BARSHAY SANDERS, PLLC

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Attorneys for Plaintiff Our File No.: 113990

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Patricia Asaro, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Docket No:

Plaintiff,

COMPLAINT

VS.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

D & A Services, LLC and Bureaus Investment Group Portfolio No. 15, LLC,

Defendants.

Patricia Asaro, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated (hereinafter referred to as "*Plaintiff*"), by and through the undersigned counsel, complains, states and alleges against D & A Services, LLC and Bureaus Investment Group Portfolio No. 15, LLC (hereinafter referred to collectively as "*Defendants*"), as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. This action seeks to recover for violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, *et seq.*, ("FDCPA").

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 2. This Court has federal subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1331 and 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d).
- 3. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. §1391(b) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred in this Judicial District.

4. At all relevant times, Defendants conducted business within the State of New York.

PARTIES

- 5. Plaintiff Patricia Asaro is an individual who is a citizen of the State of New York residing in Suffolk County, New York.
 - 6. Plaintiff is a "consumer" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).
- 7. On information and belief, Defendant D & A Services, LLC, is an Illinois Limited Liability Company with a principal place of business in Cook County, Illinois.
- 8. On information and belief, Defendant Bureaus Investment Group Portfolio No. 15, LLC, is an Illinois Limited Liability Company with a principal place of business in Cook County, Illinois.
- 9. Defendants are regularly engaged, for profit, in the collection of debts allegedly owed by consumers.
 - 10. Defendants are "debt collectors" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL CLAIMS

- 11. Defendants allege Plaintiff owes a debt ("the Debt").
- 12. The Debt was primarily for personal, family or household purposes and is therefore a "debt" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5).
 - 13. Sometime after the incurrence of the Debt Plaintiff fell behind on payments owed.
- 14. Thereafter, at an exact time known only to Defendants, the debt was assigned or otherwise transferred to Defendants for collection.
- 15. In their efforts to collect the debt, Defendants contacted Plaintiff by letter ("the Letter") dated October 28, 2016. ("Exhibit 1.")
 - 16. The letter was the initial communication Plaintiff received from Defendants.
 - 17. The letter is a "communication" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(2).
 - 18. The Letter sets forth "Total amount of debt due as of charge-off" \$884.26.
 - 19. The Letter sets forth "Interest accrued since charge off" \$105.08.
 - 20. The Letter sets forth "Current Balance" \$989.34.
- 21. The Letter fails to provide information that would allow Plaintiff to determine what Plaintiff will need to pay to resolve the debt at any given moment in the future.

- 22. The Letter fails to provide information that would allow the least sophisticated consumer to determine what he or she will need to pay to resolve the debt at any given moment in the future.
- 23. The Letter fails to provide information that would allow the least sophisticated consumer to determine the amount of interest owed.
 - 24. For instance, the Letter fails to indicate the applicable interest rate.
 - 25. For instance, the Letter fails to indicate the date of accrual of interest.
- 26. For instance, the Letter fails to indicate the amount of interest during any measurable period.
- 27. The Letter fails to contain an explanation, understandable by the least sophisticated consumer, of any fees and interest that may cause the amount stated to increase.
- 28. The Letter fails to state that the creditor will accept payment of the amount set forth in full satisfaction of the debt if payment is made by a specified date.
- 29. The Letter, because of the aforementioned failures, would render the least sophisticated consumer unable to determine the minimum amount owed at the time of the Letter.
- 30. The Letter, because of the aforementioned failures, would render the least sophisticated consumer unable to determine what she will need to pay to resolve the debt at any given moment in the future.
- 31. The Letter, because of the aforementioned failures, would render the least sophisticated consumer unable to determine the amount of his or her debt.
- 32. The Letter, because of the aforementioned failures, would render the least sophisticated consumer unable to determine the amount of her debt because the consumer would not know whether interest and fees would continue to accrue, or whether the amount of the debt was static.
- 33. The Letter, because of the aforementioned failures, did not convey "the amount of the debt" clearly from the perspective of the least sophisticated consumer.
- 34. The Letter, because of the aforementioned failures, did not convey "the amount of the debt" accurately from the perspective of the least sophisticated consumer.
- 35. The Letter, because of the aforementioned failures, did not convey "the amount of the debt" without ambiguity from the perspective of the least sophisticated consumer.

36. The Letter, because of the aforementioned failures, violates 15 U.S.C. § 1692e and 15 U.S.C. § 1692g.

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

- 37. Plaintiff brings this action individually and as a class action on behalf of all persons similarly situated in the State of New York from whom Defendants attempted to collect a consumer debt using a letter that indicates that interest is accruing, from one year before the date of this Complaint to the present.
- 38. This action seeks a finding that Defendants' conduct violates the FDCPA, and asks that the Court award damages as authorized by 15 U.S.C. § 1692k.
 - 39. Defendants regularly engage in debt collection.
- 40. The Class consists of more than 35 persons from whom Defendants attempted to collect delinquent consumer debts using a letter that indicates that interest is accruing.
- 41. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Class. Common questions of law or fact raised by this class action complaint affect all members of the Class and predominate over any individual issues. Common relief is therefore sought on behalf of all members of the Class. This class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy.
- 42. The prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the Class would create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to the individual members of the Class, and a risk that any adjudications with respect to individual members of the Class would, as a practical matter, either be dispositive of the interests of other members of the Class not party to the adjudication, or substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their interests. Defendants have acted in a manner applicable to the Class as a whole such that declaratory relief is warranted.
- 43. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect and represent the interests of the Class. The management of the class action proposed is not extraordinarily difficult, and the factual and legal issues raised by this class action complaint will not require extended contact with the members of the Class, because Defendants' conduct was perpetrated on all members of the Class and will be established by common proof. Moreover, Plaintiff has retained counsel experienced in actions brought under consumer protection laws.

JURY DEMAND

44. Plaintiff hereby demands a trial of this action by jury.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests judgment as follows:

- a. Certify this action as a class action; and
- b. Appoint Plaintiff as Class Representative of the Class, and Plaintiff's attorneys as Class Counsel; and
- c. Find that Defendants' actions violate the FDCPA; and
- d. Grant damages against Defendants pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k; and
- e. Grant Plaintiff's attorneys' fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k; and
- f. Grant Plaintiff's costs; together with
- g. Such other relief that the Court determines is just and proper.

DATED: October 24, 2017

BARSHAY SANDERS, PLLC

By: /s/ Craig B. Sanders
Craig B. Sanders, Esq.
100 Garden City Plaza, Suite 500
Garden City, New York 11530

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csanders@barshaysanders.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff
Our File No.: 113990

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D & A Services, LLC of IL 1400 E. Touhy Ave, Ste. G2 Des Plaines, IL 60018

D&A #	Original Creditor	Current Creditor	Account Number	Current Balance
7471	CAPITAL ONE BANK (USA), N.A.	BUREAUS INVESTMENT GROUP PORTFOLIO NO 15 LLC	XXXXXXXXXXXXX0453	\$989.34

Toll Free: 800-268-0514

Fax: 855-226-1835 • Web: https://myaccount.dnaslic.com

Hours of Operations:

M-Th 8 am - 8 pm CST Fri 8 am - 5 pm CST Sat 8 am - 12 pm CST

Patricia Asaro 46 Stewart Cir Centereach, NY 11720-2848

October 28, 2016

Dear Patricia Asaro:

This account has been placed with our office for collection.

Unless you notify this office within 30 days after receiving this notice that you dispute the validity of this debt or any portion thereof, this office will assume this debt is valid. If you notify this office in writing within 30 days after receiving this notice that you dispute the validity of this debt or any portion thereof, this office will obtain verification of the debt or obtain a copy of a judgment and mail you a copy of such judgment or verification. If you request of 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 the current creditor.

This is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. This communication is from a debt collector.

You may pay online by using the following link. Web: https://myaccount.dnasllc.com

Accounting of Debt:
The total amount of the debt due as of charge-off: \$884.26

The total amount of interest accrued since charge-off: \$105.08

The total amount of non-interest charges or fees accrued since charge-off: \$0.00 The total amount of payments and credits made on the debt since the charge-off: \$0.00

detach below and return in the enclosed envelope with your payment

1400 E. Touhy Ave Suite G2 Des Plaines, IL 60018

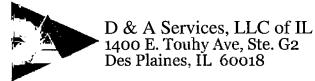
800-268-0514

D&A#	Current Balance
7471	\$989.34

Patricia Asaro 46 Stewart Cir Centereach, NY 11720-2848

Contact Number	Payment Amount
	\$

Make your check or money order payable to: D & A Services, LLC of IL 1400 E. Touhy Ave Suite G2
Des Plaines, IL 60018



D&A #	Original Creditor	Current Creditor	Account Number	Current Balance
7471	CAPITAL ONE BANK (USA), N.A.	BUREAUS INVESTMENT GROUP PORTFOLIO NO 15 LLC	XXXXXXXXXXXXX0453	\$989.34

Toll Free: 800-268-0514
Fax: 855-226-1835 • Web: https://myaccount.dnasllc.com

We are required to notify you of the following:

- (1) That debt collectors, in accordance with the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq., are 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.
- (2) 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.

This is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. This communication is from a debt collector.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

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EASTERN DISTRIC	T OF <u>NEW YORK</u>
Patricia Asaro, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated Plaintiff(s) v. D & A Services, LLC and Bureaus Investment Group Portfolio No. 15, LLC Defendant(s))) () () () () () () () () () () () ()
SUMMONS IN A	CIVIL ACTION
To: (Defendant's name and address) Bureaus Investment Group Portfolio No. 15, LLC 650 Dundee Road, Suite 370 Northbrook, Illinois 60062 A lawsuit has been filed against you.	
60 days if you are the United States, or a United States States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) – y attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the I motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's at	rou must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or torney, whose name and address are:
BARSHAY SAI 100 GARDEN CITY I GARDEN CIT	PLAZA, SUITE 500
If you fail to respond, judgment by default will the complaint. You also must file your answer or mot	Il be entered against you for the relief demanded in ion with the court.
	CLERK OF COURT
Date:	

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Date:

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Patricia Asaro, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated)))
Plaintiff(s)	
v.) Civil Action No.
D & A Services, LLC and Bureaus Investment Group Portfolio No. 15, LLC))
Defendant(s)	
SUMMONS IN A	CIVIL ACTION
To: (Defendant's name and address) D & A Services, LLC c/o National Registered Agents, Inc. 208 So Lasalle St, Suite 814 Chicago, Illinois 60604	
A lawsuit has been filed against you.	
Within 21 days after service of this summons 60 days if you are the United States, or a United State States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) – y attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Femotion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attached.	ou must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or
BARSHAY SAN 100 GARDEN CITY I GARDEN CITY	PLAZA, SUITE 500
If you fail to respond, judgment by default wil the complaint. You also must file your answer or mot	l be entered against you for the relief demanded in ion with the court.
	CLERK OF COURT

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

JS 44 (Rev. 07/16) Case 2:17-cv-06252 Dequired Ovicies 10/26/17 Page 1 of 2 PageID #: 10

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 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

provided by local rules of courpurpose of initiating the civil d	 This form, approved by th 	e Judicial Conference of th	e United States in September	ce of pleadings or other papers 1974, is required for the use of	as required by law, except as the Clerk of Court for the	
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFENDANTS			
PATRICIA ASARO			D & A SERVI	CES, LLC		
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES) (c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) BARSHAY SANDERS, PLLC			County of Residence of First Listed Defendant COOK (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED. Attorneys (If Known)			
						100 Garden City F (516) 203-7600
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X" in (One Box Only)	II. CITIZENSHIP OF 1	PRINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff	
O 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	• 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government)	Not a Party)		PTF DEF O 1 Incorporated or Pr of Business In T		
O 2 U.S. Government Defendant	O 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenshi)	p of Parties in Item III)	Citizen of Another State	O 2 Incorporated and I of Business In A		
N/ NATURE OF CHIT	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	O 3 Foreign Nation	0 6 06	
IV. NATURE OF SUIT CONTRACT		ly) ORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
O 110 Insurance O 120 Marine O 130 Miller Act O 140 Negotiable Instrument O 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment O 151 Medicare Act O 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) O 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits O 160 Stockholders' Suits O 190 Other Contract O 195 Contract Product Liability O 196 Franchise REAL PROPERTY O 210 Land Condemnation O 220 Foreclosure O 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment O 240 Torts to Land O 245 Tort Product Liability O 290 All Other Real Property	Slander O 330 Federal Employers' Liability O 340 Marine O 345 Marine Product Liability O 350 Motor Vehicle O 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability O 360 Other Personal Injury O 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice CIVIL RIGHTS O 440 Other Civil Rights O 441 Voting O 442 Employment O 443 Housing/ Accommodations O 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment O 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other O 448 Education	PERSONAL INJURY O 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability O 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability O 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability O 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY O 370 Other Fraud O 371 Truth in Lending O 380 Other Personal Property Damage O 385 Property Damage Product Liability PRISONER PETITIONS Habeas Corpus: O 463 Alien Detainee O 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence O 530 General O 535 Death Penalty Other: O 540 Mandamus & Other O 550 Civil Rights O 555 Prison Condition O 560 Civil Detainee Conditions of Confinement	O 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 O 690 Other	O 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 O 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS O 820 Copyrights O 830 Patent O 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY O 861 HIA (1395ff) O 862 Black Lung (923) O 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) O 864 SSID Title XVI O 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS O 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) O 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	O 375 False Claims Act O 400 State Reapportionment O 410 Antitrust O 430 Banks and Banking O 450 Commerce O 460 Deportation O 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations • 480 Consumer Credit O 490 Cable/Sat TV O 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange O 890 Other Statutory Actions O 891 Agricultural Acts O 893 Environmental Matters O 895 Freedom of Information Act O 896 Arbitration O 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision O 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes	
To 1:	oved from State O 3 Rem ourt Cou	urt	(specify	District Litigation – Transfer	O 8 Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File	
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO		ise.	it Ing (Do not cite jurisdictional s	tatutes unless diversity): 15 USC ct Violation	§1092	
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	• CHECK IF THIS IS UNDER RULE 2	S A CLASS ACTION 3, F.R.Cv.P.	DEMAND \$	CHECK YES on JURY DEMAND:	ly if demanded in complaint: • Yes ○ No	
VIII. RELATED CASI IF ANY	E(S)	(See Instructions) JUDGE		DOCKET NUMBER		
DATE		SIGNATURE OF ATTOR				
October 25, 2017 FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			/s Craig B. Sanders			
	MOUNT	APPLYING IFP	JUDGE	MAG. JU	DGE	

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.

I, <u>Craig B. Sanders</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):
☐ monetary damages sought are in excess of \$150,000, exclusive of interest and costs,
☐ the complaint seeks injunctive relief,
☐ the matter is otherwise ineligible for the following reason
DISCLOSURE STATEMENT - FEDERAL RULES CIVIL PROCEDURE 7.1
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)
 Is the civil action being filed in the Eastern District removed from a New York State Court located in Nassau or Suffolk County: NO
 If you answered "no" above: a) Did the events or omissions giving rise to the claim or claims, or a substantial part thereof, occur in Nassau or Suffolk County?YES
b) Did the events or omissions giving rise to the claim or claims, or a substantial part thereof, occur in the Eastern District? YES
If your answer to question 2 (b) is "No," does the defendant (or a majority of the defendants, if there is more than one) reside in Nassau or Suffolk County, or, in an interpleader action, does the claimant (or a majority of the claimants, if there is more than one) reside in Nassau or Suffolk County?
(Note: A corporation shall be considered a resident of the County in which it has the most significant contacts).
BAR ADMISSION
I am currently admitted in the Eastern District of New York and currently a member in good standing of the bar of this court. Yes No
Are you currently the subject of any disciplinary action (s) in this or any other state or federal court? ☐ Yes (If yes, please explain) ■ No
I certify the accuracy of all information provided above.

Signature: <u>/s Craig B. Sanders</u>

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>D & A Services</u>, <u>One Other Pegged with FDCPA Lawsuit</u>