

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA  
ATLANTA DIVISION**

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JOE ALMON, JON CARNLEY,  
CYNTHIA CLARK, JACKIE  
DENSMORE, PAUL KATYNSKI,  
JENNIFER KREEGAR, and HAROLD  
MCPHAIL, on behalf of themselves and  
all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

CONDUENT BUSINESS SERVICES,  
LLC d/b/a DIRECT EXPRESS<sup>®</sup>,  
COMERICA, INC., and COMERICA  
BANK,

Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

Plaintiffs, through undersigned counsel, on behalf of themselves and all persons similarly situated, allege the following based on personal knowledge as to the allegations regarding Plaintiffs and on information and belief as to other allegations:

## **PARTIES**

1. Plaintiff Joe Almon (“Mr. Almon”) is a Georgia citizen. Mr. Almon receives federal benefits which are provided to him via his Direct Express<sup>®</sup> Debit MasterCard Card. The card is issued by Comerica Bank and the program is operated by Conduent Business Services, LLC.

2. Plaintiff Jon Carnley (“Mr. Carnley”) is an Alabama citizen. Mr. Carnley receives federal benefits which are provided to him via his Direct Express<sup>®</sup> Debit MasterCard Card. The card is issued by Comerica Bank and the program is operated by Conduent Business Services, LLC.

3. Plaintiff Cynthia Clark (“Ms. Clark”) is a Georgia citizen. Ms. Clark receives federal benefits which are provided to her through her Direct Express<sup>®</sup> Debit MasterCard Card. The card is issued by Comerica Bank and the program is operated by Conduent Business Services, LLC.

4. Plaintiff Jackie Densmore (“Ms. Densmore”) is a Massachusetts citizen. Ms. Densmore is the caregiver for her brother-in-law, Derek Densmore, a disabled Marine, who receives federal benefits which are provided to him through his Direct Express<sup>®</sup> Debit MasterCard Card. The card is issued by Comerica Bank to Ms. Densmore and the program is operated by Conduent Business Services, LLC.

5. Plaintiff Paul Katynski (“Mr. Katynski”) is a Nevada citizen. Mr. Katynski receives federal benefits which are provided to him through his Direct Express<sup>®</sup> Debit MasterCard Card. The card is issued by Comerica Bank and the program is operated by Conduent Business Services, LLC.

6. Plaintiff Jennifer Kreegar (“Ms. Kreegar”) is an Indiana citizen. Ms. Kreegar receives federal benefits which are provided to her through her Direct Express<sup>®</sup> Debit MasterCard Card. The card is issued by Comerica Bank and the program is operated by Conduent Business Services, LLC.

7. Plaintiff Harold McPhail (“Mr. McPhail”) is a South Carolina citizen. Mr. McPhail receives federal benefits which are provided to him through his Direct Express<sup>®</sup> Debit MasterCard Card. The card is issued by Comerica Bank as part of program operated by Conduent Business Services, LLC.

8. Defendant Conduent Business Services, LLC (“Conduent”) is a limited liability company organized under the laws of Delaware with its principal place of business located at 2828 N. Haskell Avenue, Building 1, Floor 9, Dallas, Texas 75204. It is registered to do business with the Georgia Secretary of State and can be served via its registered agent, Corporation Service Company at 40 Technology Parkway South, Suite 300, Norcross, Georgia 30092.

9. Conduent uses the Direct Express<sup>®</sup> trademark to administer federal benefit payments across the country to benefit recipients of at least nine federal agencies.

10. Defendant Comerica, Inc. is an entity incorporated under the laws of Delaware with its principal place of business located at Comerica Bank Tower, 1717 Main Street, Dallas, Texas 75201.

11. Comerica is a financial services company that serves millions of customers nationwide. Comerica is publicly traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol “CMA.” According to a recent Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, as of December 31, 2015, Comerica was among the 25 largest commercial bank holding companies in the United States.

12. Comerica Bank offers a broad array of retail, small business, and commercial banking products.

13. Defendant Comerica Bank is chartered by the State of Texas. It is registered to do business with the Georgia Secretary of State and can be served via its registered agent, Corporate Creations Network, Inc., at 2985 Gordy Parkway, 1st Floor, Marietta, Georgia 30066. Defendants Comerica Bank and Comerica, Inc. are sometimes collectively referred to hereinafter as “Comerica.”

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

14. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331. Jurisdiction is also proper pursuant to the Class Action Fairness Act (28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)) because the claims of the proposed class when aggregated together exceed \$5,000,000 and some putative class members are residents of different states than Defendants.

15. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1) because Conduent and Comerica are registered to do business in Georgia and do business in this District. Indeed, Conduent and Comerica administer various state assistance programs in Georgia. Thus, Defendants have substantial business operations within the Northern District.

### **COMMON FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

16. Comerica originally won the government contract to oversee the Direct Express<sup>®</sup> benefits program in 2008.

17. The contract was renewed in 2014 despite some criticism by the Treasury's Office of Inspector General ("Inspector General") over how the program was being run.

18. The Inspector General's concerns over how Comerica was running the program resulted from audits performed on the program.

19. In June 2018, the Inspector General issued an “engagement memo” to Treasury related to the Direct Express<sup>®</sup> program.

20. The memo informed the Bureau of the Fiscal Service of a follow-up audit to determine if program administrators had responded to 14 recommendations included in 2014 and 2017 Inspector General audits.

21. Among the recommendations included in the audits was that the Direct Express<sup>®</sup> program assess the costs and burden of the program to the cardholders; establish a quality assurance surveillance plan to monitor and document Comerica’s performance, including service-level requirements; track Comerica’s revenues and expenses; and periodically assess whether the bank’s compensation is “reasonable and fair.”

22. In August 2018, in an interview with Kate Berry from the American Banker, Comerica senior vice president and director of government electronic solutions Nora Arpin admitted that the Direct Express<sup>®</sup> program’s security programs had been breached.

23. Ms. Arpin acknowledged that “[c]riminals have found a way around the controls that we put in place to safeguard cardholders.”

24. Ms. Arpin further stated that as a result Comerica took action “to shut down the Cardless Benefit Access Service<sup>1</sup> and have begun an investigation.”

25. The story in the *American Banker* from August 2018 resulted in Senator Elizabeth Warren opening an investigation into Comerica.

26. Senator Warren’s initial findings were detailed in a letter to the Department of Treasury that stated:

Since 2008, Comerica Bank has contracted with the Department of Treasury to administer the Direct Express<sup>®</sup> program, which provides prepaid debit cards and electronic payments of federal benefits such as social security, disability, and veteran benefits. 4.5 million Americans utilize Comerica’s Direct Express<sup>®</sup> program, and Direct Express<sup>®</sup> dispersed around \$3 billion in Social Security and SST payments to 4.3 million Americans in September 2018. As of October 2018, Direct Express<sup>®</sup> distributed nearly \$90 million in benefits to nearly 84,000 veterans or their families.

I opened this investigation as a result of numerous complaints from my constituents and detailed reports in *American Banker* that revealed allegations for fraud in a feature of the Direct Express<sup>®</sup> program known as the Cardless Benefit Access Service. As part of the investigation, I wrote to Comerica, the Social Security Administration (SSA), and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), receiving written responses from all three. In addition, my staff received briefings from Comerica and the Department of the Treasury’s Office of Inspector General (OIG).

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<sup>1</sup> The Cardless Benefit Access Service is a feature of the Direct Express<sup>®</sup> program that allows cardholders to access their benefits even when their card is not in their possession.

The Cardless Benefit Access feature, which Comerica originally called “Emergency Cash,” was designed to allow Direct Express<sup>®</sup> cardholders who lost or did not have their physical debit card to request and transfer money to a MoneyGram location, often out of state. The feature was introduced to all Direct Express<sup>®</sup> cardholders in August 2017 and proved to be valuable in the aftermath of Hurricanes Harvey and Maria. Direct Express<sup>®</sup> cardholders in affected areas were able to obtain emergency funds from MoneyGram locations operating on generators as a result of the hurricanes, even if ATMs in the area were out of service or if cardholders had left their cards behind to escape the hurricanes and flooding.

Because of concerns about targeted fraud, the feature was suspended in August 2018, and in October 2018, Comerica stated that the Cardless Benefit Access feature “has been suspended temporarily . . . but has not been discontinued as it has been a lifeline for many [Direct Express] cardholders.”

My investigation revealed the following new information about the explanation for, scope of, and response to the fraud:

- **Hundreds of individuals were affected by fraud in the Direct Express<sup>®</sup> program.**

...

- **SSA and VA officials and the public were not adequately informed of fraud affecting their program beneficiaries.**

...

- **There are multiple ongoing investigations of the Direct Express<sup>®</sup> fraud schemes and of other aspects of the Direct Express<sup>®</sup> program.**

...

27. Ultimately, Senator Warren concluded:

If functioning properly, there is unquestionable value in the Direct Express<sup>®</sup> program – it gives financial freedom and agency to millions of elderly and disabled Americans. But these Direct Express<sup>®</sup> customers are particularly vulnerable. The Direct Express<sup>®</sup> program was designed for individuals who don't have bank accounts, and for many of these Americans their federal benefits are their sole source of income that keep a roof over their head, pay for life-saving medications, and put food on the table. The importance of the security and proper implementation of your agency's government-contracted program cannot be understated.

I urge you to take the facts and information gathered through my investigation into consideration during the Direct Express<sup>®</sup> financial agency contract bidding process and to modify the new contract language to ensure improvements in the financial agent's ability to prevent and respond to fraud schemes or security vulnerabilities.

28. As demonstrated herein, the fraud found by Senator Warren's investigation in the Cardless Benefit Access Service program is just the tip of the iceberg.

29. For example, many Direct Express<sup>®</sup> customers who did not participate in the Cardless Benefit Access Service program – like many of the Plaintiffs – also experienced fraudulent transactions that Defendants failed to address.

30. Defendants tout the Direct Express<sup>®</sup> card as a prepaid debit card offered to federal benefit recipients who receive their benefits electronically.

31. According to Defendants, “[t]he debit card offers the convenience and *security* of using electronic transactions to spend and access your money rather than using cash for purchases.” (emphasis added).

32. Defendants encourage federal benefits recipients to enroll in the Direct Express<sup>®</sup> card program because recipients “will receive [their] payment every month without having to worry about cashing your check or *having it lost or stolen*. Instead of receiving a check, your money will be automatically deposited to your Direct Express<sup>®</sup> card account on payment day.” (emphasis added).

33. Defendants assure federal benefit recipients like Plaintiffs that their social security, supplemental security income, veterans benefits, and other federal benefits are safe, claiming:

with the Direct Express<sup>®</sup> card, your money is FDIC-insured up to the maximum legal limit. In addition, the consumer protections required by Regulation E (12 CFR 1005) and MasterCard<sup>®</sup> Zero Liability (exceptions may apply), *protects you against unauthorized use of your card*. When promptly reported, this will apply to your debit card account.

(emphasis added).

34. Defendants also publicize to federal benefit recipients that one of the benefits of having a Direct Express<sup>®</sup> Card is that “*It’s Safe: No need to carry large amounts of cash and no risk of lost or stolen checks.*” (emphasis added).

35. Thus, despite knowing of all the problems with fraud highlighted by Senator Warren and the American Banker, Defendants misrepresent to their customers that the Direct Express<sup>®</sup> program is completely safe.

36. In reality, Direct Express<sup>®</sup> cards are unsafe and Defendants' systems are rife with fraudulent transactions.

37. When benefit recipient like Plaintiffs receive their debit card, Conduent and Comerica allegedly provide them with a Direct Express<sup>®</sup> Debit MasterCard Card Terms of Use that ostensibly outline the terms and conditions that govern use of the debit card. A representative copy of the Terms of Use issued by Conduent and/or Comerica is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

38. It is probable that discovery will show that additional versions of the Terms of Use exist, and were perhaps effective during other portions of the likely class period. Thus, Exhibit A hereto is not offered as the definitive contract for all relevant class members or time periods.

39. The standardized Terms of Use were presented to Plaintiffs and other benefit recipients on a "take it or leave it" basis, and card holders are often not informed that they have any other option to receive their funds. The form contract was drafted and imposed by Conduent and/or Comerica, which is the party of

vastly superior bargaining strength, indeed no bargaining is allowed. The Terms of Use constitute an agreement of adhesion.

40. The Terms of Use contain detailed procedures of what a cardholder is supposed to do if they believe their debit card has been lost or stolen or that someone has unlawfully transferred money from their debit card. See Exhibit A, ¶ VII.

41. For example, the Terms of Use advise card users as follows:

You agree not to give or otherwise make available your Card or PIN available to others. If you do, you will be responsible for any Transactions they conduct, even if they exceed your authorization. For security reasons you agree not to write your PIN on your Card or keep it in the same place as your Card.

If you believe your Card or PIN has been lost or stolen or that someone has transferred or may transfer money from your available funds without your permission, report it by calling the Customer Service number below as soon as possible. You can also write to us at Direct Express<sup>®</sup>, Payment Processing Services, P.O. Box 245998, San Antonio, Texas 78224-5998 or visit our website at [www.USDirectExpress.com](http://www.USDirectExpress.com).

See Exhibit A, ¶ VII.

42. The Terms of Use also advise card users that in the case of errors or questions about their transactions the following shall apply:

Call the Customer Service number below or write to use at the address described below as soon as you can if you think an error has occurred in your Card Account. We must hear from you no later than 90 days after you learn of the error. You will need to tell us:

- a. Your name and Card number.
- b. Why you believe there is an error, and the dollar amount involved.
- c. The approximately date when the error took place.

Please provide us with your street address, email address, and telephone, as well, so that we can communicate with you.

If the error cannot be resolved over the phone, you must provide us written notice of the error with 10 business days at Direct Express<sup>®</sup> Payment Processing Services, P.O. Box 245998, San Antonio, Texas 78224-5998.

We will determine whether an error occurred within 10 business days after we hear from you and will correct any error promptly. If we need more time, however, we may take up to 45 days to investigate your complaint or question. If we decide to do this, we will credit your Card within 10 business days (20 business days for new card accounts after the first deposit is made to the Card) for the amount you think is in error, so that you will have use of the money during the time it takes us to complete our investigation. If we ask you to put your complaint or question in writing and we do not receive it within 10 business days, we may not credit your Card. For errors involving new Cards, point-of-sale, or foreign-initiated transactions, we may take up to 90 days to investigate your complaint or question.

We will tell you the results within three Business Days after completing our investigation. If we decide that there was no error, we will send you a written explanation. You may ask for copies of the documents that we used in our investigation.

If you need more information about our error-resolution procedures, call us at the Customer Service number below.

See Exhibit A, ¶ IX.

43. The Terms of Use also inform cardholders the following regarding their liability with respect to fraudulent or unauthorized transactions on their accounts:

Tell us AT ONCE if you believe your Card or PIN has been lost or stolen. Telephoning us at the Customer Service number is the best way of keeping your possible losses down. You could lose all the money associated with your Card. If you tell us within two business days, you can lose no more than \$50 if someone used your Card or PIN without your permission. If you do NOT tell us within two (2) Business Days after you learn of the loss or theft of your Card or PIN, and we can prove that we could have stopped someone from using your Card or PIN without your permission if you had told us, you could lose as much as \$500.

...

Also, if the written transaction history or other Card transaction information provided to you shows transfers that you did not make, tell us at once. If you do not tell us within 90 days after the transmittal of such information, you may not get back any money you lost after the 90 days if we can prove that we could have stopped someone from taking the money if you had told us in time. If a good reason (such as a long trip or a hospital stay) kept you from notifying us, we will extend the time periods.

See Exhibit A, ¶ VIII.

44. Despite the clear language in the Terms of Use with respect to (1) the procedures that cardholders must follow regarding lost or stolen cards and unauthorized activity, and (2) the limitations on a cardholders' liability for

fraudulent charges and unauthorized uses, Defendants routinely ignore these contractual obligations in direct violation of the Terms of Use.

45. Instead of following the procedures outlined in the Terms of Use, Defendants engage in a pattern of conduct that includes sham investigations and improper denial of meritorious claims regarding fraudulent charges and unauthorized uses.

46. Further, Defendants ignore the limitations of liability language contained in the Terms of Use and leave the users of the Direct Express<sup>®</sup> Debit MasterCard Card holding the bag on hundreds, thousands, and even tens of thousands of dollars of fraudulent charges by unauthorized persons.

47. Plaintiffs' experiences with Defendants illustrate this reality.

48. Plaintiff Mr. Almon's social security benefits are provided to him through his Direct Express<sup>®</sup> Debit MasterCard Card.

49. On or about November 19, 2018, Mr. Almon received his monthly social security deposit into his Direct Express<sup>®</sup> account.

50. Within hours of receiving his monthly deposit, he received a low balance alert.

51. In response, Mr. Almon investigated the matter and discovered that several unauthorized charges were pending on his Direct Express<sup>®</sup> account. Mr. Almon did not make or authorize the transactions.

52. Mr. Almon immediately notified Direct Express<sup>®</sup> of the pending fraudulent charges.

53. Defendants informed him that they could not stop the pending charges but could only cancel his existing card and issue a new one.

54. After Direct Express<sup>®</sup> allowed the \$793.78 in fraudulent charges to be completed, Mr. Almon contacted Direct Express<sup>®</sup> again to dispute these charges on his account.

55. Defendants responded by sending Mr. Almon a form to fill out to dispute the charges which Mr. Almon filled out and returned to Defendants within the required 10 business days.

56. Much to Mr. Almon's surprise, he received a letter on December 24, 2018 (dated December 15, 2018) that claimed that a thorough investigation had been conducted and that Direct Express<sup>®</sup> could not confirm fraud had occurred, and therefore his claim was being denied.

57. Upon receipt of the letter, Mr. Almon contacted Defendants and requested a copy of the documents on which they relied in making this determination.

58. Defendants have failed to provide Mr. Almon with a copy of the documents upon which they relied in making their determination that the transactions were not fraudulent.

59. Defendants also failed to limit Mr. Almon's losses to either \$50 or \$500 as required under the Terms of Use applicable to Direct Express<sup>®</sup> Cards.

60. Plaintiff Mr. Carnley receives federal benefits through his Direct Express<sup>®</sup> Debit MasterCard Card.

61. On January 3, 2019, Mr. Carnley purchased a money order at the Andalusia, Alabama Walmart for \$464.88.

62. Unbeknownst to Mr. Carnley, an ATM cash withdrawal of \$182.50 was made from his card in an Arizona Walmart within seconds of him purchasing the money order in Alabama.

63. Five days later, on January 8, 2019, a duplicate money order was purchased using Mr. Carnley's card information at the Walmart in Andalusia, Alabama for \$464.88.

64. Mr. Carnley could not have made this second money order request because starting on January 6, 2019 he was in Pensacola, Florida preparing to go to MD Anderson Hospital in Houston to begin cancer treatment.

65. On January 15, Mr. Carnley called the number on the back of his Direct Express<sup>®</sup> card regarding the \$464.88 fraudulent charge.

66. Defendants refused to provide Mr. Carnley a provisional credit or do anything to stop the fraudulent transactions from draining his benefits account.

67. On January 16, Mr. Carnley again contacted Direct Express<sup>®</sup>, this time about the fraudulent ATM withdrawal in Arizona.

68. During his conversation with a Direct Express<sup>®</sup> customer service agent named David, Mr. Carnley was informed that the New Jersey office had been compromised and there had been a data breach.

69. Defendants refused to provide Mr. Carnley a provisional credit or do anything to stop the fraudulent transactions from draining his benefits account.

70. Moreover, Defendants failed to limit Mr. Carnley's losses to either \$50 or \$500 as required under the Terms of Use applicable to Direct Express<sup>®</sup> Cards.

71. Plaintiff Ms. Densmore is the caregiver for her brother-in-law, Derek, a disabled Marine who receives veterans benefits through a Direct Express<sup>®</sup> Debit MasterCard Card.

72. While providing care to her brother-in-law, Ms. Densmore made use of what is referred to as the “Cardless Benefit Access Service” which allows beneficiaries to access the benefits even if their Direct Express<sup>®</sup> card is not in their possession.

73. The Cardless Benefit Access System allowed criminals to withdraw \$814 from Derek Densmore’s Direct Express<sup>®</sup> account via a MoneyGram to a Walmart Superstore in Hollywood, Florida even though the Densmores reside in Massachusetts.

74. On August 3, 2018, Ms. Densmore called the number on the back of the Direct Express<sup>®</sup> card to see if Derek’s monthly benefits had been deposited into his account.

75. Ms. Densmore received a recording informing her that a new Direct Express<sup>®</sup> card had been mailed out.

76. After waiting a couple of days to see if the new card arrived, Ms. Densmore tried to contact Direct Express<sup>®</sup> about the new card.

77. After trying unsuccessfully to get someone on the phone that could assist her, on August 10, 2018, Ms. Densmore was finally able to reach a supervisor.

78. The supervisor stated that someone had called Direct Express<sup>®</sup> on August 2, 2018, claiming to be Ms. Densmore (even providing her name, address, and social security) stating that they had damaged the card and wanted Direct Express<sup>®</sup> to send a MoneyGram so they could access the funds.

79. Ms. Densmore advised the supervisor that neither she nor her disabled brother-in-law had made such a request.

80. The supervisor stated that a fraud claim was being opened and that Ms. Densmore needed to fill out paperwork and return it back to Direct Express<sup>®</sup> so that the fraud department could investigate.

81. Ms. Densmore promptly completed the paperwork and submitted it to Direct Express<sup>®</sup> via facsimile.

82. Over the next few weeks, Ms. Densmore contacted Direct Express<sup>®</sup> on numerous occasions about the fraudulent withdrawal from her brother-in-law's account, but Direct Express<sup>®</sup> refused to reimburse the funds to the account.

83. As they did with the rest of Plaintiffs, Defendants refused to provide Ms. Densmore a provisional credit or do anything to stop the fraudulent transactions from draining her brother-in-law's benefits account.

84. Moreover, Defendants failed to limit Ms. Densmore's losses to either \$50 or \$500 as required under the Terms of Use applicable to Direct Express<sup>®</sup> Cards.

85. Plaintiff Ms. Clark handles her disabled son's supplemental security income benefits, which are provided to Ms. Clark on her son's behalf through a Direct Express<sup>®</sup> Debit MasterCard Card.

86. In November 2018, Ms. Clark unexpectedly received an email from Direct Express<sup>®</sup> informing her that the funds in her son's account had gone below \$100.

87. Ms. Clark immediately contacted Direct Express<sup>®</sup> to inquire about how her son's account balance had gotten so low. Ms. Clark, a Georgia resident, learned that there were several unauthorized charges that were pending on her son's account, including a transaction at a Best Buy located at 1000 West 78<sup>th</sup> Street, Richfield, Minnesota 55432 for more than \$500.

88. Ms. Clark requested that the unauthorized pending transactions be cancelled, noting the geographical impossibility for her to be in Conyers, Georgia

and Minnesota simultaneously, but the Conduent/Direct Express<sup>®</sup> call center agent refused to stop the obviously fraudulent transaction and would not close the account until the purchases were no longer pending, intentionally allowing the fraudulent transaction to drain Ms. Clark's account.

89. Eventually, Direct Express<sup>®</sup> agreed to close her son's account and reissue Ms. Clark another card.

90. Eleven days after closing her son's compromised account, Ms. Clark finally received a replacement card.

91. In the meantime, at least \$1,570 in fraudulent transactions had been made on her son's account.

92. Despite Ms. Clark immediately contacting Direct Express<sup>®</sup> regarding the fraudulent transactions, Defendants refused to provide her a provisional credit or do anything to stop the fraudulent transactions from draining her son's benefits account.

93. Moreover, Defendants failed to limit Ms. Clark's losses to either \$50 or \$500 as required under the Terms of Use applicable to Direct Express<sup>®</sup> Cards.

94. Plaintiff Mr. Katynski is a disabled maintenance supervisor who receives disability benefits through his Direct Express<sup>®</sup> Debit MasterCard Card.

95. In February 2018, Mr. Katynski contacted Direct Express<sup>®</sup> to check the balance on his account.

96. Instead of being able to check his balance, Mr. Katynski heard a recorded message that informed him that the PIN that he entered did not match Direct Express<sup>®</sup> records.

97. After receiving that message, Mr. Katynski reset his PIN.

98. Subsequently, Mr. Katynski learned that \$1,971 in disability benefits had been drained from his account.

99. Mr. Katynski immediately called Direct Express<sup>®</sup> which informed him that he had reported the card as lost.

100. Mr. Katynski disputed that claim and informed Direct Express<sup>®</sup> that he had his card in his possession.

101. Direct Express<sup>®</sup> shipped out a new prepaid card and gave Mr. Katynski the tracking number for his new card.

102. The next day, Mr. Katynski called to get a delivery update on his card only to discover that the card had been re-routed to an address in Miramar, Florida rather than delivered to him in Nevada.

103. A subsequent call to Direct Express<sup>®</sup> allowed Mr. Katynski to cancel this second card and avert further fraud.

104. To avoid missing his rent payment, Mr. Katynski requested that Direct Express<sup>®</sup> send him money via MoneyGram.

105. Direct Express<sup>®</sup> agreed, but charged him \$59 in fees for purportedly receiving and activating two new cards, as well as receiving two MoneyGrams that he needed to pay his rent.

106. Despite Mr. Katynski immediately contacting Direct Express<sup>®</sup> regarding the fraudulent transactions, Defendants refused to provide him a provisional credit or do anything to stop the fraudulent transactions from draining his benefits account.

107. Moreover, Defendants failed to limit Mr. Katynski's losses to either \$50 or \$500 as required under the Terms of Use applicable to Direct Express<sup>®</sup> Cards.

108. Plaintiff Ms. Kreegar is a military veteran that receives monthly veterans benefits for a service-related injury through a Direct Express<sup>®</sup> Debit MasterCard Card.

109. On December 30, 2018, Ms. Kreegar checked her balance, hoping her benefits would be deposited early because this was a holiday weekend.

110. She saw a \$13.50 charge on her account, for an expedited item fee that she did not recognize.

111. Ms. Kreegar checked her account again on the following day. She noticed a withdrawal from an ATM located at 154 South Main Street (\$1,003.00) and Village Square Shopping Center (\$123.00).

112. Neither of these withdrawals were made by Ms. Kreegar.

113. Ms. Kreegar called Direct Express<sup>®</sup> to dispute these transactions and to request her card be cancelled.

114. That same day, December 31, 2018, Ms. Kreegar received a post card. It was postmarked from Addison, Texas on December 27, 2018, had no return address or other sender identification, but had printed “address update on your debit card on 12/06/2018 at 06:31PM,” indicating the postcard was mailed by Conduent/Direct Express<sup>®</sup> 21 days after the fraudulent address change.

115. Of course, Ms. Kreegar had not changed her address, but rather criminals had successfully changed her address and had a new card sent out, resulting in the fraudulent charges on her account and in the \$13.50 charge for an expedited item – namely a replacement card for the criminals to utilize.

116. As a result of Defendants’ negligence, Ms. Kreegar’s veterans benefits account was compromised and she lost substantial funds.

117. Plaintiff Mr. McPhail is a retired, disabled veteran who receives his federal benefits through a Direct Express<sup>®</sup> Debit MasterCard Card.

118. In May 2018, after receiving inpatient treatment in a Skilled Nursing Facility on April 17, 2018, Mr. McPhail noticed that several unauthorized transactions had occurred on his Direct Express<sup>®</sup> account while he was receiving inpatient medical care; said transactions having occurred at 01:01:30 and 01:16:06 on April 17, 2018.

119. While reviewing his April 2018 account statement, Mr. McPhail discovered the following transfers had been made from his account to a “Green Dot Card:”

- April 04, 2018 \$7,000
- April 17, 2018 \$6,000
- April 17, 2018 \$4,000

120. On May 11, 2018, Mr. McPhail initiated an investigation for the \$17,000 in fraudulent transactions by calling Direct Express<sup>®</sup>.

121. In response to his phone call, Direct Express<sup>®</sup> sent Mr. McPhail a letter from the Fraud Services Department along with a “Questionnaire of Fraud” to complete.

122. Mr. McPhail immediately completed and returned the Questionnaire back to Direct Express<sup>®</sup>.

123. In response, Mr. McPhail received a letter dated June 25, 2018, which stated:

During the investigation we found a conflict in the information provided by you and the information resulting from our research. Based on this information, we cannot confirm that fraud occurred. You may request a copy of the documents in which we relied in making our determination by contacting us at 1-888-741-1115.

124. This letter also advised Mr. McPhail to contact his local police department, which Mr. McPhail did and ultimately filed a police report.

125. Mr. McPhail also contacted the number provided and requested the documents that supported the denial of his claim.

126. During that conversation, an agent of Direct Express<sup>®</sup> informed Mr. McPhail that his fraud claim was denied because “the same type of transaction occurred in February and March 2018, which Mr. McPhail had not noticed and failed to dispute.”

127. On July 14, 2018, Mr. McPhail filed another fraud claim with Direct Express<sup>®</sup>, this time regarding a \$6,000 transaction dated February 13, 2018 and a \$7,000 transaction from March 6, 2018.

128. A letter and “Questionnaire of Fraud” were again sent out from Direct Express<sup>®</sup>.

129. Mr. McPhail again completed the claim form and returned the package within the requisite 10 business days. Mr. McPhail’s submission included

a copy of the police report that he had filed with the Darlington County Sheriff's Department.

130. Subsequently, Mr. McPhail received a letter dated Aug 14, 2018 that once again denied his claim.

131. This denial letter was simply the same form letter that Mr. McPhail had been sent previously regarding his earlier claim and did not even acknowledge the police report that had been submitted.

132. In response to the second denial letter, Mr. McPhail again contacted Direct Express<sup>®</sup> and requested a copy of the documentation relied upon to deny his claim.

133. Defendants have failed to provide Mr. McPhail with a copy of the documents on which they relied in making their determination to deny either of his claims.

134. Further, despite Mr. McPhail promptly contacting Direct Express<sup>®</sup> regarding the fraudulent transactions, Defendants refused to provide him a provisional credit.

135. Moreover, Defendants failed to limit Mr. McPhail's losses to either \$50 or \$500 as required under the Terms of Use applicable to Direct Express<sup>®</sup> Cards.

136. As of the filing of this complaint, Mr. McPhail has lost \$30,000 to fraudulent transactions that Defendants have refused to refund.

137. Plaintiffs' experiences and those of other victims outlined above demonstrate that Defendants systematically refuse to honor their agreements, including by failing to provide refunds to Direct Express<sup>®</sup> users who experience fraud on their accounts.

138. Defendants' refusal to provide these refunds saves them millions of dollars each year but wrongfully deprives their customers of funds that rightfully belong to them.

### **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

139. Plaintiffs bring this action on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated pursuant to Federal Rule 23. This action satisfies the numerosity, commonality, typicality, adequacy, predominance, and superiority requirements of Rule 23.

140. Plaintiffs seek to represent three Classes of similarly situated people. The proposed Classes are defined as:

All Conduent and Comerica DirectExpress<sup>®</sup> Debit MasterCard Card customers in the United States who, within the applicable statute of limitations period preceding the filing of this action and through the date of class certification, incurred fraudulent charges on their accounts and were denied a refund of such charges in violation of Defendants' Terms of Use (the "Breach of Contract Class").

All Conduent and Comerica DirectExpress<sup>®</sup> Debit MasterCard Card customers in the United States who, within the applicable statute of limitations period preceding the filing of this action through the date of class certification, were not refunded for fraudulent transactions on their account in accordance with 15 U.S.C. § 1693f (the "Regulation E Class").

All Conduent and Comerica DirectExpress<sup>®</sup> Debit MasterCard Card customers in the United States who, within the applicable statute of limitations period preceding the filing of this action through the date of class certification, had their personal information compromised as a result of the data breach experienced by Defendants (the "Data Breach Class").

141. Plaintiffs also seek to certify the subclasses for violations of the consumer protection statutes of the states of Alabama, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Nevada, and South Carolina.

142. Plaintiffs reserve the right to modify or amend the definition of the proposed Classes before the Court determines whether certification is appropriate.

143. Excluded from the Classes are Conduent, Comerica, their parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, and directors, any entity in which Conduent and/or Comerica have a controlling interest, all customers who make a timely election to

be excluded, governmental entities, and all judges assigned to hear any aspect of this litigation, as well as their immediate family members.

144. The members of the Classes are so numerous that joinder is impractical. The Classes consists of thousands of members whose identity is within the knowledge of Conduent and Comerica and can be ascertained only by reviewing the records of Conduent and Comerica.

145. The claims of the representative Plaintiffs are typical of the claims of the Classes in that Plaintiffs, like all Class members, lost funds based on the improper practices described herein. The representative Plaintiffs, like all Class members, have been damaged by the misconduct of Conduent and Comerica. Furthermore, the factual basis of Defendants' misconduct is common to all Class members, and represents a common thread of conduct resulting in injury to all members of the Classes.

146. There are numerous questions of law and fact common to the Classes and those common questions predominate over any questions affecting only individual Class members.

147. Among the questions of law and fact common to the Classes are whether Defendants:

- a. Violate the express language of the Terms of Use;

- b. Breach the covenant of good faith and fair dealing through their practices;
- c. Require their customers to enter into standardized account agreements which include unconscionable provisions;
- d. Violate Regulation E (15 U.S.C. § 1693, *et seq.*) through their practices; and
- e. Failed to prevent various data breaches and adequately alert their customers of these breaches.

148. Other questions of law and fact common to the Classes include:

- a. The proper method or methods by which to measure damages, and
- b. The declaratory relief to which the Classes are entitled.

149. Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of other Class members, in that they arise out of the same wrongful policies and practices and the same or substantially similar provisions of Defendants' form agreements and other related documents. Plaintiffs have suffered the harms alleged and have no interests antagonistic to the interests of any other Class members.

150. Plaintiffs are committed to the vigorous prosecution of this action and have retained competent counsel experienced in the prosecution of class actions

and, in particular, class actions on behalf of consumers against financial institutions. Accordingly, Plaintiffs are adequate representatives and will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Classes.

151. A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy. Since the amount of each individual Class member's claim is small relative to the complexity of the litigation, and due to the financial resources of Conduent and Comerica, no Class member could afford to seek legal redress individually for the claims alleged herein. Therefore, absent a class action, the Class members will continue to suffer losses and Defendants' misconduct will proceed without remedy.

152. Even if Class members themselves could afford such individual litigation, the court system could not. Given the complex legal and factual issues involved, individualized litigation would significantly increase the delay and expense to all parties and to the Court. Individualized litigation would also create the potential for inconsistent or contradictory rulings. By contrast, a class action presents far fewer management difficulties, allows claims to be heard which might otherwise go unheard because of the relative expense of bringing individual lawsuits, and provides the benefits of adjudication, economies of scale, and comprehensive supervision by a single court.

**FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

**Breach of Contract/Breach of the Covenant of Good Faith and Fair Dealing**  
**(on behalf of the Breach of Contract Class)**

153. Plaintiffs repeat paragraphs 1 through 152 above.

154. Plaintiffs and Defendants have contracted for services, as embodied in Comerica's Terms of Use and related documentation.

155. Defendants violated the contract by failing to adhere to the policies and procedures contained in the contract with respect to fraudulent and unauthorized transactions. Thus, Defendants have materially breached the express terms of their own form contract.

156. Plaintiffs and the members of the Breach of Contract Class have performed all, or substantially all, of the obligations imposed on them under the contracts, or those obligations have been waived by Defendants.

157. Plaintiffs and the members of the Breach of Contract Class sustained damages as a result of Defendants' breaches of contract.

158. Under the laws of the states at issue, good faith is an element of every contract. Whether by common law or statute, contracts include the obligation that all parties act in good faith and deal fairly with the other parties. Good faith and fair dealing, in connection with executing contracts and discharging performance and other duties according to their terms, means preserving the spirit – not merely

the letter – of the bargain. Put differently, the parties to a contract are mutually obligated to comply with the substance of their contract in addition to its form. Evading the spirit of the bargain and abusing the power to specify terms are examples of a lack of good faith in the performance of a contract.

159. Subterfuge and evasion violate the obligation of good faith in performance even when an actor believes his conduct to be justified. A lack of good faith may be overt or may consist of inaction, and fair dealing may require more than honesty. Defendants have breached the covenant of good faith and fair dealing through their policies and practices as alleged herein.

160. Plaintiffs and the Class members have performed all, or substantially all, of the obligations imposed on them under the Terms of Use.

161. Plaintiffs and members of the Breach of Contract Class have sustained damages as a result of Defendants' breach of the covenant of good faith and fair dealing.

162. Whether based on direct breaches of the contract, or violations of the contract as a result of the covenant of good faith and fair dealing, or both, Defendants should be required to make Plaintiffs and the Breach of Contract Class whole.

**SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

**Violation of the Electronic Funds Transfer Act and Regulations**  
**including 15 U.S.C. § 1693f and 12 C.F.R. § 1005.6**  
**(on behalf of the Regulation E Class)**

163. Plaintiffs repeat paragraphs 1 through 152 above.

164. Plaintiffs allege this claim on behalf of themselves and the Regulation E Class members who have been assessed at least one fraudulent transaction on their Direct Express<sup>®</sup> Debit MasterCard Card.

165. Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the Regulation E Class, assert that Defendants failed to:

- a. investigate alleged errors, determine whether errors have occurred, and report or mail the results of such investigation and determination to the consumer within ten business days as required by 15 U.S.C. § 1693f(a)(3);
- b. promptly, but in no event more than one business day after it was determined that an error did occur in situations where one if found, correct the error as required by 15 U.S.C. § 1693f(b);
- c. provide provisional credits to a customer's account in accordance with 15 U.S.C. § 1693f(c); or

d. deliver or mail to the consumer an explanation of their findings within three business days after the conclusion of the investigation in situations where Defendants determined that an error did not occur, and upon request of the consumer, promptly deliver or mail to the consumer reproductions of all documents which the financial institution relied on to conclude that such error did not occur as required by 15 U.S.C. § 1693f(d).

166. Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the Regulation E Class, also assert that Defendants failed to limit a consumer's liability for an unauthorized electronic fund transfer or a series of related unauthorized transfers in violation of 12 C.F.R. § 1005.6(b).

167. As a result of Defendants' violations of Regulation E, Defendants are liable to Plaintiffs and the Regulation E Class for actual and statutory damages, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1693f(e).

168. As a result of Defendants' violations of Regulation E, Defendants are liable to Plaintiffs and the Regulation E Class for actual and statutory damages and Plaintiffs and the Classes are entitled to recover costs of suit and their reasonable legal fees.

### **THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

#### **Negligence**

(on behalf of the Data Breach Class)

169. Plaintiffs repeat paragraphs 1 through 152 above.

170. Defendants owed a duty to Plaintiffs and Class members to exercise reasonable care in obtaining, retaining, securing, safeguarding, deleting, and protecting their personal information from being compromised, lost, stolen, accessed, and misused by unauthorized persons. More specifically, this duty included, among other things: (a) designing, maintaining, and testing Defendants' security systems to ensure that Plaintiffs' and Class members' personal information in their possession was adequately secured and protected; (b) implementing processes that would detect a breach of their security system in a timely manner; (c) timely acting upon warnings and alerts, including those generated by their own security systems, regarding intrusions to their networks; and (d) maintaining data security measures consistent with industry standards.

171. Defendants' duty to use reasonable care arose from several sources including, but not limited to, those described below.

172. Defendants had a common law duty to prevent foreseeable harm to others. This duty existed because Plaintiffs and Class members were the foreseeable and probable victims of any inadequate security practices. In fact, not

only was it foreseeable that Plaintiffs and Class members would be harmed by the failure to protect their personal information because hackers routinely attempt to steal such information and use it for nefarious purposes, Defendants knew that it was more likely than not Plaintiffs and other Class members would be harmed.

173. Defendants' duty also arose under Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act ("FTC Act"), 15 U.S.C. § 45, which prohibits "unfair . . . practices in or affecting commerce," including, as interpreted and enforced by the FTC, the unfair practice of failing to use reasonable measures to protect personal information by companies such as Defendants. Various FTC publications and data security breach orders further form the basis of Defendants' duties.

174. Defendants also had a duty to safeguard the personal information of Plaintiffs and Class members and to promptly notify them of a breach because of state laws and statutes that require Defendants to reasonably safeguard sensitive personal information, as detailed herein.

175. Timely notification was required, appropriate, and necessary so that, among other things, Plaintiffs and Class members could take appropriate measures to freeze or lock their credit profiles, avoid unauthorized charges to their credit or debit card accounts, cancel or change usernames and passwords on compromised accounts, monitor their account information and credit reports for fraudulent

activity, contact their banks or other financial institutions that issue their credit or debit cards, obtain credit monitoring services, and take other steps to mitigate or ameliorate the damages caused by Defendants' misconduct.

176. Defendants breached the duties they owed to Plaintiffs and Class members described above and thus were negligent. Defendants breached these duties by, among other things, failing to: (a) exercise reasonable care and implement adequate security systems, protocols, and practices sufficient to protect the personal information of Plaintiffs and Class members; (b) detect the breach while it was ongoing; (c) maintain security systems consistent with industry standards; and (d) disclose that Plaintiffs' and the Class members' personal information in Defendants' possession had been, or was reasonably believed to have been, stolen or compromised.

177. But for Defendants' wrongful and negligent breach of their duties owed to Plaintiffs and Class members, their personal information would not have been compromised.

178. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' negligence, Plaintiffs and Class members have been injured as described herein, and are entitled to damages, including compensatory, punitive, and nominal damages, in an amount to be proven at trial. Plaintiffs' and Class members' injuries include:

- a. theft of their personal information;
- b. costs associated with the detection and prevention of identity theft and unauthorized use of their financial accounts;
- c. costs associated with purchasing credit monitoring and identity theft protection services;
- d. unauthorized charges and loss of use of and access to their financial account funds and costs associated with inability to obtain money from their accounts or being limited in the amount of money they were permitted to obtain from their accounts, including missed payments on bills and loans, late charges and fees, and adverse effects on their credit;
- f. lowered credit scores resulting from credit inquiries following fraudulent activities;
- g. costs associated with time spent and the loss of productivity from taking time to address and attempt to ameliorate, mitigate, and deal with the actual and future consequences of the data breach – including finding fraudulent charges, cancelling and reissuing cards, enrolling in credit monitoring and identity theft protection services, freezing and

- unfreezing accounts, and imposing withdrawal and purchase limits on compromised accounts;
- h. actual injuries flowing from the fraudulent transactions and identity theft suffered by Plaintiffs resulting from their personal information being placed in the hands of criminals;
  - i. damages to and diminution in value of their personal information entrusted, directly or indirectly, to Defendants with the mutual understanding that Defendants would safeguard Plaintiffs' and Class members' data against theft and not allow access and misuse of their data by others; and
  - j. continued risk of exposure to hackers and thieves of their personal information, which remains in Defendants' possession and is subject to further breaches so long as Defendants fail to undertake appropriate and adequate measures to protect Plaintiffs and Class members.

#### **FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

##### **Negligence *Per Se***

(on behalf of the Data Breach Class)

179. Plaintiffs repeat paragraphs 1 through 152 above.

180. Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45, prohibits “unfair . . . practices in or affecting commerce” including, as interpreted

and enforced by the Federal Trade Commission (“FTC”), the unfair act or practice by companies such as Defendants of failing to use reasonable measures to protect personal information. Various FTC publications and orders also form the basis of Defendants’ duties.

181. Defendants violated Section 5 of the FTC Act (and similar state statutes) by failing to use reasonable measures to protect personal information and not complying with industry standards. Defendants’ conduct was particularly unreasonable given the nature and amount of personal information they obtained and stored and the foreseeable consequences of a data breach.

182. Defendants’ violation of Section 5 of the FTC Act (and similar state statutes) constitutes negligence *per se*. Class members are consumers within the class of persons Section 5 of the FTC Act (and similar state statutes) was intended to protect. Moreover, the harm that has occurred is the type of harm the FTC Act (and similar state statutes) was intended to guard against. Indeed, the FTC has pursued over 50 enforcement actions against businesses which, as a result of their failure to employ reasonable data security measures and avoid unfair and deceptive practices, caused the same harm suffered by Plaintiffs and the Class.

183. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants’ negligence, Plaintiffs and Class members have been injured as described herein and above, and are

entitled to damages, including compensatory, punitive, and nominal damages, in an amount to be proven at trial.

**FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

**State Consumer Protection Laws**

**A. Alabama**

184. Plaintiffs repeat paragraphs 1 through 152 above.

185. Mr. Carnley is a resident of Alabama and was also a resident of Alabama when the fraudulent transactions occurred on his account. He brings this Count on his own behalf and on behalf of members of the Alabama Subclass.

186. The Alabama Unfair Trade Practices Act (AUTPA) prohibits the following conduct in trade or commerce:

(2) Causing confusion or misunderstanding as to the source, sponsorship, approval, or certification of goods or services . . . .

(5) Representing that goods or services have sponsorship, approval, characteristics, ingredients, uses, benefits, or qualities that they do not have . . . .

(7) Representing that goods or services are of a particular standard, quality, or grade, or that goods are of a particular style or model, if they are of another . . . .

(9) Advertising goods or services with intent not to sell them as advertised . . . .

(27) Engaging in any other unconscionable, false, misleading, or deceptive act or practice in the conduct of trade or commerce.

Ala. Code § 8-19-5.

187. Defendants' acts and omissions affect trade and commerce and affect sponsorship of goods and services in Alabama.

188. Defendants have committed acts of unfair competition in violation of Alabama Code Section 8-19-5. Defendants falsely represented to Mr. Carnley and the Alabama Subclass that personal and financial information provided to Direct Express<sup>®</sup> in sales transactions would be safe and secure from theft and unauthorized use when, in truth and fact, Direct Express<sup>®</sup> did not take reasonable and industry-standard measures to protect such personal and financial information from theft and misuse.

189. Defendants have violated Section 8-19-5(2) and (5) through their representations that "goods or services have sponsorship, approval, characteristics, ingredients, uses, benefits, or qualities that it do not have . . . ."

190. Defendants have also violated Section 8-19-5(7) because they represented that their goods and services were of a particular standard, quality, or grade, when in truth and fact, they were not.

191. Defendants have also violated Section 8-19-5(9) because they induced transactions with consumers under the false auspices that they reasonably protected consumers' private data.

192. Defendants conducted the practices alleged herein in the course of their business, pursuant to standardized practices that they engaged in both before and after the Plaintiffs in this case were harmed, these acts have been repeated countless times, and many consumers were affected.

193. Defendants' misrepresentations and omissions were material to Mr. Carnley and the Alabama Subclass's transactions with Defendants and were made knowingly and with reason to know that Mr. Carnley and the Alabama Subclass would rely on the misrepresentations and omissions.

194. Mr. Carnley and the Alabama Subclass reasonably relied on Defendants' misrepresentations and omissions and suffered harm as a result. Mr. Carnley and the Alabama Subclass were injured in fact by: fraudulent charges on their accounts; time and expense related to: (a) finding fraudulent charges; (b) cancelling and reissuing cards; (c) credit monitoring and identity theft prevention; (d) inability to withdraw funds held in their accounts; (e) late fees and declined payment fees imposed as a result of failed payments; (f) the general nuisance and annoyance of dealing with all these issues resulting from the fraudulent transactions; and (j) costs associated with the loss of productivity from taking time to ameliorate the actual and future consequences of the fraudulent transactions, all of which have an ascertainable monetary value to be proven at trial.

195. Mr. Carnley and the Alabama Subclass seek actual and statutory damages, to the full extent permitted under applicable law.

**B. Massachusetts**

196. Plaintiffs repeat paragraphs 1 through 152 above.

197. Ms. Densmore is a resident of Massachusetts and was also a resident of Massachusetts when the fraudulent transactions occurred on her account. She brings this Count on his own behalf and on behalf of members of the Massachusetts Subclass.

198. Ms. Densmore's interactions with Defendants prior to the filing of this action satisfy the pre-suit demand for relief requirement on behalf of the Massachusetts Subclass.

199. Defendants operate in "trade or commerce" as meant by Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. ch. 93A, § 1.

200. Defendants engaged in deceptive and unfair acts and practices, misrepresentation, and the concealment, suppression, and omission of material facts with respect to the sale and advertisement of services in violation of Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. ch. 93A, § 2(a), in at least the following ways:

- a. Defendants misrepresented material facts to Ms. Densmore and the Massachusetts Subclass by representing that they would maintain adequate

data privacy and security practices and procedures to safeguard Massachusetts Subclass members' personal and financial information from unauthorized disclosure, release, data breaches, and theft;

b. Defendants misrepresented material facts to Ms. Densmore and the Massachusetts Subclass by representing that they did and would comply with the requirements of relevant federal and state laws pertaining to the privacy and security of Ms. Densmore's and the Massachusetts Subclass members' personal and financial information;

c. Defendants omitted, suppressed, and concealed the material fact of the inadequacy of the privacy and security protections for Ms. Densmore and the Massachusetts Subclass members' personal and financial information;

d. Defendants engaged in unfair acts and practices by failing to maintain the privacy and security of Ms. Densmore's and the Massachusetts Subclass members' personal and financial information, in violation of duties imposed by and public policies reflected in applicable federal and state laws, resulting in the data breach. These unfair acts and practices violated duties imposed by laws including the FTC Act (15 U.S.C. § 45), the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (15 U.S.C. § 6801) and its Safeguards Rule, the Massachusetts Right of

Privacy Statute (Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. ch. 214, § 1B), and the Massachusetts data breach statute (Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. ch. 93H, § 3(a));

e. Defendants engaged in unfair acts and practices by failing to disclose the data breach to Massachusetts Subclass members in a timely and accurate manner, in violation of Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. ch. 93H, § 3(a);

f. Defendants engaged in unfair acts and practices by failing to take proper action following the data breach to enact adequate privacy and security measures and protect Massachusetts Subclass members' personal and financial information from further unauthorized disclosure, release, data breaches, and theft.

201. The above unfair and deceptive practices and acts by Defendants were immoral, unethical, oppressive, and unscrupulous. These acts caused substantial injury to consumers that the consumers could not reasonably avoid; this substantial injury outweighed any benefits to consumers or to competition. These acts were within the penumbra of common law, statutory, or other established concepts of unfairness.

202. Defendants knew or should have known that their computer systems and data security practices were inadequate to safeguard Massachusetts Subclass members' personal and financial information and that risk of a data breach or theft

was highly likely. Defendants' actions in engaging in the above-named unfair practices and deceptive acts were negligent, knowing, and willful, and/or wanton and reckless with respect to the rights of members of the Massachusetts Subclass.

203. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' unlawful practices, Ms. Densmore and Massachusetts Subclass members suffered injury and/or damages.

204. Massachusetts Subclass members seek relief under Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. ch. 93A, § 9, including, but not limited to, actual damages, statutory damages, double or treble damages, injunctive and/or other equitable relief, and/or attorneys' fees and costs.

**C. Nevada**

205. Plaintiffs repeat paragraphs 1 through 152 above.

206. Mr. Katynski is a resident of Nevada and was also a resident of Nevada when the fraudulent transactions occurred on his account. He brings this Count on his own behalf and on behalf of members of the Nevada Subclass.

207. In the course of their business, Defendants engaged in deceptive acts and practices, misrepresentation, and the concealment, suppression, and omission of material facts, in at least the following ways:

a. Defendants misrepresented material facts to Mr. Katynski and the Nevada Subclass by representing that they would maintain adequate data privacy and security practices and procedures to safeguard Nevada Subclass members' personal and financial information from unauthorized disclosure, release, data breaches, and theft, in violation of Nev. Rev. Stat. § 598.0915(5), (7), (9), and (15);

b. Defendants misrepresented material facts to Mr. Katynski and the Nevada Subclass by representing that they did and would comply with the requirements of relevant federal and state laws pertaining to the privacy and security of Mr. Katynski and Nevada Subclass members' personal and financial information, in violation of Nev. Rev. Stat. § 598.0915(5), (7), (9), and (15);

c. Defendants omitted, suppressed, and concealed the material fact of the inadequacy of the privacy and security protections for Mr. Katynski and Nevada Subclass members' personal and financial information, in violation of Nev. Rev. Stat. § 598.0915(5), (7), (9), and (15);

d. Defendants engaged in deceptive trade practices by failing to maintain the privacy and security of Mr. Katynski and Nevada Subclass members' personal and financial information, in violation of duties imposed by and

public policies reflected in applicable federal and state laws, resulting in the data breach. These unfair acts and practices violated duties imposed by laws including the FTC Act (15 U.S.C. § 45), the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (15 U.S.C. § 6801) and its Safeguards Rule, the Nevada Confidentiality and Disclosure of Information Statute (Nev. Rev. Stat. § 695F.410), and the Nevada data breach statute (Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 603A.210);

e. Defendants engaged in deceptive trade practices by failing to disclose the data breach to Nevada Subclass members in a timely and accurate manner, in violation of Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 603A.220(1);

f. Defendants engaged in deceptive trade practices by failing to take proper action following the data breach to enact adequate privacy and security measures and protect Mr. Katynski and Nevada Subclass members' personal and financial information from further unauthorized disclosure, release, data breaches, and theft.

208. The above unlawful and deceptive acts and practices and acts by Defendants were immoral, unethical, oppressive, and unscrupulous. These acts caused substantial injury to consumers that the consumers could not reasonably avoid; this substantial injury outweighed any benefits to consumers or to competition.

209. Defendants knew or should have known that their computer systems and data security practices were inadequate to safeguard Mr. Katynski and Nevada Subclass members' personal and financial information and that risk of a data breach or theft was highly likely. Defendants' actions in engaging in the above-named unfair practices and deceptive acts were negligent, knowing, and willful, and/or wanton and reckless with respect to the rights of members of the Nevada Subclass.

210. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's deceptive practices, Mr. Katynski and Nevada Subclass members suffered injury and/or damages.

211. Mr. Katynski and Nevada Subclass members seek relief under Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 41.600, including, but not limited to, injunctive relief, other equitable relief, actual damages, and attorneys' fees and costs.

**D. New Jersey**

212. Plaintiffs repeat paragraphs 1 through 152 above.

213. Defendants sell "merchandise," as meant by N.J. Stat. Ann. § 56:8-1.

214. Defendants engaged in unconscionable and deceptive acts and practices, misrepresentation, and the concealment, suppression, and omission of material facts in violation of N.J. Stat. Ann. § 56:8-2, in at least the following ways:

- a. Defendants misrepresented material facts to Plaintiffs by representing that they would maintain adequate data privacy and security practices and procedures to safeguard Plaintiffs' personal and financial information from unauthorized disclosure, release, data breaches, and theft;
- b. Defendants misrepresented material facts to Plaintiffs by representing that they did and would comply with the requirements of relevant federal and state laws pertaining to the privacy and security of Plaintiffs' personal and financial information;
- c. Defendants knowingly omitted, suppressed, and concealed the material fact of the inadequacy of the privacy and security protections for Plaintiffs' personal and financial information with the intent that others rely on the omission, suppression, and concealment;
- d. Defendants engaged in unconscionable and deceptive acts and practices by failing to maintain the privacy and security of Plaintiffs' personal and financial information, in violation of duties imposed by and public policies reflected in applicable federal and state laws, resulting in the data breach. These unfair acts and practices violated duties imposed by laws including the FTC Act (15 U.S.C. § 45) and the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (15 U.S.C. § 6801) and its Safeguards Rule;

e. Defendants engaged in unconscionable and deceptive acts and practices by failing to disclose the data breach to Plaintiffs in a timely and accurate manner, in violation of N.J. Stat. Ann. § 56:8-163(a);

f. Defendants engaged in unconscionable and deceptive acts and practices by failing to take proper action following the data breach to enact adequate privacy and security measures and protect Plaintiffs' personal and financial information from further unauthorized disclosure, release, data breaches, and theft.

215. The above unlawful and deceptive acts and practices and acts by Defendants were immoral, unethical, oppressive, and unscrupulous. These acts caused substantial injury to consumers that the consumers could not reasonably avoid; this substantial injury outweighed any benefits to consumers or to competition.

216. Defendants knew or should have known that their computer systems and data security practices were inadequate to safeguard Plaintiffs' personal and financial information and that risk of a data breach or theft was highly likely. Defendants' actions in engaging in the abovenamed unfair practices and deceptive acts were negligent, knowing and willful, and/or wanton and reckless with respect to the rights of members of the New Jersey Subclass.

217. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' unconscionable or deceptive acts and practices, Plaintiffs suffered an ascertainable loss in moneys or property, real or personal, as described above, including the loss of their legally protected interest in the confidentiality and privacy of their personal and financial information.

218. Plaintiffs seek relief under N.J. Stat. Ann. § 56:8-19, including, but not limited to, injunctive relief, other equitable relief, actual damages, treble damages, and attorneys' fees and costs.

**E. South Carolina**

219. Plaintiffs repeat paragraphs 1 through 152 above.

220. Mr. McPhail is a resident of South Carolina and was a resident when the data breach occurred. Mr. McPhail brings this Count on his own behalf and on behalf of members of the South Carolina Subclass.

221. Defendants are a "person" under S.C. Code Ann. § 39-5-10.

222. The South Carolina Unfair Trade Practices Act ("South Carolina UTPA") prohibits "unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of any trade or commerce . . . ." S.C. Code Ann. § 39-5-20(a). Defendants' actions as set herein occurred in the conduct of trade or commerce.

223. In the course of their business, Defendants willfully failed to disclose and actively concealed their inadequate computer and data security, that they had suffered data breaches, and otherwise engaged in activities with a tendency or capacity to deceive. Defendants also engaged in unlawful trade practices by employing deception, deceptive acts or practices, fraud, misrepresentations, or concealment, suppression, or omission of any material fact with intent that others rely upon such concealment, suppression, or omission, in connection with their provision of financial services.

224. Defendants knew they had taken inadequate measures to ensure the security and integrity of their computer and data systems and they knew they had suffered data breaches. Defendants knew this for an extended period of time, but concealed all of that information.

225. Defendants were also aware that they valued profits over the security of consumers' personal and financial information, and that they had suffered data breaches. Defendants concealed this information as well.

226. By failing to disclose that their computer and data security measures were inadequate, that they had suffered data breaches, and by presenting themselves as reputable financial companies that valued consumers' personal and

financial information and stood behind consumers, Defendants engaged in deceptive business practices in violation of the South Carolina UTPA.

227. Defendants' unfair or deceptive acts or practices were likely to and did in fact deceive reasonable consumers, including Mr. McPhail and the South Carolina Subclass members, about the inadequacy of Defendants' computer and data security and the quality of the Comerica brand.

228. Defendants intentionally and knowingly misrepresented material facts regarding the security and integrity of their computer and data systems with an intent to mislead Plaintiff and the South Carolina Subclass.

229. Defendants knew or should have known that their conduct violated the South Carolina UTPA.

230. As alleged above, Defendants made material statements about the security and integrity of their computer and data systems and the Comerica/Direct Express<sup>®</sup> brand that were either false or misleading.

231. Defendants owed Mr. McPhail and the South Carolina Subclass a duty to disclose the true nature of their computer and data systems, and the devaluing of data security because Defendants:

- a. Possessed exclusive knowledge that they valued profits over the security of consumers' data;

b. Intentionally concealed the foregoing from Mr. McPhail and the South Carolina Subclass; and/or

c. Made incomplete representations about the security and integrity of their computer and data systems generally, and their data breaches, while purposefully withholding material facts from Mr. McPhail and the South Carolina Subclass that contradicted these representations.

232. Defendants' fraudulent claims of security and the true nature of their computer and data system security were material to Mr. McPhail and the South Carolina Subclass.

233. Mr. McPhail and the South Carolina Subclass suffered ascertainable loss caused by Defendants' misrepresentations and their concealment of and failure to disclose material information. Mr. McPhail and South Carolina Subclass members' personal and financial information would not have been stolen but for Defendants' violations of the South Carolina UTPA.

234. Defendants had an ongoing duty to all customers to refrain from unfair and deceptive practices under the South Carolina UTPA. Mr. McPhail and the South Carolina Subclass members suffered ascertainable loss in the form of the theft of their personal and financial information as a result of Defendants' deceptive and unfair acts and practices made in the course of their business.

235. Defendants' violations present a continuing risk to Mr. McPhail and the South Carolina Subclass as well as to the general public. Defendants' unlawful acts and practices complained of herein affect the public interest.

236. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' violations of the South Carolina UTPA, Mr. McPhail and the South Carolina Subclass have suffered injury-in-fact and/or actual damage.

237. Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 39-5-140(a), Mr. McPhail and the South Carolina Subclass seek monetary relief against Defendants to recover for their economic losses. Because Defendants' actions were willful and knowing, Mr. McPhail and the South Carolina Subclass members' damages should be trebled.

238. Plaintiff and the South Carolina Subclass further allege that Defendants' malicious and deliberate conduct warrants an assessment of punitive damages because Defendants carried out despicable conduct with willful and conscious disregard of the rights and safety of others, subjecting Mr. McPhail and the South Carolina Subclass to cruel and unjust hardship as a result. Defendants intentionally and willfully misrepresented the security and integrity of their computer and data systems, deceived Mr. McPhail and the South Carolina Subclass, and concealed material facts that only Defendants knew. Defendants'

unlawful conduct constitutes malice, oppression, and fraud warranting punitive damages.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs and the Classes demand a jury trial on all claims so triable and judgment which includes the following:

1. Certification of the Classes under Rule 23 and appointment of Plaintiffs as class representatives and Plaintiffs' counsel and class counsel;
2. Restitution of all monies lost by Plaintiffs and the Classes as a result of the wrongs alleged herein in an amount to be determined at trial;
3. Disgorgement of the ill-gotten gains derived by Defendants from their misconduct;
4. Actual damages in an amount proven at trial;
5. Punitive and exemplary damages;
6. Pre-judgment interest at the maximum rate permitted by applicable law;
7. Reimbursement of all fees, expenses, and costs of Plaintiffs in connection with this action, including reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to applicable law; and
8. Such other relief as this Court deems just and proper.

DATED this 12th day of February, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

BY: WEBB, KLASE & LEMON, LLC

/s/ E. Adam Webb

E. Adam Webb

Georgia Bar No. 743910

Matthew C. Klase

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*Attorneys for Plaintiffs*

# Exhibit “A”

TERMS OF USE FOR YOUR  
DIRECT EXPRESS® DEBIT MASTERCARD® CARD

You have requested to receive certain federal government benefits by a Direct Express® Debit Mastercard Card ("Card") issued by Comerica Bank ("us, we"), rather than receiving a check or direct deposit to your checking or savings account. If you do not agree to accept the Card under these Terms, do not activate your Card. Instead, dispose of it by cutting it in half, notify Customer Service at the number below, and contact the agency paying your benefits to make other arrangements for receiving future benefit payments.

Keep these Terms of Use ("Terms") and the other information you received about the Card in a safe place with your other important documents but do not keep your PIN with your Card. These Terms describe your rights and our rights regarding your Card, the use of your Card, and your Card Account.

**BY ACCEPTING THIS CARD YOU AGREE TO THESE TERMS:**

**I. Definitions:**

**Agency.** The Federal Government Agency that pays your Benefits.

**ATM.** Automatic Teller Machine displaying the Mastercard logo or Mastercard ATM Alliance Logo.

**Benefits.** The Federal Government payments you receive electronically from the Agency.

**Business Day.** Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays.

**Card.** The Direct Express® Debit Mastercard Card or its card number issued by Comerica Bank that is used to access funds in your Card Account. Access in some cases requires the use of your PIN.

**Card Account.** The account held at Comerica Bank to which your Benefits are electronically transmitted by the Agency and which you access by the use of your Card. You are the owner of the funds in the Card Account. The funds are FDIC insured to the maximum amount permitted by law.

**PIN.** The Personal Identification Number that you select.

**Transaction.** A purchase, cash withdrawal, cash back, cash advance, merchant credit, Benefit deposit or other transaction made with your Card.

**II. Getting Started**

**A. Activating Your Card & Selecting a PIN**

1. By accepting this Card, you agree to call Customer Service at the number below to select your PIN and activate your Card. See the enclosed Direct Express Debit Mastercard brochure for more information.
2. Keep your PIN in a safe place. Do not write it on your Card or keep it near your Card.

**B. When Your Funds are Available**

1. Once you have activated your Card and selected your PIN and we have received and credited funds from the Agency to the Card Account, you can begin using your Card. These funds are usually available the same Business Day we receive them.
2. If the Card Account is credited with an amount you are not entitled to receive, the amount may be deducted from the Card Account without prior notice to you. If the incorrect amount is from the Agency and you used those funds, the Agency can reclaim those funds. If we incur a loss as a result of either of these situations, we may recover those funds from you or your estate. (See Section XI, "Adjustments to Your Card Account")

3. You may not deposit funds to your Card Account. Except for credits from merchants (for returns or adjustments), only the Agency may add funds to the Card Account.

**III. Using your Card**

**A. General Use of your Card**

You can use your Card to pay for merchandise or services from any merchant that accepts Mastercard debit cards. You can also use your Card at ATMs that display a Mastercard logo. There are no Card fees for many of these Transactions. (See Section X, "Fees")

To use your Card at ATMs or to get cash back when using your Card to make purchases, you must use your PIN. For other transactions, you should select "credit" and you may be asked to sign the sales receipt. Selecting "credit" does not mean that we or the Agency are lending you money.

The amount of each Transaction will be deducted from your available Card Account balance along with any applicable fees (See Section X, "Fees") You

should ensure that you have enough available funds in the Card Account to cover the Transaction and prior Transactions. You may not overdraw your Card Account.

Funds that are subject to a Transaction Hold (see Paragraph B.1 of this Section III "Transaction Holds") or security freeze (see Paragraph 3 of Section V) are not available for other Transactions.

4. If you make a purchase through a Point of Sale ("POS") terminal, a cash refund or adjustment will not be given to you if you return the merchandise. Instead, the merchant will process a credit transaction, and we will apply the credit to your Card Account balance.
5. You can instruct us through our automated telephone Funds Transfer service to transfer funds from your Card Account to a personal U.S. bank account. There is a fee for each transfer (See Section X, "Fees"). Transfers generally take three (3) Business Days.
6. Instructions to make a telephone transfer or bill payment that are received after our cutoff hour or on a non-Business Day will be considered received as of the next Business Day. Once a transfer or payment instruction has been confirmed by us, you cannot cancel the Transaction.

**B. Transaction Holds & Preauthorized Payments**

1. **Transaction Holds.** For some Card purchases, such as car rentals and hotel accommodations, the merchant may request authorization in advance for an estimated amount. If the authorization is approved, we place a temporary hold ("Transaction Hold") on your funds for the estimated amount of the purchase so that we can ensure that sufficient funds are available when the purchase is completed. Until the Transaction finally settles or we determine that it is unlikely to be processed, the held funds will not be available for other Transactions. Once the preauthorized Transaction finally settles, we will charge your Card for the correct amount of the final transaction and will release any excess amount. If we determine that it is not likely the preauthorized Transaction will be processed, we will release the hold and those funds will be available for your use.

2. **Pre-Authorized Payments.** You may use your Card to make regular, pre-authorized payments to merchants by giving your Card Account information to the merchant. If these payments may vary in amount, the person you are going to pay will tell you, 10 days before each payment, when it will be made and how much it will be. You may choose instead to get this notice only when the payment would differ by more than a certain amount from the previous payment, or when the amount would fall outside certain limits that you set.

You have the right to cancel a pre-authorized payment from your Card Account if you call us at the Customer Service number below, or write to us at Direct Express®, Payment Processing Services, PO Box 245998, San Antonio, TX 78224-5998. We must receive your request at least three (3) Business Days before the payment is scheduled to be made. You also must notify the merchant. (Note: If we do not receive your request at least three (3) Business Days before the scheduled payment, we may attempt, at our sole discretion, to stop the payment. However, we assume no responsibility for our failure or refusal to do so, even if we accept your stop payment request.) If you call, we may require you to put your request in writing to us and to provide us with a copy of your notice to the payee, revoking the payee's authority to originate debits to your Card Account, within 14 days after you call. If we do not receive the written confirmation within 14 days, we may honor subsequent debits to your Card Account. For individual payments, your request should specify the exact amount (dollars and cents) of the transfer you want to stop, the date of the transfer, and the identity of the payee. Unless you tell us that all future transfers to a specific recipient are to be stopped, we may treat your stop payment order as a request concerning the one transfer only. If you order us to stop one of these payments at least three (3) Business Days before the transfer is scheduled and we do not do so, we will be liable for your losses or damages.

**IV. Transactions We May Refuse to Process**

A Transaction may not be processed if: (a) the amount of the Transaction exceeds your available balance, (b) the Card has been reported lost or stolen, (c) we are uncertain whether you have authorized the Transaction, or (d) there is a dispute involving your available balance. If you believe you were entitled to receive Benefits in an amount different than what was credited to your Card Account, you should contact the Agency.

**V. Problems Using Your Card**

1. If you experience a problem using your Card at the self-service pump of a gas station, you may have to go inside to pay.
2. If you have problems using your Card and you believe you have sufficient available funds for the Transaction, call us at the Customer Service number below.

3. If we notice Transactions that are unusual or suspicious, we may place a temporary security "freeze" on your Card while we attempt to contact you.

**VI. Record of Your Transactions, Card Account Balance & Know Your Balance**

You should check your Card Account balance and Transaction history on a regular basis. The information is available to you free of charge through our Customer Service number and at our web site, [www.USDDirectExpress.com](http://www.USDDirectExpress.com). For a fee, you can also receive written statements each month.

1. Keep track of your Transactions, including Transaction Holds so that you know your Card Account balance.
2. When you withdraw cash or make a purchase, you can get a receipt for the Transaction. In some cases, the receipt will indicate your Card Account balance. You also can get information about your Card Account balance and a record of your Transactions by calling the Customer Service number below or by visiting [www.USDDirectExpress.com](http://www.USDDirectExpress.com). [Note: Balance information may not include Transactions or fees that are still in process and have not yet settled. The balance also may include payments subject to a hold (See Section III, Paragraph B "Transaction Holds") or a security freeze (See Section V, Paragraph 3)]

3. You have a right to receive a written summary of Transactions for the 60 days preceding your request by calling the Customer Service number below.

**VII. Card and PIN Security—REPORT LOST OR STOLEN CARD**

You agree not to give or otherwise make your Card or PIN available to others. If you do, you will be responsible for any Transactions they conduct, even if they exceed your authorization. For security reasons you agree not to write your PIN on your Card or keep it in the same place as your Card.

If you believe your Card or PIN has been lost or stolen or that someone has or may transfer or take money from your Card Account without your permission, report it by calling the Customer Service number below as soon as possible. You can also write to us at Direct Express®, Payment Processing Services, PO Box 245998, San Antonio, TX 78224-5998 or visit our web site at [www.USDDirectExpress.com](http://www.USDDirectExpress.com). Calling us is the fastest way to report this loss. Once your Card or PIN is reported to us as lost, stolen or destroyed, your Card will be cancelled and you will have no liability for further Transactions involving the use of the canceled Card.

**VIII. Your Liability for Unauthorized Transactions**

1. Tell us AT ONCE if you believe your Card or PIN has been lost or stolen. Telephoning us at the Customer Service number is the best way of keeping your possible losses down. You could lose all the money in your Card Account. If you tell us within two Business Days, you can lose no more than \$50 if someone used your Card or PIN without your permission. If you do NOT tell us within two (2) Business Days after you learn of the loss or theft of your Card or PIN, and we can prove that we could have stopped someone from using your Card or PIN without your permission if you had told us, you could lose as much as \$500.

If you can't telephone us, you can write to us at Direct Express®, Payment Processing Services, PO Box 245998, San Antonio, TX 78224-5998. If you are a California resident you will not be liable for the \$500 amount described above in any event. If you are a New York resident, your liability for the unauthorized use of the Card will not exceed \$50.

Also, if the written Transaction history or other Card Transaction information provided to you shows transfers that you did not make, tell us at once. If you do not tell us within 90 days after such information is made available to you, you may not get back any money you lost after the 90 days if we can prove that we could have stopped someone from taking the money if you had told us in time. If a good reason (such as a long trip, a hospital stay, or the illness of a family member) kept you from notifying us, we will extend the time periods.

2. Once your Card or PIN is reported lost, stolen or destroyed, the Card will be cancelled and you will have no liability for further Transactions conducted with the Card.

**IX. In Case of Errors or Questions about Your Card Transactions**

1. Call the Customer Service number below or write to us at the address described below as soon as you can if you think an error has occurred in your Card Account. We must hear from you no later than 90 days after your learn of the error. You will need to tell us:

- a. Your name and Card number.
- b. Why you believe there is an error, and the dollar amount involved.
- c. The approximate date when the error took place.

Please provide us with your street address, email address and telephone, as well, so that we can communicate with you.

3. We will determine whether an error occurred within 10 Business Days after we hear from you and we will correct any error promptly. If we need more time, however, we may take up to 45 days to investigate your complaint or question. If we decide to do this, we will credit your Card Account within 10 Business Days (20 business days for new card accounts opened less than 30 days) for the amount you think is in error, so that you will have the use of the money during the time it takes us to complete our investigation. If we ask you to put your complaint or question in writing and we do not receive it within 10 Business Days, we may not credit your Card Account. For errors involving point-of-sale or foreign-initiated transactions, we may take up to 90 days to investigate your complaint or question.

4. We will tell you the results of our investigation within three Business Days after completing our investigation. If we decide that there was no error, we will send you a written explanation. You may ask for copies of the documents we used in our investigation to make our determination.

5. If you need more information about the error resolution procedures, call us at the Customer Service number below.

**L. Fees**  
The Fee Schedule located at the end of these Terms of Use lists the fees applicable to this service. See the brochure accompanying your Card for ways to avoid fees. If you believe a fee was charged when it should not have been, call Customer Service at the number below.

**M. Adjustments to Your Card Account**  
There are occasions when adjustments will be made to your Card Account balance to: reflect a merchant adjustment; resolve a dispute regarding a Transaction posted to your Card; correct deposits or Transactions posted in error; or because the agency required the return of the Benefits received after you died or were declared incompetent ("Reclamation"). These adjustments could cause your Card Account to have a negative balance.

If you do not have sufficient funds in your account to cover a Transaction or fee, the amount owed may be deducted from future credits to your Card Account and/or we may seek reimbursement from you, your estate or beneficiaries. Remember, you always have the right to dispute adjustments posted to your Card account.

**N. Our Liability to You**  
We do not complete an electronic fund transfer (Transaction) to or from your Card Account on time or in the correct amount according to these Terms, we will be liable for your losses or damages. There are some exceptions, however. We will not be liable, for instance, if:

- Through no fault of ours, you do not have enough available funds in your Card Account to complete the Transaction;
- We believe you may not have authorized the Transaction;
- Circumstances beyond our control (such as fire, flood, water damage, power failure, strike, labor dispute, computer breakdown, telephone line disruption, or natural disaster) prevents or delays the transfer, despite reasonable precautions taken by us;
- The debit card system being used, including but not limited to the ATM or POS terminal was not working properly and you knew about the problem when you started the Transaction;
- The Agency did not transmit Benefits for us to credit to your Card Account;
- Funds in your Card Account were held as a result of legal process, a Transaction hold or security freeze described in these Terms; or
- The Transaction could not be completed because your Card was damaged.

**O. Suspending or Canceling your Card.**  
We may temporarily suspend or permanently terminate your use of the Card, including electronic access to your Card Account:

- a. immediately if: you breach any of the provisions of these Terms; we are notified to do so by the Agency; we believe that there has been or may be unauthorized use of your funds, Card or PIN; there are conflicting claims to your funds; you have made more than one claim of unauthorized Transactions; we believe your Card is being used for any unlawful purpose; or we believe you are named as a specially designated national by the Office of Foreign Asset Control or presidential order; or
- b. within 30 days after giving you notice of our intent to suspend or terminate your Card.

- 3. You may cancel your Card by giving us prior written notice or telephoning us at the Customer Service number below.
- 3. Termination of your Card does not relieve you of your responsibility to reimburse us for any amounts owed to us under these Terms even if you cancel the Card.
- 4. You should notify the Agency when your Card is permanently canceled to make other arrangements for receiving your Benefits.

**XIV. LEGAL & GENERAL TERMS**

- 1. **Governing Law.** The funds in your Card Account are deemed held in the State of Michigan. Unless a federal law or regulation applies to a specific section of these Terms or use of the Card, these Terms will be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Michigan. Depending on where you live, you may have additional rights under certain state laws that apply to us and your Card. We will comply with applicable federal and state law.
- 2. **Limitation on Time to Sue.** An action or proceeding by you to enforce an obligation, duty or right arising under these Terms or applicable law with respect to your Card or Card Account must be commenced within 12 months after the cause of action accrues.
- 3. **Dispute Resolution, Venue, and Waiver of Right to Jury Trial/Judicial Reference.** If you have a problem with or related to your Card or Card Account, please call Customer Service at the number below immediately. In most cases, a telephone call will quickly resolve the problem in a friendly, informal manner. If however a dispute cannot be resolved informally, you or we may file a court action in the state where you have told us you reside with a court having subject matter jurisdiction.

Unless the law provides otherwise or the claim is brought before a court in the State of California, you and we both agree to give up the right to a trial by jury to resolve each dispute, claim, demand, court action, and controversy ("claim") between you and us arising out of, or relating to your Card and/or Card Account. This includes, without limitation, claims brought by you as a class representative on behalf of others, and claims by a class representative on your behalf as a class member.

For claims brought in a court in the State of California, you and we agree that such claims shall be resolved by a referee proceeding in accordance with the provisions of Sections 638 et. seq. of the California Code of Civil Procedure ("CCP"), or their successor sections, which both of us agree constitutes the exclusive remedy for the resolution of any dispute, including whether the dispute is subject to the reference proceeding. The referee in the reference proceeding (i) shall hear and determine all issues, including but not limited to discovery disputes, (ii) is empowered to enter equitable and legal relief, rule on any motion otherwise permissible under the CCP, and (iii) may issue a decision disposing of all claims which shall be entered by the court as a final, binding and conclusive judgment, subject to appeal. A judicial reference proceeding is a trial decided by a court-appointed referee and not by a jury.

You understand that without this jury trial waiver or agreement to submit claims for resolution by a reference proceeding, you may have a right to a jury trial on such matters, but you nevertheless agree voluntarily to waive that right. You acknowledge that you have had the opportunity to discuss this provision with your legal counsel.

- 4. **Privacy.** We and our agents, acting on our behalf, collect nonpublic personal information about you (e.g., your name, address, telephone number, social security number, and date of birth) from the following sources: information we receive from you on applications/enrollments forms for the Card; and information about your Transactions with us or with others, including but not limited to the Agency. We do not release personal nonpublic financial information obtained in connection with this Card program about current or former Cardholders to anyone, except to process and/or enforce Transactions with us and with others; to facilitate your Card enrollment and Agency payments/adjustments; to provide educational materials and other Card program features; as permitted or required by law, regulation, legal process or court order; to report to local, state and federal authorities if we believe a crime may have been committed involving a Card; or as otherwise requested by you. We restrict access to nonpublic personal information about you to our agents and employees who have a need to know that information in order to process your Card and Transactions. We maintain physical, electronic and procedural safeguards that comply with federal regulations to guard your nonpublic personal information.
- 5. **Assignment.** You may not assign your rights or obligations in connection with these Terms or your Card to others.
- 6. **Legal process.** We may comply with any subpoena, levy or other legal process which we believe in good faith is valid. Unless the law prohibits us, we may notify you of such process by telephone, electronically or in writing. If we are not fully reimbursed for our record search, photocopying and handling costs

to the Agency that served the process, we may charge those costs to your Card Account. We may honor legal process that is served in any manner at any of our offices, including locations other than where the funds or records sought are held, even if the law requires personal delivery at a different location.

**Note:** Certain benefit payments are protected from garnishment by federal and/or state law, which may impose requirements and limitations on legal process.

- A fee of up to \$50.00 may be assessed for the review and processing of estate claims including the distribution of any remaining funds to a deceased cardholder's estate
- 7. **Change in Terms.** We may add to, delete or change these Terms at any time by providing you with prior notice as required by law.
- 8. **Severability/Waiver.** If any provision of these Terms is deemed unlawful, void or unenforceable, it will be deemed severed from these Terms and shall not affect the validity and enforceability of the remaining provisions. We may delay enforcing our rights under this Agreement without losing them. Any waiver by you or us will not be deemed a waiver of other rights or the same rights at another time.
- 9. **Unclaimed Property.** Under certain circumstances, we are required by state law to relinquish the balance in accounts in which there has been no activity for a specified amount of time, such as deposits, withdrawals, balance inquiry or any other Customer initiated contact. The time period for relinquishment, also called escheatment, varies by state. You agree that we are not liable for any loss you may incur due to our good faith compliance with these laws.

The ONLY Fees You Can Be Charged	
Services	Service Fee
ATM cash withdrawal in the U.S. (including the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and US Virgin Islands)	One (1) free withdrawal with each deposit to your Card Account.* Other ATM cash withdrawals (whether at surcharge or surcharge-free ATMs) \$0.85 each.
ATM cash withdrawal outside of the U.S.	\$3.00 each plus 3% of withdrawn amount.
Purchase at merchants locations outside of U.S.	3% of purchase amount.
Optional Services	
Monthly paper statement mailed to you	\$0.75 each month.
Direct Express® Cash Access	\$1.50 per transaction**
Direct Express® Cardless Benefit Access™	\$8.50 to \$ 12.00 per transaction***
Funds transfer to a personal U.S. bank account	\$1.50 each transfer.
Card replacement	\$4.00 after one (1) free each year.
Expedited delivery of replacement card	\$13.50 each time.

**FEE SCHEDULE DIRECT EXPRESS® DEBIT CARD**  
\* For each Federal Government deposit to your card account, we will waive the fee for one ATM cash withdrawal in the U.S. The fee waiver earned for any free ATM withdrawal expires on the last day of the following month in which the fee was waived.

**ATM owner fee.** Unless you are using your Card at a surcharge-free ATM, the owner/operator may charge you a fee. You may refuse the fee and go to another ATM or accept the fee, which will be charged to your Card Account.

\*\* Available at the Walmart MoneyCenter or Walmart Customer Service Desk for stores located in the U.S. No additional Walmart fees apply. Additional authorized retailers may be offered in the future.

\*\*\* Direct Express® Cardless Benefit Access™ (formerly known as Direct Express® Emergency Cash) is a new feature available in U.S., U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. The fee for this optional service ranges from \$8.50 to \$12.00 based upon transaction amount requested.

Mastercard® is a trademark of Mastercard® International. Direct Express® is a service mark of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Bureau of the Fiscal Service.

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket record. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ATTACHED)

I. (a) PLAINTIFF(S)

JOE ALMON, JON CARNLEY, CYNTHIA CLARK, JACKIE DENSMORE, PAUL KATYNSKI, JENNIFER KREGGAR, and HAROLD MCPHAIL, on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated.

DEFENDANT(S)

CONDUENT BUSINESS SERVICES, LLC d/b/a DIRECT EXPRESS®, COMERICA, INC., and COMERICA BANK

(b) COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED PLAINTIFF (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED DEFENDANT (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED

(c) ATTORNEYS (FIRM NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER, AND E-MAIL ADDRESS)

E. Adam Webb
Webb, Klase & Lemond, LLC
1900 The Exchange SE, Suite 480
Atlanta, GA 30339
Adam@WebbLLC.com / 770-444-0773

ATTORNEYS (IF KNOWN)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY)

- 1 U.S. GOVERNMENT PLAINTIFF
2 U.S. GOVERNMENT DEFENDANT
3 FEDERAL QUESTION (U.S. GOVERNMENT NOT A PARTY)
4 DIVERSITY (INDICATE CITIZENSHIP OF PARTIES IN ITEM III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX FOR PLAINTIFF AND ONE BOX FOR DEFENDANT) (FOR DIVERSITY CASES ONLY)

- PLF DEF
1 1 CITIZEN OF THIS STATE
2 2 CITIZEN OF ANOTHER STATE
3 3 CITIZEN OR SUBJECT OF A FOREIGN COUNTRY
PLF DEF
4 4 INCORPORATED OR PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS IN THIS STATE
5 5 INCORPORATED AND PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS IN ANOTHER STATE
6 6 FOREIGN NATION

IV. ORIGIN (PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY)

- 1 ORIGINAL PROCEEDING
2 REMOVED FROM STATE COURT
3 REMANDED FROM APPELLATE COURT
4 REINSTATED OR REOPENED
5 TRANSFERRED FROM ANOTHER DISTRICT (Specify District)
6 MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION - TRANSFER
7 APPEAL TO DISTRICT JUDGE FROM MAGISTRATE JUDGE JUDGMENT
8 MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION - DIRECT FILE

V. CAUSE OF ACTION (CITE THE U.S. CIVIL STATUTE UNDER WHICH YOU ARE FILING AND WRITE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF CAUSE - DO NOT CITE JURISDICTIONAL STATUTES UNLESS DIVERSITY)

Jurisdiction exists under the Class Action Fairness Act (28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)). Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated, bring claims for Breach of Contract, Breach of the Covenant of Good Faith, Violation of Regulation E, Negligence, Negligence Per Se, and State Consumer Protection Statutes

(IF COMPLEX, CHECK REASON BELOW)

- 1. Unusually large number of parties.
2. Unusually large number of claims or defenses.
3. Factual issues are exceptionally complex.
4. Greater than normal volume of evidence.
5. Extended discovery period is needed.
6. Problems locating or preserving evidence.
7. Pending parallel investigations or actions by government.
8. Multiple use of experts.
9. Need for discovery outside United States boundaries.
10. Existence of highly technical issues and proof.

CONTINUED ON REVERSE

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # AMOUNT \$ APPLYING IFP MAG. JUDGE (IFP)
JUDGE MAG. JUDGE (Referral) NATURE OF SUIT CAUSE OF ACTION

**VI. NATURE OF SUIT** (PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY)

CONTRACT - "0" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- 150 RECOVERY OF OVERPAYMENT & ENFORCEMENT OF JUDGMENT
- 152 RECOVERY OF DEFAULTED STUDENT LOANS (Excl. Veterans)
- 153 RECOVERY OF OVERPAYMENT OF VETERAN'S BENEFITS

CONTRACT - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- 110 INSURANCE
- 120 MARINE
- 130 MILLER ACT
- 140 NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENT
- 151 MEDICARE ACT
- 160 STOCKHOLDERS' SUITS
- 190 OTHER CONTRACT
- 195 CONTRACT PRODUCT LIABILITY
- 196 FRANCHISE

REAL PROPERTY - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- 210 LAND CONDEMNATION
- 220 FORECLOSURE
- 230 RENT LEASE & EJECTMENT
- 240 TORTS TO LAND
- 245 TORT PRODUCT LIABILITY
- 290 ALL OTHER REAL PROPERTY

TORTS - PERSONAL INJURY - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- 310 AIRPLANE
- 315 AIRPLANE PRODUCT LIABILITY
- 320 ASSAULT, LIBEL & SLANDER
- 330 FEDERAL EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY
- 340 MARINE
- 345 MARINE PRODUCT LIABILITY
- 350 MOTOR VEHICLE
- 355 MOTOR VEHICLE PRODUCT LIABILITY
- 360 OTHER PERSONAL INJURY
- 362 PERSONAL INJURY - MEDICAL MALPRACTICE
- 365 PERSONAL INJURY - PRODUCT LIABILITY
- 367 PERSONAL INJURY - HEALTH CARE/ PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCT LIABILITY
- 368 ASBESTOS PERSONAL INJURY PRODUCT LIABILITY

TORTS - PERSONAL PROPERTY - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- 370 OTHER FRAUD
- 371 TRUTH IN LENDING
- 380 OTHER PERSONAL PROPERTY DAMAGE
- 385 PROPERTY DAMAGE PRODUCT LIABILITY

BANKRUPTCY - "0" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- 422 APPEAL 28 USC 158
- 423 WITHDRAWAL 28 USC 157

CIVIL RIGHTS - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- 440 OTHER CIVIL RIGHTS
- 441 VOTING
- 442 EMPLOYMENT
- 443 HOUSING/ ACCOMMODATIONS
- 445 AMERICANS with DISABILITIES - Employment
- 446 AMERICANS with DISABILITIES - Other
- 448 EDUCATION

IMMIGRATION - "0" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- 462 NATURALIZATION APPLICATION
- 465 OTHER IMMIGRATION ACTIONS

PRISONER PETITIONS - "0" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- 463 HABEAS CORPUS- Alien Detainee
- 510 MOTIONS TO VACATE SENTENCE
- 530 HABEAS CORPUS
- 535 HABEAS CORPUS DEATH PENALTY
- 540 MANDAMUS & OTHER
- 550 CIVIL RIGHTS - Filed Pro se
- 555 PRISON CONDITION(S) - Filed Pro se
- 560 CIVIL DETAINEE: CONDITIONS OF CONFINEMENT

PRISONER PETITIONS - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- 550 CIVIL RIGHTS - Filed by Counsel
- 555 PRISON CONDITION(S) - Filed by Counsel

FORFEITURE/PENALTY - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- 625 DRUG RELATED SEIZURE OF PROPERTY 21 USC 881
- 690 OTHER

LABOR - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- 710 FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT
- 720 LABOR/MGMT. RELATIONS
- 740 RAILWAY LABOR ACT
- 751 FAMILY and MEDICAL LEAVE ACT
- 790 OTHER LABOR LITIGATION
- 791 EMPL. RET. INC. SECURITY ACT

PROPERTY RIGHTS - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- 820 COPYRIGHTS
- 840 TRADEMARK

PROPERTY RIGHTS - "8" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- 830 PATENT
- 835 PATENT-ABBREVIATED NEW DRUG APPLICATIONS (ANDA) - a/k/a Hatch-Waxman cases

SOCIAL SECURITY - "0" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- 861 HIA (1395f)
- 862 BLACK LUNG (923)
- 863 DIWC (405(g))
- 863 DIWW (405(g))
- 864 SSID TITLE XVI
- 865 RSI (405(g))

FEDERAL TAX SUITS - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- 870 TAXES (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant)
- 871 IRS - THIRD PARTY 26 USC 7609

OTHER STATUTES - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- 375 FALSE CLAIMS ACT
- 376 Qui Tam 31 USC 3729(a)
- 400 STATE REAPPORTIONMENT
- 430 BANKS AND BANKING
- 450 COMMERCE/ICC RATES/ETC.
- 460 DEPORTATION
- 470 RACKETEER INFLUENCED AND CORRUPT ORGANIZATIONS
- 480 CONSUMER CREDIT
- 490 CABLE/SATELLITE TV
- 890 OTHER STATUTORY ACTIONS
- 891 AGRICULTURAL ACTS
- 893 ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS
- 895 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT
- 899 ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES ACT / REVIEW OR APPEAL OF AGENCY DECISION
- 950 CONSTITUTIONALITY OF STATE STATUTES

OTHER STATUTES - "8" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- 410 ANTITRUST
- 850 SECURITIES / COMMODITIES / EXCHANGE

OTHER STATUTES - "0" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK

- 896 ARBITRATION (Confirm / Vacate / Order / Modify)

**\* PLEASE NOTE DISCOVERY TRACK FOR EACH CASE TYPE. SEE LOCAL RULE 26.3**

**VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:**

CHECK IF CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.Civ.P. 23 DEMAND \$                      > \$5,000,000

JURY DEMAND  YES  NO (CHECK YES ONLY IF DEMANDED IN COMPLAINT)

**VIII. RELATED/REFILED CASE(S) IF ANY**

JUDGE                     Leigh Martin May                     DOCKET NO.                     1:18-cv-00669-LMM                    

CIVIL CASES ARE DEEMED RELATED IF THE PENDING CASE INVOLVES: (CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX)

- 1. PROPERTY INCLUDED IN AN EARLIER NUMBERED PENDING SUIT.
- 2. SAME ISSUE OF FACT OR ARISES OUT OF THE SAME EVENT OR TRANSACTION INCLUDED IN AN EARLIER NUMBERED PENDING SUIT.
- 3. VALIDITY OR INFRINGEMENT OF THE SAME PATENT, COPYRIGHT OR TRADEMARK INCLUDED IN AN EARLIER NUMBERED PENDING SUIT.
- 4. APPEALS ARISING OUT OF THE SAME BANKRUPTCY CASE AND ANY CASE RELATED THERETO WHICH HAVE BEEN DECIDED BY THE SAME BANKRUPTCY JUDGE.
- 5. REPETITIVE CASES FILED BY PRO SE LITIGANTS.
- 6. COMPANION OR RELATED CASE TO CASE(S) BEING SIMULTANEOUSLY FILED (INCLUDE ABBREVIATED STYLE OF OTHER CASE(S)):

7. EITHER SAME OR ALL OF THE PARTIES AND ISSUES IN THIS CASE WERE PREVIOUSLY INVOLVED IN CASE NO.                     , WHICH WAS DISMISSED. This case  IS  IS NOT (check one box) SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME CASE.

                    /s/ E. Adam Webb                    

                    2-12-2019                    

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

DATE

# ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: [Class Action: Conduent, Comerica Bank Misrepresent Direct Express Federal Benefits Debit Card Program as 'Completely Safe'](#)

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