

# **EMPOWER OVERSIGHT**

---

*Whistleblowers & Research*



September 9, 2024

**VIA FBI ELECTRONIC PORTAL**

Section Chief Michael Seidel  
Record/Information Dissemination Section  
Information Management Division  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
200 Constitution Drive  
Winchester, VA 22602

**RE: FOIA Request for Records – Retaliation Against FBI Whistleblowers**

Dear FOIA Officer:

## **INTRODUCTION**

Empower Oversight Whistleblowers & Research (“Empower Oversight”) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit educational organization dedicated to enhancing independent oversight of government and corporate wrongdoing. We work to help insiders safely and legally report waste, fraud, abuse, corruption, and misconduct to the proper authorities and seek to hold those authorities accountable to act on such reports by, among other means, publishing information concerning the same.

## **BACKGROUND**

Strong evidence exists indicating that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”) retaliated against several Empower Oversight clients for protected disclosures and/or First Amendment-protected activities while employed by the FBI. The public has a strong interest in learning about any misconduct committed by FBI personnel and by whom such misconduct was committed.

## RECORDS REQUEST

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552) and Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. § 552a), Empower Oversight requests, for the period from September 28, 2021 through the date the FBI begins a search for the requested records, all records of communications by or with Christopher Wray, Paul Abbate, Jennifer Leigh Moore, Douglas Beidler, Lawrence Buckley, Jeffrey Veltri, Dena Perkins, Tasha Gibbs, Miriam Coakley, and Sean Clark that contain any of the following key words or phrases:

- 1) "Marcus Allen";
- 2) "Allen";
- 3) "Marcus";
- 4) [REDACTED];
- 5) [REDACTED];
- 6) [REDACTED];
- 7) [REDACTED];
- 8) [REDACTED];
- 9) "O Boyle";
- 10) "Garret";
- 11) "Garrett";
- 12) [REDACTED];
- 13) "COVID";
- 14) "COVID-19";
- 15) "Covid";
- 16) "Covid-19";
- 17) "vaccine";
- 18) "vaccination";
- 19) "Trump";
- 20) "January 6";
- 21) "Jan 6";
- 22) "Jan. 6";
- 23) "J6";
- 24) "January 6, 2021";
- 25) "01/06/2021";
- 26) "Capitol";
- 27) "Capitol event";
- 28) "Holy";
- 29) "Spirit";
- 30) "Christian";
- 31) "religion";
- 32) "religious";
- 33) "Catholic";
- 34) "Project Veritas";
- 35) "Veritas";
- 36) "Richmond Lobby Day";
- 37) "RLD";
- 38) "Lobby Day";
- 39) "lobby day";
- 40) [REDACTED]; and
- 41) Boolean search with "[REDACTED]" AND "Allen."

A reasonable search for the requested records would include a key word search of a variety of communications accounts, including, but not limited to email accounts (both UNET and FBINET), instant messaging, and text messages. Attached as Exhibit A are signed Form DOJ-

361s from Marcus Allen, [REDACTED], Garret O'Boyle, [REDACTED], and [REDACTED]. Empower Oversight does not seek communications where any of these five individuals were a party to the communications.

## DEFINITIONS

“COMMUNICATION(S)” means every manner or method of disclosure, exchange of information, statement, or discussion between or among two or more persons, including but not limited to, face-to-face and telephone conversations, correspondence, memoranda, telegrams, telexes, email messages, voice-mail messages, text messages, Slack messages, meeting minutes, discussions, releases, statements, reports, publications, and any recordings or reproductions thereof.

“DOCUMENT(S)” or “RECORD(S)” mean any kind of written, graphic, or recorded matter, however produced or reproduced, of any kind or description, whether sent, received, or neither, including drafts, originals, non-identical copies, and information stored magnetically, electronically, photographically or otherwise. As used herein, the terms “DOCUMENT(S)” or “RECORD(S)” include, but are not limited to, studies, papers, books, accounts, letters, diagrams, pictures, drawings, photographs, correspondence, telegrams, cables, text messages, emails, memoranda, notes, notations, work papers, intra-office and inter-office communications, communications to, between and among employees, contracts, financial agreements, grants, proposals, transcripts, minutes, orders, reports, recordings, or other documentation of telephone or other conversations, interviews, affidavits, slides, statement summaries, opinions, indices, analyses, publications, questionnaires, answers to questionnaires, statistical records, ledgers, journals, lists, logs, tabulations, charts, graphs, maps, surveys, sound recordings, data sheets, computer printouts, tapes, discs, microfilm, and all other records kept, regardless of the title, author, or origin.

“PERSON” means individuals, entities, firms, organizations, groups, committees, regulatory agencies, governmental entities, business entities, corporations, partnerships, trusts, and estates.

“REFERS,” “REFERRING TO,” “REGARDS,” “REGARDING,” “RELATES,” “RELATING TO,” “CONCERNS,” “BEARS UPON,” or “PERTAINS TO” mean containing, alluding to, responding to, commenting upon, discussing, showing, disclosing, explaining, mentioning, analyzing, constituting, comprising, evidencing, setting forth, summarizing, or characterizing, either directly or indirectly, in whole or in part.

“INCLUDING” means comprising part of, but not being limited to, the whole.

## INSTRUCTIONS

The words “and” and “or” shall be construed in the conjunctive or disjunctive, whichever is most inclusive. The singular form shall include the plural form and vice versa. The present tense shall include the past tense and vice versa. In producing the records described above, you shall segregate them by reference to each of the numbered items of this FOIA request. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Mike Zummer by e-mail at [REDACTED].

## FEE WAIVER REQUEST

Empower Oversight agrees to pay up to \$25.00 in applicable fees, but notes that it qualifies as a “representative of the news media” and requests a waiver of any fees that may be associated with processing this request, in keeping with 5 U.S.C. § 552 (a)(4)(A)(iii).

Empower Oversight is a non-profit educational organization as defined under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, which helps insiders safely and legally report waste, fraud, abuse, corruption, and misconduct to the proper authorities, and seeks to hold those authorities accountable to act on such reports by, among other means, publishing information concerning the same.

Further, the information that Empower Oversight seeks is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to the public's understanding of the Department's handling of allegations that it or its employees were negligent or engaged in wrongdoing.

Empower Oversight is committed to government accountability, public integrity, and transparency. In the latter regard, the information that that Empower Oversight receives that tends to explain the subject matter of this FOIA request will be disclosed publicly via its website, and copies will be shared with other news media for public dissemination.

For ease of administration and to conserve resources, we ask that documents be produced in a readily accessible electronic format. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Cordially,

[/Tristan Leavitt/](#)  
Tristan Leavitt  
President