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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Judicial Watch, Inc,)	
)	Civil Action
Plaintiff,)	No. 25-cv-2623
)	
vs.)	TELEPHONIC STATUS
)	CONFERENCE
U.S. African Development)	
Foundation,)	Washington, DC
)	March 30, 2026
Defendant.)	Time: 10:02 a.m.

TRANSCRIPT OF STATUS CONFERENCE
HELD BEFORE
THE HONORABLE JUDGE REGGIE B. WALTON
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

A P P E A R A N C E S

For Plaintiff: Sean O'Donnell
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Official Court Reporter
United States Courthouse, Room 6523
333 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001
202-354-3267

1 * * * * * P R O C E E D I N G S * * * * *

2 THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: This is civil action 25-2623,
3 Judicial Watch, Inc., versus the United States African
4 Development Foundation.

5 May I have a counsel identify yourselves for the
6 record, beginning with plaintiff's counsel.

7 MR. O'DONNELL: Good morning. This is Sean O'Donnell
8 for plaintiff Judicial Watch.

9 THE COURT: Good morning.

10 MR. BARDO: Good morning. This is John Bardo,
11 counsel for the government.

12 THE COURT: Good morning. Last time we were in
13 session there was discussion about how many documents
14 conceivably could be produced at this time in light of
15 impending criminal litigation. Has the government made that
16 assessment?

17 MR. BARDO: Yes, I believe we have made a production,
18 but there have been further developments since then. There's
19 an order from Judge Leon that we have to restore the foundation
20 to status quo ante, so we're going through another leadership
21 transition. We're supposed to report to Judge Leon in two
22 weeks about next steps for the foundation. So that's -- that's
23 put FOIA processing on hold for now.

24 I believe there was at least one production that was
25 sent to the plaintiff since our last hearing. But

1 Mr. O'Donnell can say if there are have been more than one.

2 THE COURT: Any response, Counsel?

3 MR. O'DONNELL: Good morning, Your Honor. This is
4 Sean O'Donnell for Judicial Watch.

5 We received, the day after our last hearing, eight
6 documents as part of the production and have not received
7 anything since then.

8 And I would add to your question about any pending
9 criminal prosecutions, at this juncture, there has been a guilty
10 plea in the only criminal case that appears to be happening.
11 So I think that any concerns about ongoing criminal
12 prosecutions have been overcome.

13 THE COURT: Government counsel, you agree?

14 MR. BARDO: No, Your Honor. There are still some
15 investigations. I can't disclose anything further than that.
16 But what's -- another thing that's inhibiting further
17 production is the leadership transition at the foundation.
18 There is no one there right now who is in charge of FOIA, but
19 we're working through that.

20 THE COURT: How long do you think that leadership
21 situation is going to be before it's resolved?

22 MR. BARDO: I mean, it's probably going to be another
23 month before we have everything -- everything figured out.

24 THE COURT: So I assume you're suggesting we should
25 come back sometime after about 30 days from now to see where we

1 are at that time?

2 MR. BARDO: Yeah, I think that makes sense, Your
3 Honor.

4 THE COURT: Any objection?

5 MR. O'DONNELL: Your Honor, this is Sean O'Donnell
6 for plaintiff. I mean, I could, but would it matter? We can
7 come back in -- I think it would be good to come back in 30
8 days because at that point we would at least know if there is a
9 leadership in place at the agency.

10 THE COURT: Okay. Hopefully that situation will be
11 resolved so we can try and move this matter to completion as
12 soon as possible.

13 What about the 1st of May? Is that good?

14 MR. O'DONNELL: This is Sean O'Donnell. That works
15 for Judicial Watch. Thank you.

16 MR. BARDO: Your Honor, I'm just waiting for my
17 calendar to load.

18 May 1st is a Friday. Yes, Your Honor, that works for
19 the government.

20 THE COURT: We'll set it at 10 o'clock.

21 MR. BARDO: Sounds good, Your Honor.

22 THE COURT: If there's nothing else, thank you.

23 MR. BARDO: Thank you, Your Honor.

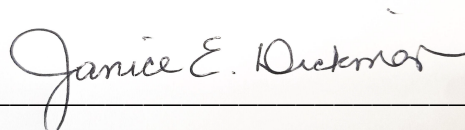
24 MR. O'DONNELL: Thank you, have a good day.

25 * * *

1 CERTIFICATE OF OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

2
3 I, JANICE DICKMAN, do hereby certify that the above
4 and foregoing constitutes a true and accurate transcript of
5 my stenographic notes and is a full, true and complete
6 transcript of the proceedings to the best of my ability.

7 Dated this 1st day of April, 2026

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10 

11 Janice E. Dickman, CRR, CMR, CCR
12 Official Court Reporter
13 Room 6523
14 333 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
15 Washington, D.C. 20001
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