

**U.S. District Court  
District of Columbia (Washington, DC)  
CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:20-cv-01823-JMC**

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT v. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
STATE  
Assigned to: Judge Jia M. Cobb  
Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act

Date Filed: 07/07/2020  
Jury Demand: None  
Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of  
Information Act  
Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

**Plaintiff**

**AMERICAN OVERSIGHT**

represented by **Daniel Alexander McGrath**  
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**TERMINATED: 07/14/2022**

V.

**Defendant**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

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*TERMINATED: 07/05/2021*

Date Filed	#	Docket Text
07/07/2020	<u>1</u>	COMPLAINT against U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE ( Filing fee \$ 400 receipt number ADCDC-7308069) filed by AMERICAN OVERSIGHT. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Civil Cover Sheet, # <u>2</u> Summons as to US Attorney's Office, # <u>3</u> Summons as to Attorney General, # <u>4</u> Summons as to US Department of State)(Rasheed, Mehreen) (Entered: 07/07/2020)
07/07/2020	<u>2</u>	LCvR 26.1 CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE of Corporate Affiliations and Financial Interests by AMERICAN OVERSIGHT (Rasheed, Mehreen) (Entered: 07/07/2020)
07/07/2020		Case assigned to Judge Tanya S. Chutkan. (zmc) (Entered: 07/07/2020)
07/07/2020	<u>3</u>	SUMMONS (3) Issued Electronically as to U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, U.S. Attorney and U.S. Attorney General (Attachment: # <u>1</u> Notice and Consent)(zmc) (Entered: 07/07/2020)
07/23/2020	<u>4</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE served on 7/20/2020, RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed on United States Attorney General. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney General 7/20/2020., RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed as to the United States Attorney. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney on 7/20/2020. ( Answer due for ALL FEDERAL DEFENDANTS by 8/19/2020.) (Rasheed, Mehreen) (Entered: 07/23/2020)
08/19/2020	<u>5</u>	ANSWER to Complaint by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit A, # <u>2</u> Exhibit B, # <u>3</u> Exhibit C, # <u>4</u> Exhibit D)(Brudy-Everett, Kristin)

		(Entered: 08/19/2020)
08/24/2020		MINUTE ORDER: Before the Court in this FOIA case are a complaint and an answer. The requirements of LCvR 16.3 and Rule 26(f) of the Federal Rules of Civil procedure appear to be inapplicable. IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the parties shall meet and confer and propose a schedule for proceeding in this matter. The schedule shall address the status of Plaintiff's FOIA request, the anticipated number of documents responsive to Plaintiff's FOIA request, the anticipated date(s) for release of the documents requested by Plaintiff, whether a motion for an Open America stay is likely in this case, whether a Vaughn index will be required in this case, whether and when either party anticipates filing a dispositive motion, and any other pertinent issues. The parties shall file a joint status report that addresses these issues no later than 9/30/2020. The joint status report shall be accompanied by a proposed order. Signed by Judge Tanya S. Chutkan on 8/24/20. (DJS) (Entered: 08/24/2020)
08/26/2020		Set/Reset Deadlines: The parties shall file a joint status report and proposed order by 9/30/2020. (jth) (Entered: 08/26/2020)
09/30/2020	<u>6</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Daniel Alexander McGrath on behalf of AMERICAN OVERSIGHT (McGrath, Daniel) (Main Document 6 replaced on 10/2/2020) (znmw). (Entered: 09/30/2020)
09/30/2020	<u>7</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Brudy–Everett, Kristin) (Entered: 09/30/2020)
10/01/2020		MINUTE ORDER: Having considered the parties' joint status report <u>7</u> , it is hereby ordered that the parties shall file another joint report by 11/10/20. Signed by Judge Tanya S. Chutkan on 10/1/2020. (DJS) (Entered: 10/01/2020)
10/02/2020		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 11/10/2020. (tb) (Entered: 10/02/2020)
11/10/2020	<u>8</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Brudy–Everett, Kristin) (Entered: 11/10/2020)
12/15/2020		MINUTE ORDER: Having considered the parties' joint status report <u>8</u> , it is hereby ordered that the parties shall file another joint report by 1/13/21 and every 60 days thereafter. To the extent the report contains a proposed production or briefing schedule, the report shall be accompanied by a proposed order. Signed by Judge Tanya S. Chutkan on 12/15/2020. (DJS) (Entered: 12/15/2020)
12/15/2020		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Report due by 1/13/2021. (tb) (Entered: 12/15/2020)
01/13/2021	<u>9</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Brudy–Everett, Kristin) (Entered: 01/13/2021)
01/13/2021	<u>10</u>	ERRATA ( <i>January 13, 2021 Joint Status Report</i> ) by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Errata, # <u>2</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Brudy–Everett, Kristin) (Entered: 01/13/2021)
03/10/2021	<u>11</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Brudy–Everett, Kristin) (Entered: 03/10/2021)
05/10/2021	<u>12</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Brudy–Everett, Kristin) (Entered: 05/10/2021)
07/05/2021	<u>13</u>	NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTION OF COUNSEL by Sean Michael Tepe on behalf of U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE Substituting for attorney Kristin Brudy–Everett (Tepe, Sean) (Entered: 07/05/2021)
07/06/2021	<u>14</u>	Consent MOTION for Leave to Appear Pro Hac Vice :Attorney Name– J. Zachery Morris, Filing fee \$ 100, receipt number ADCDC–8578787. Fee Status: Fee Paid. by AMERICAN OVERSIGHT. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Declaration of J. Zachery Morris, # <u>2</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Rasheed, Mehreen) (Entered: 07/06/2021)
07/09/2021	<u>15</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Tepe, Sean) (Entered: 07/09/2021)

09/02/2021		MINUTE ORDER: Granting in part and denying in part <u>14</u> Motion for Admission Pro Hac Vice. John Zachery Morris may be heard in open court, but may not file papers in this court until such time as he has submitted his application to the District of Columbia Bar. See Local Civil Rule 83.2(c)(2) ("An attorney who engages in the practice of law from an office located in the District of Columbia must be a member of the District of Columbia Bar AND the Bar of this Court to file papers in this Court."). Upon submission of the application, the applicant may file a renewed motion (without paying an additional fee), at which time the court will remove the prohibition against filing papers in this court. Signed by Judge Tanya S. Chutkan on 9/2/21. (DJS) (Entered: 09/02/2021)
09/07/2021	<u>16</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Tepe, Sean) (Entered: 09/07/2021)
09/20/2021	<u>17</u>	Consent MOTION for Leave to Appear Pro Hac Vice :Attorney Name– J. Zachery Morris, Fee Status: No Fee Paid. by AMERICAN OVERSIGHT. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Declaration of J. Zachery Morris, # <u>2</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Rasheed, Mehreen) (Entered: 09/20/2021)
10/25/2021		MINUTE ORDER: Granting <u>17</u> Motion for Leave to Appear Pro Hac Vice. John Zachery Morris is hereby admitted pro hac vice to appear in this matter on behalf of Plaintiff. <b>Counsel should register for e-filing via PACER and file a notice of appearance pursuant to LCvR 83.6(a). Click for instructions.</b> Signed by Judge Tanya S. Chutkan on 10/25/21. (DJS) (Entered: 10/25/2021)
10/28/2021	<u>18</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by John Zachery Morris on behalf of AMERICAN OVERSIGHT (Morris, John) (Entered: 10/28/2021)
11/09/2021	<u>19</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Tepe, Sean) (Entered: 11/09/2021)
11/16/2021		Case directly reassigned to Judge Jia M. Cobb. Judge Tanya S. Chutkan is no longer assigned to the case. (rj) (Entered: 11/16/2021)
01/10/2022	<u>20</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Tepe, Sean) (Entered: 01/10/2022)
01/10/2022		NOTICE OF ERROR re <u>20</u> Status Report; emailed to sean.tepe@usdoj.gov, cc'd 6 associated attorneys -- The PDF file you docketed contained errors: 1. DO NOT REFILE– for future filings judge initials are JMC (zjf, ) (Entered: 01/10/2022)
01/12/2022		MINUTE ORDER re <u>20</u> JOINT STATUS REPORT: The Court has reviewed the Joint Status Report and directs the Parties to file another joint status report by March 11, 2022. Signed by Judge Jia M. Cobb on January 12, 2022. (lcjmc1) (Entered: 01/12/2022)
03/11/2022	<u>21</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Tepe, Sean) (Entered: 03/11/2022)
03/11/2022		MINUTE ORDER: The Court has reviewed <u>21</u> Joint Status Report and directs the Parties to file another joint status report by May 10, 2022. Signed by Judge Jia M. Cobb on March 11, 2022. (lcjmc1) (Entered: 03/11/2022)
05/10/2022	<u>22</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Tepe, Sean) (Entered: 05/10/2022)
05/11/2022		MINUTE ORDER: The Court has reviewed the Parties' Joint Status Report and directs the Parties to file another joint status report by August 9, 2022. It is further ORDERED that the Parties shall file joint status reports every 90 days thereafter until further order of the Court. Signed by Judge Jia M. Cobb on May 11, 2022. (lcjmc1) Modified on 5/11/2022, to correct an error made by Chambers. (zgdff) (Entered: 05/11/2022)
07/14/2022	<u>23</u>	NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF APPEARANCE as to AMERICAN OVERSIGHT. Attorney John Zachery Morris terminated. (Morris, John) (Entered: 07/14/2022)
07/26/2022	<u>24</u>	Consent MOTION for Leave to Appear Pro Hac Vice :Attorney Name– Rachel Baron, Filing fee \$ 100, receipt number ADCDC–9396352. Fee Status: Fee Paid. by AMERICAN OVERSIGHT. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Declaration of Rachel Baron, # <u>2</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Rasheed, Mehreen) (Entered: 07/26/2022)

07/26/2022		MINUTE ORDER granting <u>24</u> Motion for Leave to Appear Pro Hac Vice: Attorney Rachel Baron is hereby admitted pro hac vice to appear in this matter. <b>Counsel should register for e-filing via PACER and file a notice of appearance pursuant to LCvR 83.6(a).</b> Signed by Judge Jia M. Cobb on July 26, 2022. (lcjmc3) (Entered: 07/26/2022)
07/28/2022	<u>25</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Rachel Baron on behalf of AMERICAN OVERSIGHT (Baron, Rachel) (Entered: 07/28/2022)
08/09/2022	<u>26</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Tepe, Sean) (Entered: 08/09/2022)
11/07/2022	<u>27</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Tepe, Sean) (Entered: 11/07/2022)
02/06/2023	<u>28</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Tepe, Sean) (Entered: 02/06/2023)
05/08/2023	<u>29</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Tepe, Sean) (Entered: 05/08/2023)
08/07/2023	<u>30</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Tepe, Sean) (Entered: 08/07/2023)
11/06/2023	<u>31</u>	NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTION OF COUNSEL by Tabitha Bartholomew on behalf of All Defendants Substituting for attorney SEAN TEPE (Bartholomew, Tabitha) (Entered: 11/06/2023)
11/06/2023	<u>32</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Bartholomew, Tabitha) (Entered: 11/06/2023)
11/16/2023	<u>33</u>	NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF APPEARANCE as to AMERICAN OVERSIGHT. Attorney Rachel Baron terminated. (Baron, Rachel) (Entered: 11/16/2023)
02/02/2024	<u>34</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Khahilia Y. Shaw on behalf of AMERICAN OVERSIGHT (Shaw, Khahilia) (Entered: 02/02/2024)
02/05/2024	<u>35</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Bartholomew, Tabitha) (Entered: 02/05/2024)
02/05/2024	<u>36</u>	NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF APPEARANCE as to AMERICAN OVERSIGHT. Attorney Mehreen A Rasheed terminated. (Rasheed, Mehreen) (Entered: 02/05/2024)
05/03/2024	<u>37</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by AMERICAN OVERSIGHT. (Shaw, Khahilia) (Entered: 05/03/2024)
08/06/2024	<u>38</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Bartholomew, Tabitha) (Entered: 08/06/2024)
09/25/2024	<u>39</u>	STIPULATION of Dismissal by AMERICAN OVERSIGHT. (Shaw, Khahilia) (Entered: 09/25/2024)