

**U.S. District Court
District of Columbia (Washington, DC)
CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:24-cv-00368-JDB**

SKYWRITER COMMUNICATIONS, INC. v. UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Assigned to: Judge John D. Bates
Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act

Date Filed: 02/07/2024
Jury Demand: None
Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of Information Act
Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

Plaintiff

SKYWRITER COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

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V.

Defendant

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Date Filed	#	Docket Text
02/07/2024	<u>1</u>	COMPLAINT against UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Filing fee \$ 405 receipt number ADCDC-10675134) filed by SKYWRITER COMMUNICATIONS, INC.. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Civil Cover Sheet, # <u>2</u> Exhibit A, # <u>3</u> Exhibit B, # <u>4</u> Summons, # <u>5</u> Summons, # <u>6</u> Summons)(Walz, Christine) (Entered: 02/07/2024)

02/07/2024	<u>2</u>	LCvR 26.1 CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE of Corporate Affiliations and Financial Interests by SKYWRITER COMMUNICATIONS, INC. (Walz, Christine) (Entered: 02/07/2024)
02/12/2024	<u>3</u>	SUMMONS (3) Issued Electronically as to UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE, U.S. Attorney and U.S. Attorney General (mg) (Entered: 02/12/2024)
02/12/2024		NOTICE OF ERROR re <u>1</u> Complaint; emailed to christine.walz@hkllaw.com, cc'd 4 associated attorneys --- The PDF file you docketed contained errors: 1. Incorrect coversheet. Please use the cover sheet at https://www.dcd.uscourts.gov/new-case-forms & file using the event Civil Cover Sheet., 2. No signature. Please file the signed document using the event Errata. All filings must have an original signature or '/s/ <i>Attorney Name</i> ' to represent an electronic signature of the filer., 3. Signature missing from cover sheet., 4. COMPLIANCE DEADLINE is by close of business today. This case will not proceed any further until all errors are satisfied. (znmw,) (Entered: 02/12/2024)
02/12/2024	<u>4</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Sara Benson on behalf of SKYWRITER COMMUNICATIONS, INC. (Benson, Sara) (Entered: 02/12/2024)
02/12/2024	<u>5</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Cynthia Gierhart on behalf of SKYWRITER COMMUNICATIONS, INC. (Gierhart, Cynthia) Modified docket text on 2/13/2024 (mg). (Entered: 02/12/2024)
02/12/2024	<u>6</u>	ERRATA re <i>Civil Cover Sheet</i> , by SKYWRITER COMMUNICATIONS, INC.. (Walz, Christine) (Entered: 02/12/2024)
02/13/2024		Case Assigned to Judge John D. Bates. (mg) (Entered: 02/13/2024)
02/23/2024	<u>7</u>	NOTICE OF RELATED CASE by SKYWRITER COMMUNICATIONS, INC.. Case related to Case No. 1:23cv-00171. (Walz, Christine) (Entered: 02/23/2024)
04/01/2024	<u>8</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Fithawi Berhane on behalf of All Defendants (Berhane, Fithawi) (Entered: 04/01/2024)
04/01/2024	<u>9</u>	ANSWER to Complaint by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE.(Berhane, Fithawi) (Entered: 04/01/2024)
04/02/2024	<u>10</u>	ORDER directing the parties to file a proposed schedule for the future course of these proceedings. See text of Order for details. Signed by Judge John D. Bates on 4/2/2024. (lcjdb2) (Entered: 04/02/2024)
04/12/2024	<u>11</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Berhane, Fithawi) (Entered: 04/12/2024)
04/15/2024		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of <u>11</u> the parties' joint status report, and the entire record herein, it is hereby ORDERED that this Court will retain the case; and it is further ORDERED that the parties shall file another joint status report by not later than May 20, 2024. Civil Action No. 23-171 is not a related case because it was dismissed prior to the initiation of this suit and the cases do not involve "the same parties." LCvR 40.5(a)(3)-(4). Further, there is not "good cause" for a transfer. <u>Id.</u> 40.5(c)(2). SO ORDERED. Signed by Judge John D. Bates on 4/15/2024. (lcjdb2) (Entered: 04/15/2024)
05/20/2024	<u>12</u>	Consent MOTION for Extension of Time to by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Berhane, Fithawi) (Entered: 05/20/2024)
05/21/2024		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of <u>12</u> defendant's consent motion for extension of time to file the parties' joint status report, and the entire record herein, it is hereby ORDERED that the motion is GRANTED; and it is further ORDERED that the parties shall file their joint status report by not later than May 21, 2024. SO ORDERED. Signed by Judge John D. Bates on 5/21/2024. (lcjdb2) (Entered: 05/21/2024)
05/21/2024	<u>13</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Berhane, Fithawi) (Entered: 05/21/2024)
05/21/2024	<u>14</u>	ORDER directing the parties to file a joint status report and proposed schedule. See text of Order for details. Signed by Judge John D. Bates on 5/21/2024. (lcjdb2)

		(Entered: 05/21/2024)
05/28/2024	<u>15</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Berhane, Fithawi) (Entered: 05/28/2024)
05/29/2024		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of <u>15</u> the parties' joint status report, and the entire record herein, it is hereby ORDERED that defendant shall process 400 pages of the estimated 1,800 potentially responsive pages of records per month; it is further ORDERED that defendant shall make its first production of responsive, non-exempt records by not later than June 12, 2024 and shall make subsequent productions on a rolling basis every thirty days thereafter; it is further ORDERED that defendant shall provide plaintiff with a letter at the time of each production stating the number of pages processed since the previous production; and it is further ORDERED that the parties shall file a joint status report informing the Court as to the status of document processing and production, including the number of pages processed by defendant and the status of the audio tapes, by not later than August 12, 2024. SO ORDERED. Signed by Judge John D. Bates on 5/29/2024. (lcjdb2) (Entered: 05/29/2024)
08/12/2024	<u>16</u>	MOTION for Extension of Time to <i>File Joint Status Report</i> by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Berhane, Fithawi) (Entered: 08/12/2024)
08/13/2024		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of <u>16</u> defendant's motion for extension of time to file the parties' joint status report, plaintiff's partial opposition thereto, and the entire record herein, it is hereby ORDERED that the motion is GRANTED; and it is further ORDERED that the parties shall file their joint status report by not later than August 19, 2024. SO ORDERED. Signed by Judge John D. Bates on 8/13/2024. (lcjdb2) (Entered: 08/13/2024)
08/19/2024	<u>17</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Berhane, Fithawi) (Entered: 08/19/2024)
08/19/2024	<u>18</u>	ERRATA by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE re <u>17</u> Status Report. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit A, # <u>2</u> Exhibit B)(Berhane, Fithawi) (Entered: 08/19/2024)
08/21/2024	<u>19</u>	STATUS REPORT <i>Addendum</i> by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Berhane, Fithawi) (Entered: 08/21/2024)
09/19/2024	<u>20</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Berhane, Fithawi) (Entered: 09/19/2024)
09/25/2024		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of <u>20</u> the parties' joint status report, and the entire record herein, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall file their next status report by not later than November 18, 2024. SO ORDERED. Signed by Judge John D. Bates on 09/25/2024. (lcjdb2) (Entered: 09/25/2024)