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| 1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>5<br>6<br>7<br>8<br>9<br>10<br>11<br>12<br>13<br>14<br>15 | Russell S. Thompson IV (029098)<br>Joseph Panvini (028359)<br>Thompson Consumer Law Group, PLLC<br>5235 E. Southern Ave., D106-618<br>Mesa, AZ 85206<br>Telephone: (602) 388-8898<br>Facsimile: (866) 317-2674<br>rthompson@ThompsonConsumerLaw.com<br>Attorneys for Plaintiff<br>UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT<br>FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA<br>Aaleon Akins, on behalf of herself and all) Case No.<br>others similarly situated,<br>)<br>Plaintiff,<br>Vs.<br>)<br>Seidberg Law Offices, P.C.,<br>)<br>Defendant. | ) |
| 16<br>17  | NATURE OF ACTION   |   |
| 18<br>19  | 1. Plaintiff Aaleon Akins ("Plaintiff") brings this putative class action against  |   |
| 20  | Defendant Seidberg Law Offices, P.C. ("Defendant") pursuant to the Fair Debt   |   |
| 21  | Collection Practices Act ("FDCPA"), 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq., individually and on  | L |
| 22<br>23  | behalf of all others similarly situated.   |   |
| 24  | JURISDICTION, VENUE, AND STANDING  |   |
| 25  | 2. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d) and 28 U.S.C.  |   |
| 26  | § 1331.  |   |
| 27<br>28  |  |   |
|   |  |   |
|   |  |   |

3. Venue is proper before this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), where the acts and transactions giving rise to Plaintiff's action occurred in this district, where Plaintiff resides in this district, and where Defendant transacts business in this district.

5 4. "In determining whether an intangible harm constitutes injury in fact, both 6 history and the judgment of Congress play important roles." Spokeo, Inc. v. Robins, 136 S. Ct. 1540, 1549, 194 L. Ed. 2d 635 (2016), as revised (May 24, 2016). Congress is "well positioned to identify intangible harms that meet minimum Article III requirements," thus "Congress may 'elevat[e] to the status of legally cognizable injuries concrete, *de facto* injuries that were previously inadequate in law." *Id.* (quoting *Lujan v.* Defs of Wildlife, 504 U.S. 555, 578 (1992)). 13

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5. "Without the protections of the FDCPA, Congress determined, the 15 '[e]xisting laws and procedures for redressing these injuries are inadequate to protect 16 consumers." Lane v. Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC, No. 15 C 10446, 2016 WL 17 18 3671467, at \*3 (N.D. Ill. July 11, 2016) (quoting 15 U.S.C. § 1692(b)). Thus, a failure to 19 honor a consumer's right under the FDCPA constitutes an injury in fact for Article III 20 standing. See id. at \*3 (holding that a consumer "has alleged a sufficiently concrete 21 22 injury because he alleges that [Defendant] denied him the right to information due to him 23 under the FDCPA"); see also Church v. Accretive Health, Inc., No. 15-15708, 2016 WL 24 3611543, at \*3 (11th Cir. July 6, 2016) (holding that consumer's § 1692g claim was 25 26 sufficiently concrete to satisfy injury-in-fact requirement).

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6. "The Supreme Court has held time and again that the violation of a statutory right to receive information one is entitled to receive creates a concrete injury

sufficient to confer standing on a plaintiff." Zia v. CitiMortgage, Inc., 210 F. Supp. 3d 1334, 1343 (S.D. Fla. 2016).

- 3 7. "The FDCPA does create an informational right which did not exist prior to 4 5 its enactment, and that right is tied to the harm which a consumer may suffer if not 6 provided with that information. Consequently, the deprivation of that information is, in 7 most cases, sufficient to confer Article III standing. That was the law before Spokeo, and 8 that law was not based on an erroneous understanding of Article III like the one corrected 9 10 by Spokeo, but by application of well-settled principles of standing jurisprudence 11 which Spokeo did not change (and, in fact, upon which Spokeo relied)." Hagy v. Demers 12 & Adams, LLC, No. 2:11-CV-530, 2017 WL 1134408, at \*4 (S.D. Ohio Mar. 27, 2017). 13 14 8. "[N]umerous other courts, including courts in this circuit and from around 15 the country, have rejected *Spokeo*-based standing challenges in the context of FDCPA 16 violations." Neeley v. Portfolio Recovery Assocs., LLC, No. 115CV01283RLYMJD, 17 18 2017 WL 3311045, at \*2 (S.D. Ind. Aug. 2, 2017) (citing Pogorzelski v. Patenaude & 19 Felix APC, No. 16-C-1330, 2017 WL 2539782, at \*4, 2017 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 89678, at 20 \*11 (E.D. Wis. June 12, 2017)) (collecting cases). 21 22 9. "[E]ven though actual monetary harm is a sufficient condition to show 23 concrete harm, it is not a necessary condition." Lane, 2016 WL 3671467 at \*4 (emphasis
- 25

in original).

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### THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

10. Congress enacted the FDCPA in order to eliminate "abusive debt collection practices by debt collectors [and] to insure that those debt collectors who refrain from

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1 using abusive debt collection practices are not competitively disadvantaged." Clark v. Capital Credit & Collection Servs., Inc., 460 F.3d 1162, 1179-80 (9th Cir. 2006) (citing 3 15 U.S.C. § 1692(e)).

11. To protect consumers and ensure compliance by debt collectors, "the 5 6 FDCPA is a strict liability statute." McCollough v. Johnson, Rodenburg & Lauinger, 7 *LLC*, 637 F.3d 939, 948 (9th Cir. 2011). 8

12. Strict liability enhances "the remedial nature of the statute," and courts are 10 "to interpret it liberally" to protect consumers. *Clark*, 460 F.3d at 1176.

13. In addition, by making available to prevailing consumers both statutory 12 damages and attorneys' fees, Congress "clearly intended that private enforcement actions 13 14 would be the primary enforcement tool of the Act." Baker v. G.C. Servs. Corp., 677 F.2d 15 775, 780-81 (9th Cir. 1982); see also Tourgeman v. Collins Fin. Servs., Inc., 755 F.3d 16 1109, 1118 (9th Cir. 2014). 17

18 14. Violations of the FDCPA are assessed under the least sophisticated 19 consumer standard which is "designed to protect consumers of below average 20 sophistication or intelligence,' or those who are 'uninformed or naïve,' particularly when 21 22 those individuals are targeted by debt collectors." Gonzales v. Arrow Fin. Servs., LLC, 23 660 F.3d 1055, 1061 (9th Cir. 2011) (quoting Duffy v. Landberg, 215 F.3d 871, 874-75) 24 (8th Cir. 2000)). 25

26 15. "An FDCPA Plaintiff need not even have actually been misled or deceived 27 by the debt collector's representation; instead, liability depends on whether the 28

hypothetical 'least sophisticated debtor' likely would be misled." *Tourgeman*, 755 F.3d
 at 1117-18 (emphasis in original).

| 3        |   |  |
|----------|---|--|
| 4        | 16. "[B]ecause the FDCPA is a remedial statute aimed at curbing what                                |  |
| 5        | Congress considered to be an industry-wide pattern of and propensity towards abusing                |  |
| 6        | debtors, it is logical for debt collectors-repeat players likely to be acquainted with the          |  |
| 7<br>8   | legal standards governing their industry—to bear the brunt of the risk." <i>Clark</i> , 460 F.3d at |  |
| 9        | 1171-72; see also FTC v. Colgate-Palmolive Co., 380 U.S. 374, 393 (1965) ("[I]t does                |  |
| 10       | not seem unfair to require that one who deliberately goes perilously close to an area of            |  |
| 11       |   |  |
| 12       | proscribed conduct shall take the risk that he may cross the line.") (internal quotations           |  |
| 13       | omitted).   |  |
| 14       | PARTIES   |  |
| 15       | 17. Plaintiff is a natural person who at all relevant times resided in the State of                 |  |
| 16       |   |  |
| 17       | Arizona, County of Maricopa, and City of Phoenix.   |  |
| 18       | 18. Plaintiff is a "consumer" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).                                   |  |
| 19<br>20 | 19. Defendant is an entity who at all relevant times was engaged, by use of the                     |  |
| 20<br>21 | mails and telephone, in the business of attempting to collect a "debt" from Plaintiff, as           |  |
| 22       | defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5).  |  |
| 23       | 20. Defendant is a "debt collector" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).                             |  |
| 24       | 20. Defendant is a "debt collector" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).                             |  |
| 25       | FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS   |  |
| 26       | 21. Plaintiff is a natural person allegedly obligated to pay a debt asserted to be                  |  |
| 27       | owed or due a creditor other than Defendant.  |  |
| 28       |   |  |
|          |   |  |
|          |   |  |

| l  | 22. Plaintiff's alleged obligation arises from a transaction in which the mone        | y, |
|--|---|----|
| 2  | property, insurance, or services that are the subject of the transaction were incurre | d  |
| Ļ  | primarily for personal, family, or household purposes-namely, a personal automobil    | le |
|  | loan (the "Debt").  |    |
|  | 23. Defendant uses instrumentalities of interstate commerce or the mails in           | a  |
| business the principal purpose of which is the collection of any debts.            |   |    |
|  | 24. Defendant regularly collects or attempts to collect, directly or indirectly       | у, |
|  | debts owed or due, or asserted to be owed or due, another.                            |    |
|  | 25. In connection with the collection of the Debt, Defendant sent Plaintiff           | a  |
|  | letter dated January 8, 2018.   |    |
|  | 26. A true and correct copy of Defendant's January 8, 2018 letter is attached t       | :0 |
| this complaint as Exhibit A.   |   |    |
|  | 27. Defendant's January 8, 2018 letter was Defendant's initial communication          | n  |
|  | with Plaintiff in connection with the collection of the Debt.                         |    |
|  | 28. Defendant's January 8, 2018 letter purported to provide the statemen              | ts |
|  | required by 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a).   |    |
|  | 29. Among the rights provided by 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a) is a 30-day period              | d  |
| from the consumer's receipt of the initial communication in which the consumer may |   |    |
| dispute the debt or request verification.  |   |    |
|  | 30. Defendant sent Plaintiff a subsequent letter dated January 29, 2018.              |    |
|  | 31. A true and correct copy of Defendant's January 29, 2018 letter is attached        | d  |
|  | to this complaint as Exhibit B.   |    |
|  |   |    |

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|---|---|--|
| 1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>5<br>6<br>7<br>8<br>9<br>10 | <ul> <li>32. Defendant's January 29, 2018 letter states, in part:</li> <li>We have tried to contact you in order to resolve the debt owed by you to our Client. We want to do so without the need for litigation, but unfortunately, we still have not heard from you and this matter remains unresolved.</li> <li>Unless we hear from you now, we can only assume that you are refusing to voluntarily address this matter. While it is not our wish to do so, failing to hear from you, we will be compelled to sue.</li> <li>Exhibit B.</li> <li>33. Defendant's January 29, 2018 letter further states: "I urge you to contact</li> </ul> |  |
| 11<br>12<br>13                                  | my Legal Collection Assistant to make arrangements to pay Please call now." <i>Id.</i><br>34. By threatening imminent legal action and urging Plaintiff to contact  |  |
| 14<br>15<br>16                                  | Defendant immediately to make payment arrangements, Defendant overshadowed<br>Plaintiff's right to dispute and request verification of the Debt within the 30 day time<br>period.   |  |
| 17<br>18  | CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS  |  |
| 19<br>20<br>21                                  | <ul> <li>35. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges all factual allegations above.</li> <li>36. Defendant's January 29, 2018 letter is based on a form or template used by</li> <li>Defendant to send collection letters (the "Template").</li> </ul>   |  |
| 22<br>23<br>24                                  | 37. Defendant has used the Template to send collection letters to over 40 individuals in the State of Arizona within the year prior to the filing of the original   |  |
| 25<br>26<br>27                                  | complaint in this matter.   |  |
| 28  |   |  |
|   | Class Action Complaint - 7  |  |

| 1        | 38.   | Defendant regularly sends collection letters based on the Template within     |  |
|----------|---|---|--|
| 2        |   |   |  |
| 3        | 30 days from the initial communication with a consumer, and has done so with respect to   |   |  |
| 4        | over 40 individuals in Arizona.   |   |  |
| 5        | 39.   | The Template overshadows the disclosures required pursuant to 15 U.S.C.       |  |
| 6        | § 1692g(a) d  | luring the thirty-day dispute period in the same manner as Defendant did with |  |
| 7        | Plaintiff above.  |   |  |
| 8        |   | vc.   |  |
| 9        | 40.   | Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of herself and all others similarly    |  |
| 10       | situated. Specifically, Plaintiff seeks to represent the following class of individuals:  |   |  |
| 11<br>12 | All persons with an Arizona address, to whom Defendant sent a letter based  |   |  |
| 12       | upon the Template, in connection with the collection of a consumer debt,<br>within one year before the date of this complaint and within 30 days of |   |  |
| 13       |   | g sent an initial communication to such person.                               |  |
| 15       | 41.   | The proposed class specifically excludes the United States of America, the    |  |
| 16       | State of Arizona, counsel for the parties, the presiding United States District Court Judge,  |   |  |
| 17       | the Judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and the Justices of   |   |  |
| 18       | The Judges of the Officed States Court of Appears for the Minth Circuit, and the Justices of  |   |  |
| 19       | the United States Supreme Court, all officers and agents of Defendant, and all persons  |   |  |
| 20       | related to w  | ithin the third degree of consanguinity or affection to any of the foregoing  |  |
| 21       | persons.  |   |  |
| 22<br>23 | 42.   | The class is averred to be so numerous that joinder of members is             |  |
| 24       | impracticabl  | e.  |  |
| 25       | 43.   | The exact number of class members is unknown to Plaintiff at this time and    |  |
| 26       | 45.   | The exact number of class members is unknown to Fiantin at this time and      |  |
| 27       | can be ascert   | tained only through appropriate discovery.                                    |  |
| 28       |   |   |  |
|          |   |   |  |
|          |   |   |  |

| 1        | 44. The class is ascertainable in that the names and addresses of all class                |  |
|----------|--|--|
| 2<br>3   | members can be identified in business records maintained by Defendant.                     |  |
| 4        | 45. There exists a well-defined community of interest in the questions of law              |  |
| 5        | and fact involved that affect the parties to be represented. These common questions of     |  |
| 6        | law and fact predominate over questions that may affect individual class members. Such     |  |
| 7<br>8   | issues include, but are not limited to: (a) the existence of Defendant's identical conduct |  |
| 9        | particular to the matters at issue; (b) Defendant's violations of the FDCPA; (c) the       |  |
| 10       | availability of statutory penalties; and (d) attorneys' fees and costs.                    |  |
| 11<br>12 | 46. Plaintiff's claims are typical of those of the class she seeks to represent.           |  |
| 13       | 47. The claims of Plaintiff and of the class originate from the same conduct,              |  |
| 14       | practice, and procedure on the part of Defendant. Thus, if brought and prosecuted          |  |
| 15       | individually, the claims of the members of the class would require proof of the same       |  |
| 16<br>17 | material and substantive facts.  |  |
| 18       | 48. Plaintiff possesses the same interests and has suffered the same injuries as           |  |
| 19       |  |  |
| 20       | each class member. Plaintiff asserts identical claims and seeks identical relief on behalf |  |
| 21       | of the unnamed class members.  |  |
| 22       | 49. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class and has        |  |
| 23<br>24 | no interests adverse to or which directly and irrevocably conflict with the interests of   |  |
| 24<br>25 | other members of the class.  |  |
| 26       | 50. Plaintiff is willing and prepared to serve this Court and the proposed class.          |  |
| 27       | 51. The interests of Plaintiff are co-extensive with and not antagonistic to those         |  |
| 28       |  |  |
|          | of the absent class members.   |  |
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52. Plaintiff has retained the services of counsel who are experienced in consumer protection claims, as well as complex class action litigation, will adequately prosecute this action, and will assert, protect and otherwise represent Plaintiff and all absent class members.

<sup>6</sup> 53. Class certification is appropriate under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(1)(A) and
 <sup>7</sup> 23(b)(1)(B). The prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the class
 <sup>9</sup> would, as a practical matter, be dispositive of the interests of other members of the class
 <sup>10</sup> who are not parties to the action or could substantially impair or impede their ability to
 <sup>11</sup> protect their interests.

54. The prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the class 13 14 would create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual 15 members of the class, which would establish incompatible standards of conduct for the 16 parties opposing the classes. Such incompatible standards of conduct and varying 17 18 adjudications, on what would necessarily be the same essential facts, proof and legal 19 theories, would also create and allow the existence of inconsistent and incompatible 20 rights within the class. 21

<sup>22</sup> 55. Class certification is appropriate under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(2) in that
 <sup>23</sup> Defendant has acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the class,
 <sup>24</sup> making final declaratory or injunctive relief appropriate.

<sup>26</sup> 56. Class certification is appropriate under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3) in that the
 <sup>27</sup> questions of law and fact that are common to members of the class predominate over any
 <sup>28</sup> questions affecting only individual members.

1 57. Moreover, a class action is superior to other methods for the fair and 2 efficient adjudication of the controversies raised in this Complaint in that: (a) individual 3 claims by the class members will be impracticable as the costs of pursuit would far 4 5 exceed what any one plaintiff or class member has at stake; (b) as a result, very little 6 litigation has commenced over the controversies alleged in this Complaint and individual 7 members are unlikely to have an interest in prosecuting and controlling separate 8 individual actions; and (c) the concentration of litigation of these claims in one forum 9 10 will achieve efficiency and promote judicial economy. 11 **COUNT I** 12 VIOLATION OF 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(b) 13 58. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each factual allegation contained above. 14 59. A key provision of the FDCPA is § 1692g, which requires a debt collector 15 16 to send, within five days of its initial communication with a consumer, a written notice 17 which provides information regarding the debt and informs the consumer of his or her 18 right to dispute the validity of the debt, and/or request the name and address of the 19 20 original creditor, within 30 days of receipt of the notice. See 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a). 21 60. Congress adopted "the debt validation provisions of section 1692g" to 22 guarantee that consumers would receive "adequate notice" of their rights under the 23 24 FDCPA. Wilson v. Quadramed Corp., 225 F.3d 350, 354 (3d Cir. 2000) (citing Miller v. 25 Payco-General Am. Credits, Inc., 943 F.2d 482, 484 (4th Cir. 1991)). 26 This validation requirement is a "significant feature" of the law that aimed 61. 27 28 to "eliminate the recurring problem of debt collectors dunning the wrong person or

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attempting to collect debts which the consumer has already paid." *See Hernandez v. Williams, Zinman & Parham PC*, 829 F.3d 1068, 1070 (9th Cir. 2016) (citing S. Rep. No. 95-382, at 4 (1977)).

62. "The statute is not satisfied merely by inclusion of the required debt 5 6 validation notice; the notice Congress required must be conveyed effectively to the 7 debtor. It must be large enough to be easily read and sufficiently prominent to be 8 noticed—even by the least sophisticated debtor." Gostony v. Diem Corp., 320 F. Supp. 9 10 2d 932, 938 (D. Ariz. 2003); (citing Ost v. Collection Bureau, Inc., 493 F. Supp. 701, 703 11 (D.N.D. 1980) ("communication must not be designed to 'evade the spirit of the notice 12 statute, and mislead the debtor into disregarding the notice"). 13

<sup>14</sup>
63. To ensure debt collectors' notices meaningfully convey consumers' rights
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64. If a consumer requests validation, "the debt collector shall cease collection
 of the debt . . . until the debt collector obtains verification" and mails such verification to
 the consumer. 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(b).

<sup>25</sup>
 <sup>26</sup>
 <sup>26</sup> overshadowed or contradicted by accompanying messages from the debt collector."
 <sup>27</sup>
 <sup>27</sup> *Caprio v. Healthcare Revenue Recovery Grp., LLC*, 709 F.3d 142, 148-49 (3d Cir. 2013).

| 1        | 66.   | One way in which a debt collection letter can overshadow the notice of   |
|----------|---|--|
| 2        | rights under  | § 1692g is by threatening suit within the 30-day period.   |
| 3        | 67.   | While a debt collector may legally initiate suit before the expiration of the  |
| 5        | 30-day perio  | d, a debt collection notice violates § 1692g where such threats would cause  |
| 6        | an unsophist  | icated consumer to overlook or ignore his or her rights.   |
| 7        | 68.   | To assist debt collectors who wish to threaten suit in collection notices,   |
| 8<br>9   | Judge Posner  | has drafted "safe harbor" language—adopted by courts around the nation—  |
| 10       |   |  |
| 11       |   | the apparent contradiction between the consumer's right to dispute within  |
| 12       | 30 days and   | the debt collector's right to bring suit before the expiration of that period,   |
| 13       | which reads,  | in relevant part, as follows:  |
| 14       |   | The law does not require me to wait until the end of the   |
| 15       |   | thirty-day period before suing you to collect this debt. If,   |
| 16       |   | however, you request proof of the debt or the name and<br>address of the original creditor within the thirty-day period  |
| 17<br>18 |   | that begins with your receipt of this letter, the law requires me<br>to suspend my efforts (through litigation or otherwise) to<br>collect the debt until I mail the requested information to you. |
| 19       | Bartlett v. Heibl, 128 F.3d 497, 502 (7th Cir. 1997). |  |
| 20<br>21 | 69.   | Where a collection letter makes no effort to explain that the consumer may   |
| 22       | take advanta  | ge of his or her rights under § 1692g, notwithstanding the threat to file a  |
| 23       | lawonit with  | in the 30-day dispute period, the debt collector runs the risk of violating §  |
| 24       |   | in the 50-day dispute period, the debt conector runs the fisk of violating §   |
| 25       | 1692g(b).   |  |
| 26       | 70.   | "Because the letter lacks any explanation of how the threats pressuring the  |
| 27       | consumer fo   | r immediate payment are consistent with the validation notice, the threats   |
| 28       | overshadow  | and contradict the notice, which therefore has not been effectively  |

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conveyed." Garcia-Contreras v. Brock & Scott, PLLC, 775 F. Supp. 2d 808, 819-21 (M.D.N.C. 2011) ("Bartlett makes clear that although a debt collector has the right to sue a consumer during the statutory thirty-day period, it must tread carefully when leveraging this right in [a] collection letter to extract payment so as not to overshadow or contradict 5 6 the consumer's validation rights.").

71. Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(b) by overshadowing the disclosures 8 required by 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a), during the thirty-day dispute period, including 9 10 implicitly and explicitly threatening to take legal action against Plaintiff within the 30-11 day dispute period without a clear explanation of how such threat comported with 12 Plaintiff's validation rights. 13

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief and judgment, as follows:

- a) Determining that this action is a proper class action, certifying Plaintiff as a class representative under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and designating this Complaint the operable complaint for class purposes;
  - b) Adjudging that Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(b) with respect to Plaintiff and the class she seeks to represent;
    - c) Awarding Plaintiff and the class she seeks to represent actual damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1);
  - d) Awarding Plaintiff such additional damages as the Court may allow in the amount of 1,000, pursuant to 1692k(a)(2)(B)(i);
    - e) Awarding all other class members such amount as the Court may allow, without regard to a minimum individual recovery, not to exceed the lesser

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|---|---|
| 1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>5<br>6<br>7<br>8<br>9<br>10<br>11 | <ul> <li>of \$500,000 or one percent of the net worth of the debt collector, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(2)(B)(ii);</li> <li>f) Awarding Plaintiff and the class she seeks to represent, reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in this action pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(3) and Rule 23;</li> <li>g) Awarding Plaintiff and the class she seeks to represent, pre-judgment and post-judgment interest as permissible by law; and</li> <li>h) Awarding such other and further relief as the Court may deem proper.</li> </ul> |
| 12  |   |
| 13<br>14  | 72. Plaintiff is entitled to and hereby demands a trial by jury.  |
| 15  | Dated: March 27, 2018<br>Respectfully submitted,  |
| 16  |   |
| 17  | <u>s/ Russell S. Thompson IV</u><br>Russell S. Thompson IV (029098)   |
| 18  | Thompson Consumer Law Group, PLLC   |
|   | 5235 E. Southern Ave., D106-618<br>Mesa, AZ 85206   |
| 19  | Telephone: (602) 388-8898   |
| 20  | Facsimile: (866) 317-2674<br>rthompson@ThompsonConsumerLaw.com  |
| 21  | ruiompson@ruompsonConsumerLaw.com   |
| 22  | <u>s/ Joseph Panvini</u><br>Joseph Panvini (028359)   |
| 23  | Thompson Consumer Law Group, PLLC   |
| 24  | 5235 E. Southern Ave., D106-618<br>Mesa, AZ 85206   |
| 25  | Telephone: (602) 388-8875   |
| 26  | Facsimile: (866) 317-2674   |
| 27  | jpanvini@ThompsonConsumerLaw.com  |
| 28  | Attorneys for Plaintiff   |
|   |   |

# EXHIBIT "A"

#### SEIDBERG LAW OFFICES P.C.

Kenneth W. Seidberg David L. Seidberg Attorneys at Law 2412 East Campbell Avenue P.O. BOX 7290 Phoenix, AZ 85011-7290 Telephone(602) 248-8117Fax (Operations)(602) 956-5081Fax (Legal)(602) 957-5287In State Toll Free(800) 249-8117

January 8, 2018

Aaleon Akins 6545 N 19th Ave Apt A22 Apt A22 Phoenix AZ 85015-1642

> Re: File Name: Akins File No: 576227 Client: Ford Motor Credit Company LLC Client Acct No: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX6874 Account Balance: \$9,266.08 Contact: Ken Bonner (x33)

Dear Mr. Akins:

Please be advised that this Law Firm has been retained to collect the above-described account. Our Client advises that the amount indicated above is the amount due as of the date of this letter. This is an attempt to collect a debt by a debt collector and any further information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Unless you notify this Office within thirty (30) days after receiving this notice that you dispute the validity of the debt, or any portion thereof, we will assume the debt to be valid. If you notify us in writing within the thirty days that the debt, or any portion thereof, is disputed, we will obtain verification of the debt or a copy of a judgment and mail it to you. In the event that the name of the current creditor is different from the original creditor and you, within the thirty day period, in writing, make a request, we will provide you the name and address of the original creditor.

Please call our Office and ask to speak to my Legal Collection Assistant, Ken Bonner (x33). This person, while not an attorney, has been employed by this Firm to assist me. My Assistant will be able to help you get answers to questions you may have and will otherwise work with you to resolve this matter. Thank you for your attention.

W OFFICES P.C. SEIDÈ FRGI Attorney for the Firm

EXHIBIT "B"

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# EXHIBIT "B"

Kenneth W. Seidberg David L. Seidberg

#### SEIDBERG LAW OFFICES P.C.

Attorneys at Law 2412 East Campbell Avenue P.O. BOX 7290 Phoenix, AZ 85011-7290 Telephone(602) 248-8117Fax (Operations)(602) 956-5081Fax (Legal)(602) 957-5287In State Toll Free(800) 249-8117

January 29, 2018

Re:

Aaleon Akins 6545 N 19th Ave Apt A22 Phoenix AZ 85015-1642

> File Name: Akins File No: 576227 Client: Ford Motor Credit Company LLC Client File No: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX8874 Account Balance: \$9,266.08 Contact: Ken Bonner (x33)

Dear Mr. Akins:

We have tried to contact you in order to resolve the debt owed by you to our Client. We want to do so without the need for litigation, but unfortunately, we still have not heard from you and this matter remains unresolved.

Unless we hear from you now, we can only assume that you are refusing to voluntarily address this matter. While it is not our wish to do so, failing to hear from you, we will be compelled to sue. Of course, you have the right to defend.

I urge you to contact my Legal Collection Assistant, Ken Bonner (x33), to make arrangements to pay. Again, my Assistant is not an attorney and along with our Firm, generally, is acting as debt collector on behalf of our Client. Please call now.

G LAW OFFICHS P.C. SEIDBER for the Firm

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

# **Civil Cover Sheet**

This automated JS-44 conforms generally to the manual JS-44 approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974. The data is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. The information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law. This form is authorized for use <u>only</u> in the District of Arizona.

# The completed cover sheet must be printed directly to PDF and filed as an attachment to the Complaint or Notice of Removal.

### **Plaintiff**(s): **Aaleon Akins**

County of Residence: Maricopa County Where Claim For Relief Arose: Maricopa

Plaintiff's Atty(s):

Russell S Thompson IV Thompson Consumer Law Group, PLLC 5235 E Southern Ave, #D106-618 Mesa, Arizona 85206 602-388-8898 Defendant(s): Seidberg Law Offices, P.C.

County of Residence: Maricopa

Defendant's Atty(s):

Joseph Panvini Thompson Consumer Law Group, PLLC 5235 E Southern Ave, #D106-618 Mesa, Arizona 85206 602-388-8875

II. Basis of Jurisdiction:

**3. Federal Question (U.S. not a party)** 

<u>III. Citizenship of Principal</u> <u>Parties</u> (Diversity Cases Only) Plaintiff:- N/A Defendent: N/A

Defendant:- N/A

IV. Origin :

**1. Original Proceeding** 

V. Nature of Suit:

**890 Other Statutory Actions** 

VI.Cause of Action:

Fair Debt Collection Practices Act ("FDCPA"), 15 U.S.C. § 1692

<u>VII. Requested in Complaint</u> Class Action: **Yes** Dollar Demand: VIII. This case is not related to another case.

## Signature: s/Russell S. Thompson, IV

## Date: 03/27/2018

If any of this information is incorrect, please go back to the Civil Cover Sheet Input form using the *Back* button in your browser and change it. Once correct, save this form as a PDF and include it as an attachment to your case opening documents.

Revised: 01/2014

# **ClassAction.org**

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Class Action Case Against Seidberg Law Offices Centers on Alleged Debt Collection Law Violations</u>