

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Defendant.

Case No. 14-cv-1242 (RCL)

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

Plaintiff Judicial Watch, Inc. and Defendant United States Department of State hereby enter into this Settlement Agreement:

1. Plaintiff shall be paid the amount of ninety-seven thousand dollars (\$97,000.00) from the appropriated funds of the United States Department of State, via electronic funds transfer within ninety (90) days of the execution of this settlement agreement. This payment shall constitute full and final satisfaction of any and all of Plaintiff's claims in the above-captioned action, including for attorneys' fees, costs, and litigation expenses, and is inclusive of any interest. Plaintiff will provide Defendant, no later than the execution date of this Settlement Agreement, with all necessary information required to make the electronic funds transfer, including: Plaintiff's official name and mailing address; Payee Tax identification number, bank's name and ABA (routing) number; and Plaintiff's bank account number, account type (savings/checking) and DUNS number, if available.

2. Upon execution of this Settlement Agreement, Plaintiff hereby releases and forever discharges Defendant and its successors, the United States of America, and any department, agency, or establishment of the United States, and any officers, employees, agents, successors, or assigns of such department, agency, or establishment, from any and all past, present, or future

claims for attorneys' fees, costs, or litigation expenses in connection with the above-captioned litigation.

3. Upon the execution of this Settlement Agreement, Plaintiff hereby releases and forever discharges Defendant, and its successors, the United States of America, and any department, agency, or establishment of the United States, and any officers, employees, agents, successors, or assigns of such department, agency, or establishment, from any and all claims and causes of action that Plaintiff asserts or could have asserted in this litigation, or which hereinafter could be asserted with respect to, or in connection with, or which arise out of, the FOIA request on which this action is based or the causes of action alleged in the Complaint.

4. Concurrent with the execution of this Settlement Agreement, Plaintiff's counsel shall seek the dismissal of this case with prejudice pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(a) by filing the Joint Stipulation of Dismissal with Prejudice attached hereto.

5. The parties acknowledge that this Settlement Agreement is entered into solely for the purpose of settling and compromising any remaining claims in this action without further litigation, and it shall not be construed as evidence or as an admission regarding any issues of law or fact, or regarding the truth or validity of any allegation or claim raised in this action, or as evidence or as an admission by the Defendant regarding Plaintiff's entitlement to attorneys' fees and other litigation costs under the FOIA. This Settlement Agreement shall not be used in any manner to establish liability for fees, amounts, or hourly rates in any other case or proceeding.

6. This Settlement Agreement may be executed in counterparts, and is effective on the date by which both parties have executed this Agreement. Facsimiles and PDF versions of signatures (including "/s/" signatures) shall constitute acceptable, binding signatures for purposes of this Agreement.

SO STIPULATED AND AGREED this 13th day of February, 2024.

BRIAN M. BOYNTON
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General

ELIZABETH J. SHAPIRO
Deputy Branch Director


STEPHEN M. PEZZI (D.C. Bar 995500)

Senior Trial Counsel
JONATHAN D. KOSSAK (D.C. Bar 991478)
Trial Attorney
United States Department of Justice
Civil Division, Federal Programs Branch
1100 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
Tel: (202) 305-8576
Email: stephen.pezzi@usdoj.gov

Counsel for Defendant

Ramona Cotca

Ramona R. Cotca (D.C. Bar No. 501159)
Lauren M. Burke (D.C. Bar No. 1028811)
JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.
425 Third Street SW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20024
Tel: (202) 646-5172
Email: rcotca@judicialwatch.org
lburke@judicialwatch.org

Counsel for Plaintiff

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JOINT STIPULATION OF DISMISSAL

Plaintiff Judicial Watch, Inc. and Defendant United States Department of State, pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(a)(1)(A)(ii), hereby stipulate to the dismissal of this action with prejudice.

Dated: February 13, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

BRIAN M. BOYNTON
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General

ELIZABETH J. SHAPIRO
Deputy Branch Director

/s/ Stephen M. Pezzi

STEPHEN M. PEZZI (D.C. Bar 995500)

Senior Trial Counsel

JONATHAN D. KOSSAK (D.C. Bar 991478)

Trial Attorney

United States Department of Justice

Civil Division, Federal Programs Branch

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Washington, DC 20005

Tel: (202) 305-8576

Email: stephen.pezzi@usdoj.gov

Counsel for Defendant

/s/ Ramona R. Cotca

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Lauren M. Burke (D.C. Bar No. 1028811)

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lburke@judicialwatch.org

Counsel for Plaintiff

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