

**U.S. District Court
District of Columbia (Washington, DC)
CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:21-cv-00558-APM**

LEOPOLD et al v. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE et al
Assigned to: Judge Amit P. Mehta
Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act

Date Filed: 03/03/2021
Jury Demand: None
Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of Information Act
Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

Plaintiff

JASON LEOPOLD

represented by **Joshua Loevy**
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Plaintiff

BUZZFEED INC.

represented by **Joshua Loevy**
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Matthew Topic
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V.

Consol Plaintiff

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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V.

Defendant

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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Defendant

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date Filed	#	Docket Text
03/03/2021	<u>1</u>	COMPLAINT against FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (Filing fee \$ 402 receipt number ADCDC-8270268) filed by JASON LEOPOLD, BUZZFEED INC.. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit 1-8, # <u>2</u>

		Exhibit 9–16, # <u>3</u> Exhibit 17–23, # <u>4</u> Civil Cover Sheet, # <u>5</u> Summons)(Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 03/03/2021)
03/03/2021	<u>2</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Matthew Topic on behalf of BUZZFEED INC., JASON LEOPOLD (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 03/03/2021)
03/03/2021	<u>3</u>	LCvR 26.1 CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE of Corporate Affiliations and Financial Interests by BUZZFEED INC. (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 03/03/2021)
03/03/2021		Case Assigned to Judge Amit P. Mehta. (adh,) (Entered: 03/03/2021)
03/03/2021	<u>4</u>	SUMMONS (4) Issued Electronically as to FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, U.S. Attorney and U.S. Attorney General (Attachment: # <u>1</u> Notice and Consent)(adh,) (Entered: 03/03/2021)
04/05/2021	<u>5</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE served on 3/22/2021 (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 04/05/2021)
04/05/2021	<u>6</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION served on 3/22/2021 (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 04/05/2021)
04/05/2021	<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 3/22/2021. (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 04/05/2021)
04/05/2021	<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 3/22/2021. Answer due for ALL FEDERAL DEFENDANTS by 4/21/2021. (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 04/05/2021)
04/14/2021	<u>9</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Bradley Thomas Craigmyle on behalf of All Defendants (Craigmyle, Bradley) (Main Document 9 replaced on 4/16/2021) (zeg). (Entered: 04/14/2021)
04/14/2021	<u>10</u>	ANSWER to Complaint by FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.(Craigmyle, Bradley) (Entered: 04/14/2021)
04/14/2021	<u>11</u>	MOTION to Consolidate Cases with <i>CREW v. DOJ, No. 1:21-cv-572 (RC) (D.D.C.)</i> , and <i>American Oversight v. DOD, No. 1:21-cv-624 (RDM) (D.D.C.)</i> by FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit CREW complaint, # <u>2</u> Exhibit American Oversight complaint, # <u>3</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Craigmyle, Bradley) (Entered: 04/14/2021)
04/15/2021	<u>12</u>	ORDER. Both a Complaint and an Answer are now before the court in this FOIA case. It is hereby ordered that the parties shall meet and confer and file a Joint Status Report on or before April 29, 2021. The Joint Status Report shall include (1) the status of Plaintiffs' FOIA request; (2) the anticipated number of documents responsive to Plaintiffs' FOIA request; (3) the anticipated date(s) for release of the documents requested by Plaintiffs; (4) whether a motion for a stay is likely under <i>Open America v. Watergate Special Prosecution Force</i> , 547 F.2d 605 (D.C. Cir. 1976); and (5) whether the parties anticipate summary judgment briefing and, if so, a proposed briefing schedule. See the attached Order for additional details. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 4/15/2021. (lcapm1) (Entered: 04/15/2021)
04/28/2021	<u>13</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Daniel Alexander McGrath on behalf of AMERICAN OVERSIGHT (McGrath, Daniel) (Main Document 13 replaced on 4/30/2021) (zeg). (Entered: 04/28/2021)
04/28/2021	<u>14</u>	Memorandum in opposition to re <u>11</u> MOTION to Consolidate Cases with <i>CREW v. DOJ, No. 1:21-cv-572 (RC) (D.D.C.)</i> , and <i>American Oversight v. DOD, No. 1:21-cv-624 (RDM) (D.D.C.)</i> filed by AMERICAN OVERSIGHT. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Declaration)(McGrath, Daniel) (Entered: 04/28/2021)
04/28/2021	<u>15</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Emma Lewis on behalf of AMERICAN OVERSIGHT (Lewis, Emma) (Main Document 15 replaced on 4/30/2021) (zeg). (Entered: 04/28/2021)

04/28/2021	<u>16</u>	Memorandum in opposition to re <u>11</u> MOTION to Consolidate Cases <i>with CREW v. DOJ, No. 1:21-cv-572 (RC) (D.D.C.), and American Oversight v. DOD, No. 1:21-cv-624 (RDM) (D.D.C.)</i> filed by BUZZFEED INC., JASON LEOPOLD. (Topic, Matthew) Modified docket event/text on 4/30/2021 (eg). (Entered: 04/28/2021)
04/29/2021	<u>17</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Craigmyle, Bradley) (Entered: 04/29/2021)
04/29/2021	<u>18</u>	NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF APPEARANCE as to AMERICAN OVERSIGHT. Attorney Daniel Alexander McGrath terminated. (McGrath, Daniel) (Entered: 04/29/2021)
04/30/2021		MINUTE ORDER. The parties shall file an additional Joint Status Report by June 30, 2021, that updates the court on the processing and production of responsive records. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 4/30/2021. (lcapm1) (Entered: 04/30/2021)
05/05/2021	<u>19</u>	REPLY to opposition to motion re <u>11</u> MOTION to Consolidate Cases <i>with CREW v. DOJ, No. 1:21-cv-572 (RC) (D.D.C.), and American Oversight v. DOD, No. 1:21-cv-624 (RDM) (D.D.C.)</i> filed by FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Craigmyle, Bradley) (Entered: 05/05/2021)
05/24/2021	<u>20</u>	MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER denying Defendants' <u>11</u> Motion to Consolidate Cases. See the attached Memorandum Opinion and Order for additional details. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 5/24/2021. (lcapm1) (Entered: 05/24/2021)
06/30/2021	<u>21</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Craigmyle, Bradley) (Entered: 06/30/2021)
07/01/2021		MINUTE ORDER. The parties shall file an additional Joint Status Report by August 30, 2021, that updates the court on the processing and production of responsive records. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 7/1/2021. (lcapm1) (Entered: 07/01/2021)
08/30/2021	<u>22</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Craigmyle, Bradley) (Entered: 08/30/2021)
08/30/2021		MINUTE ORDER. The parties shall file an additional Joint Status Report by October 29, 2021, that updates the court on the processing and production of responsive records. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 8/30/2021. (lcapm1) (Entered: 08/30/2021)
10/28/2021	<u>23</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Craigmyle, Bradley) (Entered: 10/28/2021)
10/29/2021		MINUTE ORDER. The parties shall file an additional Joint Status Report by January 12, 2022, that updates the court on the processing and production of responsive records. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 10/29/2021. (lcapm1) (Entered: 10/29/2021)
01/12/2022	<u>24</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Craigmyle, Bradley) (Entered: 01/12/2022)
01/13/2022		MINUTE ORDER. The parties shall file an additional Joint Status Report by March 14, 2022, that updates the court on the processing and production of responsive records. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 1/13/2022. (lcapm1) (Entered: 01/13/2022)
03/11/2022	<u>25</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Joshua Loevy on behalf of BUZZFEED INC., JASON LEOPOLD (Loevy, Joshua) (Entered: 03/11/2022)
03/14/2022	<u>26</u>	NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTION OF COUNSEL by Clifford Lee Reeves, II on behalf of All Defendants Substituting for attorney Bradley Craigmyle (Reeves, Clifford) (Entered: 03/14/2022)
03/14/2022	<u>27</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by BUZZFEED INC., JASON LEOPOLD. (Loevy, Joshua) (Entered: 03/14/2022)
03/14/2022		MINUTE ORDER. The parties shall file an additional Joint Status Report by May 16, 2022, that updates the court on the processing and production of responsive records. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 3/14/2022. (lcapm1) (Entered: 03/14/2022)

05/16/2022	<u>28</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Reeves, Clifford) (Entered: 05/16/2022)
05/16/2022		MINUTE ORDER. The parties shall file an additional Joint Status Report by July 15, 2022, that updates the court on the processing and production of responsive records. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 5/16/2022. (lcapm1) (Entered: 05/16/2022)
07/15/2022	<u>29</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Reeves, Clifford) (Entered: 07/15/2022)
07/17/2022		MINUTE ORDER. The parties shall file an additional Joint Status Report by September 15, 2022, that updates the court on the processing and production of responsive records. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 7/17/2022. (lcapm1) (Entered: 07/17/2022)
09/15/2022	<u>30</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Reeves, Clifford) (Entered: 09/15/2022)
09/16/2022		MINUTE ORDER. The parties shall file an additional Joint Status Report by December 15, 2022, that updates the court on the processing and production of responsive records. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 9/16/2022. (lcapm1) (Entered: 09/16/2022)
12/15/2022	<u>31</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Reeves, Clifford) (Entered: 12/15/2022)
12/16/2022		MINUTE ORDER. The parties shall file an additional Joint Status Report by February 15, 2023, that updates the court on the processing and production of responsive records. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 12/16/2022. (lcapm1) (Entered: 12/16/2022)
02/15/2023	<u>32</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Reeves, Clifford) (Entered: 02/15/2023)
02/16/2023		MINUTE ORDER. The parties shall file an additional Joint Status Report by April 16, 2023, that updates the court on the processing and production of responsive records. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 02/16/2023. (lcapm1) (Entered: 02/16/2023)
02/22/2023	<u>33</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Merrick Jason Wayne on behalf of BUZZFEED INC., JASON LEOPOLD (Wayne, Merrick) (Entered: 02/22/2023)
02/22/2023		RESOLVED...NOTICE of Provisional/Government Not Certified Status re NOTICE of Appearance by Merrick Jason Wayne on behalf of BUZZFEED INC., JASON LEOPOLD (Wayne, Merrick), Your attorney renewal/government certification has not been received. As a result, your membership with the U.S. District & Bankruptcy Courts for the District of Columbia is not in good standing, and you are not permitted to file. Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 83.9, you must immediately correct your membership status by following the appropriate instructions on this page of our website: https://www.dcd.uscourts.gov/attorney-renewal . Please be advised that the presiding judge in this case has been notified that you are currently not in good standing to file in this court. Renewal Due by 3/1/2023. (zbaj) Modified on 2/23/2023 (znmw). Modified on 3/2/2023 (zbaj). (Entered: 02/22/2023)
04/14/2023	<u>34</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Reeves, Clifford) (Entered: 04/14/2023)
04/17/2023		MINUTE ORDER. The parties shall file an additional Joint Status Report by June 15, 2023, that updates the court on the processing and production of responsive records. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 04/17/2023. (lcapm1) (Entered: 04/17/2023)
04/18/2023		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 6/15/2023. (smc) (Entered: 04/18/2023)
06/15/2023	<u>35</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Reeves, Clifford) (Entered: 06/15/2023)

06/16/2023		MINUTE ORDER. The parties shall file an additional Joint Status Report by August 15, 2023, that updates the court on the processing and production of responsive records. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 06/16/2023. (lcapm1) (Entered: 06/16/2023)
08/15/2023	<u>36</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Reeves, Clifford) (Entered: 08/15/2023)
08/16/2023		MINUTE ORDER. The parties shall file an additional Joint Status Report by October 17, 2023, which updates the court on the processing and production of responsive records. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 08/16/2023. (lcapm1) (Entered: 08/16/2023)
08/16/2023		Set/Reset Deadlines: Status Report due by 10/17/2023 (zjch,) (Entered: 08/16/2023)
10/17/2023	<u>37</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by BUZZFEED INC., JASON LEOPOLD. (Wayne, Merrick) (Entered: 10/17/2023)
10/18/2023		MINUTE ORDER. The parties shall file an additional Joint Status Report on or before January 16, 2024, which updates the court on the processing and production of responsive records. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 10/18/2023. (lcapm1) (Entered: 10/18/2023)
01/16/2024	<u>38</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Reeves, Clifford) (Entered: 01/16/2024)
01/17/2024		MINUTE ORDER. The parties shall file an additional Joint Status Report on or before March 19, 2024, which updates the court on the processing and production of responsive records. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 01/17/2024. (lcapm1) (Entered: 01/17/2024)
03/19/2024	<u>39</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by BUZZFEED INC., JASON LEOPOLD. (Wayne, Merrick) (Entered: 03/19/2024)
03/21/2024		MINUTE ORDER. The parties shall file an additional Joint Status Report on or before May 21, 2024, which updates the court on the processing and production of responsive records. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 03/21/2024. (lcapm1) (Entered: 03/21/2024)
03/21/2024		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 5/21/2024. (znbn) (Entered: 03/21/2024)
05/21/2024	<u>40</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Reeves, Clifford) (Entered: 05/21/2024)
05/22/2024		MINUTE ORDER. The parties shall file an additional Joint Status Report on or before July 23, 2024, which updates the court on the processing and production of responsive records. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 05/22/2024. (lcapm1) (Entered: 05/22/2024)
05/22/2024		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 7/23/2024. (smc) (Entered: 05/22/2024)
07/23/2024	<u>41</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Reeves, Clifford) (Entered: 07/23/2024)
07/25/2024		MINUTE ORDER. The parties shall file an additional Joint Status Report on or before September 24, 2024, which updates the court on the processing and production of responsive records. Signed by Judge Amit P. Mehta on 7/25/2024. (lcapm2) (Entered: 07/25/2024)
07/26/2024		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 9/24/2024 (zakb) (Entered: 07/26/2024)
09/24/2024	<u>42</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Reeves, Clifford) (Entered: 09/24/2024)