the parties shall file a joint proposed briefing schedule governing further proceedings. Signed by Judge Reggie B. Walton on August 14, 2023. (lcrbw3) (Entered: 08/14/2023)
08/14/2023		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Proposed Briefing Schedule due by 9/11/2023. (zalh) (Entered: 09/14/2023)
08/30/2023	<u>12</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. DEPARTMENT OF STATE served on 8/28/2023 (Ding, Michael) (Entered: 08/30/2023)
09/11/2023	<u>13</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION. (Ding, Michael) (Entered: 09/11/2023)
09/12/2023		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>13</u> Joint Status Report, and for good cause shown, it is hereby ORDERED that, on or before December 11, 2023, the parties shall file an additional joint status report regarding how they wish to proceed in this case. Signed by Judge Reggie B. Walton on September 12, 2023. (lcrbw3) (Entered: 09/12/2023)
09/13/2023		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 12/11/2023. (zalh) (Entered: 09/13/2023)
12/11/2023	<u>14</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION. (Ding, Michael) (Entered: 12/11/2023)
12/12/2023		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>14</u> Joint Status Report, and for good cause shown, it is hereby ORDERED that, on or before March 11, 2024, the parties shall submit a joint status report regarding how they wish to proceed in this case. Signed by Judge Reggie B. Walton on December 12, 2023. (lcrbw3) (Entered: 12/12/2023)
01/26/2024	<u>15</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Agbeko C. Petty on behalf of All Defendants (Petty, Agbeko) (Main Document 15 replaced on 1/28/2024) (ztth). (Entered: 01/26/2024)
03/11/2024	<u>16</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Petty, Agbeko) (Entered: 03/11/2024)
03/12/2024		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>16</u> Joint Status Report, and for good cause shown, it is hereby ORDERED that, on or before June 11, 2024, the parties shall submit a joint status report regarding how they wish to proceed in this case. Signed by Judge Reggie B. Walton on March 12, 2024. (lcrbw3) (Entered: 03/12/2024)
06/11/2024	<u>17</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION. (Haller, Juli) (Entered: 06/11/2024)
06/12/2024		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>17</u> Joint Status Report, and for good cause shown, it is hereby ORDERED that, on or before September 11, 2024, the

		parties shall submit a joint status report regarding how they wish to proceed in this case. Signed by Judge Reggie B. Walton on June 12, 2024. (lcrbw3) (Entered: 06/12/2024)
09/11/2024	<u>18</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Petty, Agbeko) (Entered: 09/11/2024)
09/11/2024		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>18</u> Joint Status Report, and for good cause shown, it is hereby ORDERED that, on or before December 11, 2024, the parties shall submit a joint status report regarding how they wish to proceed in this case. Signed by Judge Reggie B. Walton on September 11, 2024. (lcrbw2) (Entered: 09/11/2024)