#### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

YURIY AMELCHENKO, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

## CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

-against-

ASSET RECOVERY SOLUTIONS, LLC

Defendant.

Plaintiff YURIY AMELCHENKO (hereinafter, "Plaintiff"), a New York resident, brings this class action complaint by and through his attorneys, Cohen & Mizrahi LLP, against Defendant ASSET RECOVERY SOLUTIONS, LLC. ("Defendant"), individually and on behalf of a class of all others similarly situated, pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, based upon information and belief of Plaintiff's counsel, except for allegations specifically pertaining to Plaintiff, which are based upon Plaintiff's personal knowledge.

# **INTRODUCTION/PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

1. Congress enacted § 1692 *et seq.* of Title 15 of the United States Code, commonly referred to as the Fair Debt Collections Practices Act ("FDCPA") in 1977 in response to the "abundant evidence of the use of abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection practices by many debt collectors." 15 U.S.C. § 1692(a). At that time, Congress was concerned that "abusive debt collection practices contribute to the number of personal bankruptcies, to marital instability, to the loss of jobs, and to invasions of individual privacy." *Id.* Congress concluded that "existing laws... [we]re inadequate to protect consumers," and that "the effective collection of debts" does not require "misrepresentation or other abusive debt collection practices." 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692(b) & (c).

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2. Congress explained that the purpose of the FDCPA was not only to eliminate abusive debt collection practices, but also to "insure that those debt collectors who refrain from using abusive debt collection practices are not competitively disadvantaged." *Id.*; § 1692(e). After determining that the existing consumer protection laws were inadequate, Congress gave consumers a private cause of action against debt collectors who fail to comply with the Act. *Id.*; § 1692k.

#### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

3. The Court has jurisdiction over this class action under 28 U.S.C. § 1331, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 *et seq.* and 28 U.S.C. § 2201. If applicable, the Court also has pendent jurisdiction over the state law claims in this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).

4. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2).

#### **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

5. Plaintiff brings this class action on behalf of a class of New York consumers seeking redress for Defendant's actions of using a misleading, deceptive, unfair and unconscionable means to collect a debt.

6. Defendant's actions violated § 1692 *et seq.*, of the FDCPA, which prohibits debt collectors from engaging in abusive, deceptive and unfair practices.

7. Plaintiff is seeking damages, and declaratory and injunctive relief.

#### **PARTIES**

8. Plaintiff is a natural person and a resident of the State of New York and is a "Consumer" as defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(3).

Defendant is a collection agency with its principal office located in Des Plaines,
 Illinois.

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10. Defendant is a company that uses the mail, telephone, and facsimile, and regularly engages in business, the principal purpose of which is to attempt to collect debts alleged to be due another.

Defendant is a "debt collector" as defined under the FDCPA under 15 U.S.C. §
 1692a(6).

#### **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

12. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the allegations contained in paragraphs numbered "1" through "11" herein with the same force and effect as if set forth at length herein.

13. Plaintiff brings claims, pursuant to the Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a) and 23(b)(3), individually and on behalf of the following consumer class (the "Class").

14. The Class consists of (a) all individuals with addresses in Kings County in the State of New York (b) to whom Defendant (c) sent a collection letter attempting to collect a consumer debt (d) failing to clearly state the amount of the debt which is due and owing, by implying that a payment sooner rather than later will be more economical for the consumer and by employing false, deceptive and misleading representations in connection with the collection of the debt (e) which letter was sent on or after a date one year prior to filing this action and on or before a date 21 days after filing this action.

15. The identities of all Class members are readily ascertainable from Defendant's records and those companies and entities on whose behalf they attempt to collect and/or have purchased debts.

16. Excluded from the Class are the Defendants and all officers, members, partners, managers, directors, and employees of the Defendants and their respective immediate families, and legal counsel for all parties to this action and all members of their immediate families.

17. There are questions of law and fact common to the Class, which common issues

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predominate over any issues involving only individual class members. The principal issue is whether the Defendant's written communications to consumers, in the form attached as **Exhibit A**, violate 15 U.S.C. § 1962e.

18. The Plaintiff's claims are typical of the Class members, as all are based upon the same facts and legal theories.

19. The Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class defined in this complaint. The Plaintiff has retained counsel with experience handling in consumer lawsuits, complex legal issues, and class actions, and neither the Plaintiff nor his attorneys have any interests, which might cause them not to vigorously pursue this action.

20. This action has been brought, and may properly be maintained, as a class action pursuant to the provisions of Fed. R. Civ. P. 23 because there is a well-defined community interest in the litigation:

- a. <u>Numerosity:</u> The Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that the Class defined above are so numerous that joinder of all members would be impractical.
- b. <u>Common Questions Predominate:</u> Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Class and those questions predominate over any questions or issues involving only individual class members. The principal issue is whether the Defendant's written communications to consumers, in the form attached as **Exhibit A**, violate 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.
- <u>Typicality:</u> The Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Class members. The Plaintiff and all members of the Class have claims arising out of the Defendant's common uniform course of conduct complained of

herein.

- d. <u>Adequacy:</u> The Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class members insofar as Plaintiff has no interest that are adverse to the absent Class members. Plaintiff is committed to vigorously litigating this matter. Plaintiff has also retained counsel with experience in handling consumer lawsuits, complex legal issues, and class actions. Neither the Plaintiff nor his counsel have any interests which might cause them not to vigorously pursue the instant class action lawsuit.
- e. <u>Superiority:</u> A class action is superior to the other available means for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy because individual joinder of all members would be impractical. Class action treatment will permit a large number of similarly situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum efficiently and without unnecessary duplication of effort and expense.

21. Certification of a class under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3) is also appropriate in that the questions of law and fact are common to all members of the Class and predominate over any questions affecting an individual member, and a class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy.

22. Depending on the outcome of further investigation and discovery, Plaintiff may, at the time of class certification motion, seek to certify a class(es) only as to particular issues pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(c)(4).

# ALLEGATIONS PARTICULAR TO YURIY AMELCHENKO

23. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the allegations contained in paragraphs numbered"1" through "22" herein with the same force and effect as if set forth at length herein.

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24. Defendant collects and attempts to collect debts incurred or alleged to have been incurred for personal, family or household purposes on behalf of creditors using the United States Postal Services, telephone, facsimile, and internet.

25. Upon information and belief, within the last year Defendant commenced efforts to collect an alleged consumer "debt" as defined by 15 U.S.C. 1692a(5), when it mailed a collection letter to Plaintiff seeking to collect on an unpaid account originally owed to Capital One Bank (USA), N.A.

26. On or about January 9, 2018, Defendant sent Plaintiff a collection letter (the "Collection Letter") seeking to collect a balance allegedly incurred for personal purposes. A copy of the Collection Letter is attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit A**.

27. The Collection Letter was sent or caused to be sent by persons employed by Defendant as a "debt collector" as defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(6).

28. The Collection Letter is a "communication" as defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(2).

29. Upon information and belief, Defendant's Collection Letter is a form letter.

30. Upon information and belief, the Defendant's Collection Letter is identical to other collection letters sent to consumers, which number in the hundreds.

31. The Collection Letter also provides, in pertinent part, as follows:

"Total Current Balance: \$1,340.18 Amount Due at Charge-off: \$1,340.18 Interest Accrued Since Charge off: \$.00 Miscellaneous Fees Since Charge Off: \$.00"

32. As a result of the following counts Defendant violated the FDCPA.

#### <u>First Count</u> Violation of 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692e(2), 1692e(10) and 1692e(5) <u>False or Misleading Representations</u>

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33. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the allegations contained in paragraphs numbered

"1" through "33" herein with the same force and effect as if set forth at length herein.

34. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e provides, in pertinent part, as follows:

"A debt collector may not use any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt. Without limiting the general application of the foregoing, the following conduct is a violation of this section:

- (2) the false representation of -
  - (A) the character, amount, or legal status of any debt; or...
- (5) the threat to take any action that cannot legally be taken or that is not intended to be taken
- (10) the use of any false representation or deceptive means to collect or attempt to collect any debt or to obtain information concerning a consumer."

35. Defendant's Collection Letter provides, in pertinent part, as follows: "**Total Current Balance: 1,340.18.**" This phrase implies that the balance may increase at a later stage. See *Chuway v. Nat'l Action Fin., Servs*, 362 F.3d 944 (7th Cir. 2004) (Letter stating the balance but inviting the debtor to call to obtain "the most current balance information" creates doubt as to whether the balance stated is increasing and violates the FDCPA unless an explanation is provided).

36. Plaintiff was left uncertain as to whether the balance would increase as there was no disclosure that indicated otherwise.

37. The Collection Letter does not clearly state either that the amount will or will not increase. See *Avila v. Riexinger & Associates, LLC*, 817 F.3d 72 (2d Cir. 2016).

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38. While it is typical for a collection letter to state an "amount due" or an "account balance", it is not typical for a collection letter to state that the amount owed is as of a specific date, as such language implies that the balance will increase at a different date. See *Islam v. Am. Recovery Serv.*, No.: 17-cv-4228-BMC, 2017 WL 4990570 (E.D.N.Y. Oct. 31, 2017) (Language such as the "current balance" or "as of the date of this letter" is insufficient disclosure to a debtor that her balance is either dynamic or static and such ambiguity violates the framework of *Avila*). See also, *Medzhidzade v. Kirschenbaum & Phillips, P.C.*, No.: 17-cv-6452-BMC, 2018 WL 2093116 (E.D.N.Y. May 3, 2018).

39. The FDCPA requires debt collectors, when notifying consumers of their account balance, to disclose that the balance may increase due to interest and fees; failure to include such disclosures harms the consumer such as Plaintiff.

40. Collection letters that state only the "Current Balance Due", "As of the date of this letter you owe [amount due]", The Amount Due above reflects the total balance due as of the date of this letter", or "As of the date of this notice you owe [amount due]", but do not disclose that the balance might increase due to interest and fees, are misleading within the meaning of § 1692e.

41. If Defendant is not authorized by the current creditor to collect interest, late fees, or non-interest charges or fees, by stating Total Current Balance: 1,340.18," such language leads a debtor to believe that her debt is accruing interest when it actually is not may be materially misleading because it could induce the debtor may pay that debt in lieu of another debt she knows is accruing interest at some lower rate. See *Islam v. Am. Recovery Serv.*, No.: 17-cv-4228-BMC, 2017 WL 4990570 (E.D.N.Y. Oct. 31, 2017) (Language such as the "current balance" or "as of the date of this letter" is insufficient disclosure to a debtor that her balance is either dynamic or static and such ambiguity violates the framework of *Avila*). See also, *Medzhidzade v.* 

*Kirschenbaum & Phillips, P.C.*, No.: 17-cv-6452-BMC, 2018 WL 2093116 (E.D.N.Y. May 3, 2018).

42. The Collection Letter falsely implies that the debt is dynamic and not static, leading the consumer to believe that the debt may accrue interest and late fees at a later date.

43. Defendant never intended to add any charges and fees to Plaintiff's account.

44. Defendant misrepresented the character of the alleged debt in violation of 15 U.S.C.§§ 1692e and 1692e(2)(a), when it falsely implied charges and fees could accrue on the account.

45. Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e(2)(A) and 1692e(10) by misrepresenting the amount of debt owed by Plaintiff.

46. Because the Collection Letters can reasonably be read by the least sophisticated consumer to have two or more meanings, one of which is inaccurate, as described, they are deceptive under 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.

47. For these reasons, Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692e(2), and 1692e(10). See *Taylor v. Fin. Recovery Servs., Inc.*, 886 F.3d 212, 215 (2d Cir. 2018) (citing *Chuway v. Nat'l Action Fin. Servs., Inc.*, 362 F.3d 944, 949 (7th Cir. 2004)); see also *Thomas v. Midland Credit Mgmt., Inc.*, No. 2:17-CV-00523(ADS)(ARL), 2017 WL 5714722, at \*4 (E.D.N.Y. Nov. 27, 2017); *Islam v. American Recovery Service Incorporated*, 17-CV-4228 (BMC), 2017 WL 4990570, at \*2 (E.D.N.Y. Oct. 30, 2017); and *Medzhidzade v. Kirschenbaum & Phillips, P.C.*, No.: 17-cv-6452-BMC, 2018 WL 2093116 (E.D.N.Y. May 3, 2018).

48. The Collection Letter also provides, in pertinent part, as follows:

" **Total Current Balance: \$1,340.18** Amount Due at Charge-off: \$1,340.18 Interest Accrued Since Charge off: \$.00 Miscellaneous Fees Since Charge Off: \$.00"

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49. The least sophisticated consumer would understand that charges and fees would begin to accrue on the account if she did not pay.

50. However, no such interest and fees were accruing on the account.

51. Furthermore, the Defendant was not contractually entitled to interest and fees.

52. The Defendant never intended to add any interest and fees to Plaintiff's account.

53. The Defendant misrepresented the character of the alleged debt, in violation of 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e and 1692e(2)(a), when it falsely implied charges fees could accrue on the account.

54. Defendant further threatened to take an action it did not intend to take, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(5), when it implied it would add interest, fees, and other non-interest charges or fees to Plaintiff's alleged debt.

55. Defendant could have avoided any confusion by not listing charges, fees, and other non-interest charges or fees in its Collection Letter at all by providing "N/A." See *Wood v. Allied Interstate, LLC*, 2018 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 98738, 2018 WL 2967061 ("[B]y stating that fees and collection costs stood at '\$0.00,' instead of stating something like 'N/A' or declining to mention fees and collection costs at all, the letter reasonably could be read to imply that such charges would begin to accrue if Wood did not pay the debt. Why, after all, would Allied include a column for fees and collection charges, and insert a dollar figure (\$0.00), if not to suggest that such fees and costs might accrue in the future?")

56. At all relevant times, Plaintiff was being contacted by more than one debt collector.

57. Plaintiff attempted to prioritize paying off his debts by focusing foremost on those debts with the highest interest rates.

58. However, Plaintiff was hampered from prioritizing his debts due to Defendant's dunning collection letter which implied that interest and fees may accrue in the future.

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59. Defendant's implication that the subject debt may accrue interest and fees materially harmed Plaintiff in his ability to properly allocate his limited funds.

60. As a result, Plaintiff was unsure which debts to prioritize, thereby damaging him in the process. As a result, Plaintiff was materially harmed by Defendant's actions.

61. Plaintiff suffered an injury in fact by being subjected to unfair and abusive practices of the Defendant.

62. Plaintiff suffered actual harm by being the target of the Defendant's misleading debt collection communications.

63. Defendant violated the Plaintiff's right not to be the target of misleading debt collection communications.

64. Defendant violated the Plaintiff's right to a truthful and fair debt collection process.

65. Defendant used materially false, deceptive, misleading representations and means in its attempted collection of Plaintiff's alleged debt.

66. Defendant's communications were designed to cause the debtor to suffer a harmful disadvantage in charting a course of action in response to Defendant's collection efforts.

67. The FDCPA ensures that consumers are fully and truthfully apprised of the facts and of their rights. The FDPCA enables consumers to understand, make informed decisions about, and participate fully and meaningfully in the debt collection process. One purpose of the FDPCA, among others, is to provide information that helps consumers choose intelligently. The Defendant's false representations misled the Plaintiff in a manner that deprived her of her right to enjoy these benefits. As a result, Defendant's materially misleading statements trigger liability under § 1692e of the FDCPA.

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68. Defendant's deceptive communications additionally violate the FDPCA since they frustrate the consumer's ability to intelligently choose his or her response.

69. As an actual and proximate result of the acts and omissions of Defendant, Plaintiff has suffered, including, without limitation, fear, stress, mental anguish, emotional stress and acute embarrassment for which he should be compensated in an amount to be established by a jury.

70. As a result of the foregoing Count, Defendant violated the FDCPA.

#### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendants as follows:

- (a) Declaring that this action is properly maintainable as a Class Action and certifying Plaintiff as Class representative and Cohen & Mizrahi LLP, as Class Counsel;
- (b) Awarding Plaintiff and the Class statutory damages;
- (d) Awarding Plaintiff costs of this Action, including reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses;
- (e) Awarding pre-judgment interest and post-judgment interest; and
- (f) Awarding Plaintiff and the Class such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

# COHEN & MIZRAHI LLP

Dated: Brooklyn, New York October 18, 2018 By: <u>/s/ Daniel C. Cohen</u> Daniel C. Cohen, Esq. Cohen & Mizrahi LLP 300 Cadman Plaza W, 12<sup>th</sup> floor Brooklyn, New York 11201 Phone: (929) 575-4175 Fax: (929) 575-4195 Email: dan@cml.legal *Attorneys for Plaintiff*  Case 1:18-cv-05864 Document 1 Filed 10/19/18 Page 13 of 13 PageID #: 13

# **DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY**

Pursuant to Rule 38 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff hereby requests a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

/s/ Daniel C. Cohen Daniel C. Cohen, Esq.

# JS 44 (Rev. 11/27/17 Case 1:18-cv-05864 Document 20 VER SHEET Page 1 of 2 PageID #: 14

The JS 44 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, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. *(SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)* 

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFENDANT	S				
YURIY AMELCHENKO, situated,	on behalf of himself a	nd all others similar	ASSET RECOV	/ERY SOLUTIONS, LLC				
(b) County of Residence of	of First Listed Plaintiff	Kings	County of Residence	County of Residence of First Listed Defendant				
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(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, A	Address, and Telephone Numbe	r)	Attorneys (If Known	1)				
Cohen & Mizrahi LLP,3			11201.					
929-575-4175		, , ,						
II. BASIS OF JURISDI		n a Rom Onto)	III CITIZENSHIP OF	PRINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff			
		me Box Only)	(For Diversity Cases Only	)	and One Box for Defendant)			
□ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	3 Federal Question (U.S. Government)	Not a Party)		PTF DEF □ 1 □ 1 Incorporated <i>or</i> Pr.	PTF DEF			
	(			of Business In T				
2 U.S. Government Defendant	□ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizensh	ip of Parties in Item III)	Citizen of Another State	2   2   Incorporated and F of Business In A				
			Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	3   3   Foreign Nation				
IV. NATURE OF SUIT		aly)	FORFEITURE/PENALTY		of Suit Code Descriptions. OTHER STATUTES			
□ 110 Insurance	PERSONAL INJURY	PERSONAL INJUR		□ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158	□ 375 False Claims Act			
<ul> <li>120 Marine</li> <li>130 Miller Act</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>310 Airplane</li> <li>315 Airplane Product</li> </ul>	365 Personal Injury - Product Liability	of Property 21 USC 881	□ 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157	376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a))			
140 Negotiable Instrument	Liability	367 Health Care/			400 State Reapportionment			
150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment		Pharmaceutical Personal Injury		PROPERTY RIGHTS           Image: Second system           Image: Second system <td><ul> <li>410 Antitrust</li> <li>430 Banks and Banking</li> </ul></td>	<ul> <li>410 Antitrust</li> <li>430 Banks and Banking</li> </ul>			
<ul> <li>151 Medicare Act</li> <li>152 Recovery of Defaulted</li> </ul>	330 Federal Employers' Liability	Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal	l	<ul> <li>830 Patent</li> <li>835 Patent - Abbreviated</li> </ul>	<ul><li>450 Commerce</li><li>460 Deportation</li></ul>			
Student Loans (Excludes Veterans)	<ul> <li>340 Marine</li> <li>345 Marine Product</li> </ul>	Injury Product Liability		New Drug Application 840 Trademark	470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations			
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of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' Suits	<ul> <li>350 Motor Vehicle</li> <li>355 Motor Vehicle</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>370 Other Fraud</li> <li>371 Truth in Lending</li> </ul>	710 Fair Labor Standards Act	<ul> <li>861 HIA (1395ff)</li> <li>862 Black Lung (923)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>490 Cable/Sat TV</li> <li>850 Securities/Commodities/</li> </ul>			
<ul> <li>190 Other Contract</li> <li>195 Contract Product Liability</li> </ul>	Product Liability <b>360 Other Personal</b>	380 Other Personal Property Damage	720 Labor/Management Relations	<ul> <li>863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))</li> <li>864 SSID Title XVI</li> </ul>	Exchange 890 Other Statutory Actions			
□ 196 Franchise	Injury	385 Property Damage	740 Railway Labor Act	□ 865 RSI (405(g))	891 Agricultural Acts			
	362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	Product Liability	751 Family and Medical Leave Act		<ul> <li>893 Environmental Matters</li> <li>895 Freedom of Information</li> </ul>			
REAL PROPERTY         □ 210 Land Condemnation	CIVIL RIGHTS 440 Other Civil Rights	PRISONER PETITION Habeas Corpus:	NS □ 790 Other Labor Litigation □ 791 Employee Retirement	FEDERAL TAX SUITS 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff	Act 896 Arbitration			
220 Foreclosure	□ 441 Voting	463 Alien Detainee	Income Security Act	or Defendant)	899 Administrative Procedure			
<ul> <li>230 Rent Lease &amp; Ejectment</li> <li>240 Torts to Land</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>442 Employment</li> <li>443 Housing/</li> </ul>	510 Motions to Vacate Sentence		871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision			
<ul> <li>245 Tort Product Liability</li> <li>290 All Other Real Property</li> </ul>	Accommodations <ul> <li>445 Amer. w/Disabilities -</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>530 General</li> <li>535 Death Penalty</li> </ul>	IMMIGRATION		950 Constitutionality of State Statutes			
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	Other	550 Civil Rights	Actions					
	□ 448 Education	<ul> <li>555 Prison Condition</li> <li>560 Civil Detainee -</li> </ul>						
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V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in	n One Box Only)	Commentent						
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	15 1190 1602	tute under which you a	re filing (Do not cite jurisdictional s	tatutes unless diversity):				
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	DN Brief description of ca	iuse:						
VII. REQUESTED IN	Defendant violate	IS A CLASS ACTION	N DEMAND \$	CHECK YES only	if demanded in complaint:			
COMPLAINT:	UNDER RULE 2		γ ψ	JURY DEMAND:				
VIII. RELATED CASH								
IF ANY	(See instructions):	JUDGE		DOCKET NUMBER				
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10/19/18 FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		/s/ Daniel Cohe	en					
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KECEH I # AN				MAG. JUL	.oL 			

#### Case 1:18-cv-05864 Document 1-1 Filed 10/19/18 Page 2 of 2 PageID #: 15 CERTIFICATION OF ARBITRATION ELIGIBILITY

Local Arbitration Rule 83.10 provides that with certain exceptions, actions seeking money damages only in an amount not in excess of \$150,000, exclusive of interest and costs, are eligible for compulsory arbitration. The amount of damages is presumed to be below the threshold amount unless a certification to the contrary is filed.

monetary damages sought are in excess of \$150,000, exclusive of interest and costs,

I, <u>DANIEL COHEN</u>, counsel for <u>PLAINTIFF</u>, do hereby certify that the above captioned civil action is ineligible for compulsory arbitration for the following reason(s):

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the complaint seeks injunctive relief,

the matter is otherwise ineligible for the following reason

Question of law rather than questions of fact predominates

#### **DISCLOSURE STATEMENT - FEDERAL RULES CIVIL PROCEDURE 7.1**

NONE

Identify any parent corporation and any publicly held corporation that owns 10% or more or its stocks:

#### **RELATED CASE STATEMENT (Section VIII on the Front of this Form)**

Please list all cases that are arguably related pursuant to Division of Business Rule 50.3.1 in Section VIII on the front of this form. Rule 50.3.1 (a) provides that "A civil case is "related" to another civil case for purposes of this guideline when, because of the similarity of facts and legal issues or because the cases arise from the same transactions or events, a substantial saving of judicial resources is likely to result from assigning both cases to the same judge and magistrate judge." Rule 50.3.1 (b) provides that "A civil case shall not be deemed "related" to another civil case merely because the civil case: (A) involves identical legal issues, or (B) involves the same parties." Rule 50.3.1 (c) further provides that "Presumptively, and subject to the power of a judge to determine otherwise pursuant to paragraph (d), civil cases shall not be deemed to be "related" unless both cases are still pending before the court."

#### NY-E DIVISION OF BUSINESS RULE 50.1(d)(2)

1.)	Is the civil a County?	action being	filed in Yes	the East	ern District rei No	moved from	a New	York State Court located in Nassau or Suffolk
2.)	If you answ a) Did the e County?			giving ri	se to the clain No	n or claims, c	or a sub	bstantial part thereof, occur in Nassau or Suffolk
	b) Did the e District?	events or or	nissions Yes	giving ri	se to the clain No	n or claims, c	or a sub	bstantial part thereof, occur in the Eastern
		i Fair Debt C KINGS CO		Practice	Act case, speci	fy the County	in whic	ch the offending communication was
Suffolk (	County, or, in County?	an interplead	der a <u>cti</u> or	n, does th No	e claimant (or a	majority of th	e claima	nts, if there is more than one) reside in Nassau or ants, if there is more than one) reside in Nassau or s the most significant contacts).
					<u>B</u> .	AR ADMISS	ION	
	I am currentl	y admitted ir	the Eas	tern Distr	ict of New York	and currently	a memt	ber in good standing of the bar of this court.
		V		Yes				No
	Are you cu	rently the s	ubject o	f any dis	ciplinary actio	n (s) in this c	or any c	other state or federal court?
			I	Yes	(If yes, please	e explain		No
	I certify the	accuracy c	of all info	rmation	provided abov	e.		
	Signature:	/s/ Da	aniel Co	hen				

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Eastern District of New York

YURIY AMELCHENKO, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated

Plaintiff(s)
V.
ASSET RECOVERY SOLUTIONS, LLC

Defendant(s)

#### SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

Civil Action No.

To: (Defendant's name and address) ASSET RECOVERY SOLUTIONS, LLC 2200 DEVON AVENUE, #200 DES PLAINES, ILLINOIS 6001

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

COHEN & MIZRAHI LLP 300 CADMAN PLAZA WEST, 12 FL BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11201

If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

> DOUGLAS C. PALMER CLERK OF COURT

Date:

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

# Case 1:18-cv-05864 Document 1-2 Filed 10/19/18 Page 2 of 2 PageID #: 17

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Civil Action No.

# **PROOF OF SERVICE**

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))

	This summons for (nam	ne of individual and title, if any)			
was re	ceived by me on (date)	·			
	□ I personally served	the summons on the individua	al at (place)		
			on (date)	; or	
	□ I left the summons		r usual place of abode with (name)	sides there	
	on (date)		to the individual's last known address; or		
	□ I served the summore designated by law to a	, who i	s		
	<u>-</u>		on (date)	; or	
	$\Box$ I returned the summ	nons unexecuted because		; 01	•
	<b>Other</b> ( <i>specify</i> ):				
	My fees are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$	0.00	
	I declare under penalty	y of perjury that this informati	on is true.		
Date:					
			Server's signature		-
			Printed name and title		-

Server's address

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

# Case 1:18-cv-05864 Document 1-3 Filed 10/19/18 Page 1 of 1 PageID #: 18

Statement Date:	01/09/18			
ID Number:				
Original Creditor:	CAPITAL ONE BANK (USA) N.A.			
Current Creditor:	BUREAUS INVESTMENT GROUP PORTFOLIO NO 15 LLC			
Account Number:	XXXXXXXXXXXXX0852			
Total Current Balance:	\$1,340.18			
Amount Due at Charge Off:	\$1,340.18			
Interest Accrued Since Charge Off:	\$.00			
Miscellaneous Fees Since Charge Off:	\$.00			
Total Payments Since Charge Off:	\$.00			



877-598-7598

#### Brooklyn, NY 11229

Your past due account(s) have been referred to our agency for collection. If you wish to resolve your obligation, call us toll free at 877-598-7598. All payments must come to our office to ensure proper credit to your account.

This communication is from a debt collector. This is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Unless you notify this office within 30 days after receiving this notice that you dispute the validity of the debt or any portion thereof, this office will assume this debt is valid. If you notify this office in writing within 30 days from receiving this notice, that the debt or any portion thereof is disputed, this office in writing within 30 days office acoust of a judgment and mail a copy of such judgment or verification. If you request this office in writing within 30 days after receiving this notice, this office will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from current creditor.

Sincerely,

Asset Recovery Solutions, LLC 877-598-7598, Ext. 573

Licensed by the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs, license # 1309086

In accordance with the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C.

§ 1692 et seq., Asset Recovery Solutions,LLC. is prohibited from engaging in abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection efforts, including but not limited to: (i) the use or threat of violence; (ii) the use of obscene or profane language; and (iii) repeated phone calls made with the intent to annoy, abuse, or harass.

If a creditor or debt collector receives a money judgment against you in court, state and federal laws may prevent the following types of income from being taken to pay the debt:

- 1. Supplemental security income, (SSI);
- 2. Social security;
- 3. Public assistance (welfare);
- 4. Spousal support, maintenance (alimony) or child support;
- 5. Unemployment benefits;
- 6. Disability benefits;
- 7. Workers' compensation benefits;
- 8. Public or private pensions;
- 9. Veterans' benefits;
- 10. Federal student loans, federal student grants, and federal work study funds; and
- 11. Ninety percent of your wages or salary earned in the last sixty days.

	As	set Recovery	Solution	s, LLC Contacts		
	Hours of Operation: Monday- Thursday 8 AM- 9 PM CT Friday: 8 am – 5 pm CT Saturday: 8 AM-12 CT	2	2200 E. I	ill To: covery Solutions, LLC Devon Ave Ste 200 ues, IL 60018-4501	Find us Onlin www.assetree	e at: overysolutions.com
	200 E. Devon Ave Ste 200 Des Plaines, IL 60018-4501	Detach ar	th Payment IF PAYING BY C VISA VISA	REDIT CARD, FILL C	DUT BELOW.	
				SIGNATURE ID NUMBER ACCOUNT NUMBER XXXXXXXXXXXX0852	BUREAUS INVESTMENT	AMOUNT PAID S CREDITOR GROUP PORTFOLIO NO 15 LC
Yuriy A Amelchenko 1745 E 16th St Apt 5E Brooklyn, NY 11229-2951			Please send payments and correspondence to: IIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIII			

# **ClassAction.org**

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Asset Recovery Solutions Used Misleading Debt Collection Tactics</u>, <u>Class Action Claims</u>