

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

ARI BENCHOCRON and RAUL ESTEVEZ on
behalf of themselves and all other similarly situated
consumers

Case No.

Plaintiffs,

-against-

UNITED COLLECTION BUREAU INC

Defendant.

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

Introduction

1. Plaintiffs, Ari Benchocron and Raul Estevez, bring this action against United Collection Bureau Inc for violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq. (“FDCPA”). The FDCPA prohibits debt collectors from engaging in abusive, deceptive and unfair collection practices while attempting to collect on debts.

Parties

2. Plaintiffs are citizens of the State of New York who reside within this District.
3. Plaintiffs are consumers as that term is defined by Section 1692(a)(3) of the FDCPA, in that the alleged debt that Defendant sought to collect from Plaintiffs is a consumer debt.
4. Upon information and belief, Defendant's principal place of business is located in Toledo, Ohio.
5. Defendant is regularly engaged, for profit, in the collection of debts allegedly owed by consumers.

6. Defendant is a “debt collector” as that term is defined by the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. § 1692(a)(6).

Jurisdiction and Venue

7. This Court has federal question jurisdiction under 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d) and 28 U.S.C. § 1331.
8. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), as the acts and transactions that give rise to this action occurred, in substantial part, in this district.

Allegations Particular to Ari Benchocron and Raul Estevez

9. Upon information and belief, on a date better known by Defendant, Defendant began to attempt to collect an alleged consumer debt from the Plaintiffs.
10. On or about August 1st, 2016, Defendant sent Plaintiff Benchocron a collection letter.
11. The said August 1st, 2016 collection letter stated a “Current Account Balance” of \$1,093.04.
12. On or about November 16th, 2016 Defendant sent Plaintiff Estevez a collection letter.
13. The said November 16th, 2016 collection letter stated a “Current Account Balance” of \$2,063.85 and offered Plaintiff Estevez to settle the account for one-time payment of \$928.73 to be received by November 29th, 2016.
14. Upon affirmation and belief, the said letters to the Plaintiffs were initial communications from the Defendant.
15. The said letters were sent in an effort to collect on a defaulted consumer debt.
16. Such collection letters are open to one of multiple interpretations and would likely be misunderstood by an unsophisticated consumer.
17. § 1692e requires debt collectors, when informing debtors of their account balance, to disclose whether the balance may increase due to interest and fees. Avila v. Riexinger

Associates, LLC, 817 F.3d 72, 76 (2d Cir. 2016).

18. Defendant's collection letters fail to include the safe harbor language set out in Avila v. Riexinger Associates, LLC, 817 F.3d 72, 76 (2d Cir. 2016).
19. An unsophisticated consumer would be left uncertain by the said letters as to whether the accounts were accruing interest or not.
20. Pursuant to section 5001 of New York Civil Practice Law and Rules, a creditor shall recover prejudgment interest "upon a sum awarded because of a breach of performance of a contract." N.Y. C.P.L.R. § 5001(a); see also Rhodes v. Davis, 628 Fed. Appx. 787, 794 (2d Cir. 2015) (Under New York Law, "[i]nterest is generally mandatory "upon a sum awarded because of a breach of performance of a contract" (citing Id. § 5001(a))).
21. Section 5004 sets the rate of prejudgment interest at nine percent. N.Y. C.P.L.R. § 5004. When calculating the interest due, it "shall be computed from the earliest ascertainable date the cause of action existed." Id. § 5001(b).
22. "In New York, a breach of contract cause of action accrues at the time of the breach." Ely-Cruikshank Co. v. Bank of Montreal, 81 N.Y.2d 399, 402, 615 N.E.2d 985, 599 N.Y.S.2d 501 (1993) (citations omitted).
23. Prejudgment interest on defaulted debt obligations "shall be computed from the earliest ascertainable date the cause of action existed," which is when the debtor fails to make the monthly payment. N.Y. C.P.L.R. § 5001(b).
24. "New York law provides that "[i]nterest shall be recovered upon a sum awarded because of a breach of performance of a contract," N.Y. C.P.L.R. § 5001(a), and that interest is to be computed "from the earliest date the cause of action existed," N.Y. C.P.L.R. § 5001(b), at the rate of nine percent per annum, N.Y. C.P.L.R. § 5004. Accordingly, Plaintiffs are entitled to prejudgment interest on the installments that were not timely

paid." Kasperek v. City Wire Works, Inc., No. 03 CV 3986 (RML), 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 19803, at *8 (E.D.N.Y. Mar. 12, 2009).

25. The "Current Account Balance" in the case at hand was for an amount that included original principal, fees, contractual and statutory interest.
26. In this case, the "Current Account Balance" was increasing due to interest and other charges as per the creditor's contract and/or as per New York law. Nevertheless, the collection notices did not disclose that the amount of the debt stated in the letter "could," "may," or "will" increase over time.
27. The said letters failed to correctly state the in full the amount of the debt allegedly owed.
28. Though the collection letter to Plaintiff Benchocron stated a "Current Account Balance," the letter did not state on which date the "Current Account Balance" was calculated, and did not explain that contractual and/or statutory interest and/or legal fees would continue to accrue on the unpaid principal; thus, the Plaintiff's Benchocron total balance might be greater on the date he makes a payment.
29. Though the collection letter to Plaintiff Estevez stated a "Current Account Balance," the letter did not state on which date the "Current Account Balance" was calculated, and did not explain that contractual or statutory interest and/or legal fees would continue to accrue on the unpaid principal in the event payment was not made according to the proposed settlement terms; thus, the Plaintiff's Estevez total balance might be greater on the date he makes a payment.
30. A reasonable consumer could read the notices and be misled into believing that he or she could pay her debt in full by paying the amount listed on the notice.
31. However, since contractual or statutory interest is automatically accruing daily, and since there are undisclosed legal fees that will accrue, a consumer who pays the "Current

Account Balance” stated on the notices will be unaware as to whether or not the debt has been paid in full.

32. The debt collector could still seek the automatically accrued contractual or statutory interest that accumulated after the notices were sent but before the balance was paid, or sell the consumer’s debt to a third party, which itself could seek the interest and fees from the consumer.
33. A letter that states “Current Account Balance,” without notice that the amount is already increasing due to automatically accruing contractual or statutory interest or other charges, would mislead the unsophisticated consumer into believing that payment of the amount stated will clear his or her account.
34. 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 would harm consumers such as the Plaintiffs who may hold the reasonable but mistaken belief, that timely payment will satisfy their debts and it would abrogate the Congressional purpose of full and fair disclosure to consumers that is embodied in Section 1692e.
35. Pursuant to New York state law, statutory interest starts to accrue on the debt from the date of the breach of contract at the rate of 9% per annum.
36. The amount of the contractual or statutory interest, automatically increases each day that the defaulted debt remains unpaid due to the automatically contractual or statutory accrued interest.
37. Collection notices that state only a “Current Account Balance” but fail to disclose that the balance might increase due to interest and fees, are “misleading” within the meaning of Section 1692e.

38. To the extent that the Creditor or the Defendant intended to waive the automatically accrued and accruing interest, it was required to disclose that in the most conspicuous of terms.
39. United Collection Bureau Inc was required to include a disclosure that the automatically accrued interest was accruing, or in the alternative, United Collection Bureau Inc was required to disclose that the creditor has made an intentional decision to waive the automatically accruing interest; yet the Defendant failed to make any such disclosures, violating Section 1692e of the FDCPA.
40. Failure to disclose such a waiver of the automatically accruing interest is in of itself deceptive and “misleading” within the meaning of Section 1692e of the FDCPA.
41. United Collection Bureau Inc knew that balances would increase due to interest, fees and/or disbursements.
42. The Second Circuit adopted a safe harbor disclaimer stating “that requiring such disclosure best achieves the Congressional purpose of full and fair disclosure to consumers that is embodied in Section 1692e. It also protects consumers such as the Plaintiff, who may hold the reasonable but mistaken belief that timely payment will satisfy their debts.” Avila v. Riexinger & Assocs., LLC, 817 F.3d 72, 76 (2d Cir. 2016)
43. Because the statement of the “Current Account Balance” included original principal, fees, and contractual and/or statutory interest, without notice that the accruing interest was expressly waived, can mislead the least sophisticated consumer into believing that payment of the amount stated will clear his or her account, the FDCPA requires debt collectors, when they notify consumers of their account balance, to expressly disclose that interest has stopped accruing.
44. According to the Second Circuit’s finding that the “Amount Due” must contain a full and

fair disclosure, if a credit card account was being charged interest, pursuant to a contract and the interest was intended to be waived, disclosure of such a waiver is necessary or the consumer would not know what the balance is. "[i]n fact, however, if interest is accruing daily, [or was not expressly waived] a consumer who pays the 'current balance' stated on the notice will not know whether the debt has been paid in full. The debt collector could still seek the [accruing or un-waived] interest and fees that accumulated after the notice was sent but before the balance was paid, or sell the consumer's debt to a third party, which itself could seek the interest and fees from the consumer." Avila v. Riexinger & Assocs., LLC, 817 F.3d 72, 76 (2d Cir. 2016)

45. The 8th Circuit in Haney v. Portfolio Recovery Assocs., No. 15-1932, 2016 U.S. App. LEXIS 17287 (8th Cir. Sep. 21, 2016) clearly explains that merely not including interest in post charge off statements is not express waiver of interest, and the debt collector or creditor can seek the interest in the future.
46. In fact, in this case the Plaintiffs are still not sure whether there was any intent to waive the interest. There was definitely no express waiver and disclosure of waiver is mandatory if interest was originally accruing per the contract or per statute. The consumers could not know what the real balance is.
47. The intent to waive a contractual right must be unmistakably manifested and may not be inferred from doubtful or equivocal acts. Navillus Tile, Inc. v. Turner Const. Co., 2 A.D.3d 209, 770 N.Y.S.2d 3 (1st Dep't 2003). A waiver of a contract right does not occur by negligence, oversight or thoughtlessness and cannot be inferred from mere silence. Acumen Re Management Corp. v. General Sec. Nat. Ins. Co., 2012 WL 3890128, at *6 (S.D. N.Y. 2012), reconsideration denied, motion to certify appeal granted, 2012 WL 6053936 (S.D. N.Y. 2012).

48. The 8th Circuit Court of Appeals found that the fact that the debt was charged off and that the creditor or debt buyer did not charge statutory or prejudgment interest in its statements post charge off does not constitute an express waiver and statutory or prejudgment interest is still continuing to accrue and may be charged at a future time.
49. According to the Second Circuit in *Avila*, any such a debt would need full and complete disclosure. See Haney v. Portfolio Recovery Assocs., No. 15-1932, 2016 U.S. App. LEXIS 17287 (8th Cir. Sep. 21, 2016) ("Nothing inherent in the process of charging off a debt precludes a claim for statutory interest, and [the states] prejudgment interest statute does not expressly preclude statutory prejudgment interest following a waiver of contractual interest...[The debtor] received monthly periodic statements from the original creditors prior to charge-off, and at least as to the *Wal-Mart* account, the charge-off statement itself is attached to the pleadings. [The debtor] received a demand for payment of his accounts when due. We conclude any demand requirement that exists as a precondition to the accrual of statutory prejudgment interest was satisfied by the original creditors' demands upon [the debtor].")
50. Failure to disclose such a waiver of the automatically accruing interest is in of itself deceptive and "misleading" within the meaning of Section 1692e. The Defendant knew that the balance would increase due to interest, fees and/or disbursements.
51. Since the "Amount Due" is for an amount that includes original principal, fees, and contractual interest, the collection notice must accurately inform the consumer that interest is accruing daily or that interest has stopped accruing. "Applying these principles, we hold that Plaintiffs have stated a claim that the collection notices at issue here are misleading within the meaning of Section 1692e... a consumer who pays the "current balance" stated on the notice will not know whether the debt has been paid in full." Avila

v. Riexinger & Assocs., LLC, Nos. 15-1584(L), 15-1597(Con), 2016 U.S. App. LEXIS 5327, at *10-11 (2d Cir. Mar. 22, 2016)

52. Although Defendant's collection letters stated a "Current Account Balance" the letters failed to disclose to the Plaintiffs that the Defendant may collect the additional accruing interest at a later date.
53. "The Court therefore finds that [the debt collectors] letters to [the debtor] are subject to two different interpretations as to the accumulation of interest, rendering them deceptive under § 1692e(10) ... The logic [applies] to stated outstanding debt and the need for consumers to be aware that this debt may be dynamic or static. They are concerned with a consumer's inability to discern whether an amount owed may grow with time, regardless of whether offers to settle are on the table or not. As [plaintiff] states, this information is relevant in a consumer's payment calculus, especially when some debts must be paid at the expense of others. And, of course, the existence of settlement offers would be entirely irrelevant to these considerations for the many consumers who are unable to take advantage of them...Plaintiff's claim is not that the stated balance was not itemized, but that it was unclear whether it was subject to future interest." Michalek v. ARS Nat'l Sys., No. 3:11-CV-1374, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 142976, at *16-17 (M.D. Pa. Dec. 13, 2011)
54. Absent a disclosure by the holder of the debt that the automatic interest is waived, even if the debtors pays the "Amount Due" the Defendant and or the creditor **could** still seek the automatic interest that accumulated after the breach of contract, or sell the consumer's debt to a third party, which itself could seek the automatic interest and from the consumer. *Avila*, at *10-11.
55. A waiver of interest, even when made explicitly, has not prevented debt collection agencies from continuing to illegally charge the waived interest. At the bare minimum a

debt collection agency must clearly convey, even to the unsophisticated consumer that it intends to waive the automatically accruing interest, or that the debt has stopped accruing interest.

56. Upon receiving Defendant's collection letters, the Plaintiffs were uncertain whether the "Current Account Balance" was accruing interest as there was no disclosure or admonition indicating otherwise.
57. Defendant's letters would cause the unsophisticated consumers uncertainty and force them to guess how much money is allegedly owed to the Defendant, how much money would accrue daily on the alleged debt, how much additional money would be owed if "Current Account Balance" stated in the collection letters was paid, and if or when the Defendant's collection efforts would actually discontinue if the "Current Account Balance" was remitted to the Defendant.
58. Section 1692e of the FDCPA prohibits a debt collector from using any false, or any deceptive or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of a debt, including the false representation of the character, amount or legal status of any debt, see, 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(2)(A) and § 1692e(10).
59. Upon information and belief, such actions are part of a scheme or business of the Defendant when attempting to collect alleged debts from consumers in the State of New York.
60. Upon information and belief, the Defendant's collection letters, such as the said August 1st, 2016 and November 16th, 2017 collection letter, number in at least the hundreds.
61. The Defendant, by failing to state that it would add interest to the amount of the debt or by failing to clearly waive interest, made materially false statements, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692e of the FDCPA.

62. Defendant's collection letters are in violation of 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692e(2)(A) and 1692e(10) of the FDCPA for the use of any false representation or deceptive means to collect or attempt to collect any debt and for misrepresenting the amount of the debt owed by the Plaintiffs.
63. Plaintiffs suffered injury in fact by being subjected to unfair and abusive practices of the Defendant.
64. Plaintiffs suffered actual harm by being the target of the Defendant's misleading debt collection communications.
65. Defendant violated the Plaintiffs' right not to be the target of misleading debt collection communications.
66. Defendant violated the Plaintiffs' right to a truthful and fair debt collection process.
67. Defendant used materially false, deceptive, misleading representations and means in its attempted collection of Plaintiffs' alleged debt.
68. Defendant's communications were designed to cause debtors to suffer a harmful disadvantage in charting a course of action in response to the Defendant's collection efforts.
69. The FDCPA ensures that consumers are fully and truthfully apprised of the facts and of their rights, the act enables them to understand, make informed decisions about, and participate fully and meaningfully in the debt collection process. The purpose of the FDCPA is to provide information that helps consumers to choose intelligently. The Defendant's false representations misled the Plaintiffs in a manner that deprived them of their right to enjoy these benefits, these materially misleading statements trigger liability under section 1692e of the Act.
70. These deceptive communications additionally violated the FDCPA since they frustrate

the consumers' ability to intelligently choose his or her response.

71. Plaintiffs seeks to end these violations of the FDCPA. Plaintiffs has suffered damages including but not limited to, fear, stress, mental anguish, emotional stress and acute embarrassment. Plaintiff and putative class members are entitled to preliminary and permanent injunctive relief, including, declaratory relief, and damages.

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

72. This action is brought as a class action. Plaintiffs bring this action on behalf of themselves and on behalf of all other persons similarly situated pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.
73. The identities of all class members are readily ascertainable from the records of United Collection Bureau Inc and those business and governmental entities on whose behalf it attempts to collect debts.
74. Excluded from the Plaintiffs' class is the Defendant and all officers, members, partners, managers, directors, and employees of United Collection Bureau Inc, and all of their respective immediate families, and legal counsel for all parties to this action and all members of their immediate families.
75. There are questions of law and fact common to the Plaintiffs' Class, which common issues predominate over any issues involving only individual class members. The principal issues are whether the Defendant's communications with the Plaintiffs, such as the above stated claims, violate provisions of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.
76. The Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the class members, as all are based upon the same facts and legal theories.
77. The Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Plaintiffs' Class defined in this complaint. The Plaintiffs have retained counsel with experience in

handling consumer lawsuits, complex legal issues, and class actions, and neither the Plaintiffs nor their attorneys have any interests, which might cause them not to vigorously pursue this action.

78. This action has been brought, and may properly be maintained, as a class action pursuant to the provisions of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure because there is a well-defined community interest in the litigation:

- (a) **Numerosity:** The Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and on that basis allege, that the Plaintiffs' Class defined above is so numerous that joinder of all members would be impractical.
- (b) **Common Questions Predominate:** Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Plaintiffs' Class and those questions predominate over any questions or issues involving only individual class members. The principal issues are whether the Defendant's communications with the Plaintiffs, such as the above stated claims, violate provisions of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.
- (c) **Typicality:** The Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of the class members. Plaintiffs and all members of the Plaintiffs' Class defined in this complaint have claims arising out of the Defendant's common uniform course of conduct complained of herein.
- (d) **Adequacy:** The Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class members insofar as Plaintiffs has no interests that are adverse to the absent class members. The Plaintiffs are committed to vigorously litigating this matter. Plaintiffs have also retained counsel experienced in handling consumer lawsuits, complex legal issues, and class actions.

Neither the Plaintiffs nor their counsel have any interests, which might cause them not to vigorously pursue the instant class action lawsuit.

- (e) **Superiority:** 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 impracticable. 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 that individual actions would engender. Certification of a class under Rule 23(b)(1)(A) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure is appropriate because adjudications with respect to individual members create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications which could establish incompatible standards of conduct for Defendant who, on information and belief, collects debts throughout the United States of America.
79. Certification of a class under Rule 23(b)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure is also appropriate in that a determination that the above stated claims, violate provisions of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, and is tantamount to declaratory relief and any monetary relief under the FDCPA would be merely incidental to that determination.
80. Certification of a class under Rule 23(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure is also appropriate in that the questions of law and fact common to members of the Plaintiffs' Class 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.

81. Further, Defendant has acted, or failed to act, on grounds generally applicable to the Rule (b)(1)(A) and (b)(2) Class, thereby making appropriate final injunctive relief with respect to the Class as a whole.
82. Depending on the outcome of further investigation and discovery, Plaintiffs may, at the time of class certification motion, seek to certify one or more classes only as to particular issues pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(c)(4).

AS AND FOR A FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION
As to Plaintiff Ari Benchocron
Violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act brought by Plaintiff on behalf of
herself and the members of a class, as against the Defendant.

83. Plaintiff Benchocron repeats, reiterates, and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs numbered one (1) through eighty-two (82) herein with the same force and effect is if the same were set forth at length herein.
84. This cause of action is brought on behalf of Plaintiff Benchocron and the members of a class.
85. The class involves all individuals whom Defendant's records reflect resided in the State of New York and who were sent a collection letter in substantially the same form letter as the letter sent to the Plaintiff Benchocron on or about August 1st, 2016; and (a) the collection letter was sent to a consumer seeking payment of a personal debt; and (b) the collection letter was not returned by the postal service as undelivered; and (c) the Plaintiff Benchocron asserts that the letter contained violations of 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692e(2)(A) and 1692e(10) of the FDCPA for the use of any false representation or deceptive means to collect or attempt to collect any debt and for misrepresenting the amount of the debt owed by the Plaintiff.

AS AND FOR A SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION
As to Plaintiff Raul Estevez

Violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act brought by Plaintiff on behalf of herself and the members of a class, as against the Defendant.

86. Plaintiff Estevez repeats, reiterates, and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs numbered one (1) through eighty-five (85) herein with the same force and effect is if the same were set forth at length herein.
87. This cause of action is brought on behalf of Plaintiff Estevez and the members of a class.
88. The class involves all individuals whom Defendant's records reflect resided in the State of New York and who were sent a collection letter in substantially the same form letter as the letter sent to the Plaintiff Estevez on or about November 16th, 2016; and (a) the collection letter was sent to a consumer seeking payment of a personal debt; and (b) the collection letter was not returned by the postal service as undelivered; and (c) the Plaintiff Estevez asserts that the letter contained violations of 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692e(2)(A) and 1692e(10) of the FDCPA for the use of any false representation or deceptive means to collect or attempt to collect any debt and for misrepresenting the amount of the debt owed by the Plaintiff.

Violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act

89. The Defendant's actions as set forth above in the within complaint violates the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.
90. Because the Defendant violated the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, the Plaintiffs and the members of the class are entitled to damages in accordance with the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, respectfully requests preliminary and permanent injunctive relief, and that this Court enter judgment in Plaintiffs' favor and against the Defendant and award damages as follows:

- (a) Statutory damages provided under the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. § 1692(k);

- (b) Attorney fees, litigation expenses and costs incurred in bringing this action; and
- (c) Any other relief that this Court deems appropriate and just under the circumstances.

Dated: Brooklyn, New York
March 21th, 2017

/s/ Igor Litvak
Igor Litvak, Esq.
Attorneys for the Plaintiffs
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E-mail: Igor@LitvakLawNY.com

Plaintiffs requests trial by jury on all issues so triable.

/s/ Igor Litvak
Igor Litvak, Esq.

ARI D BENCHOCRON
12512 22ND AVE APT 2FL
COLLEGE POINT NY 11356-2606

Creditor: DEPARTMENT STORES NATIONAL BANK (DSNB)
Regarding: MACY'S
Last Four Digits of Creditor Account Number: [REDACTED]
United Collection Bureau, Inc. Reference Number: [REDACTED]
Current Account Balance: \$1093.04

Dear ARI D BENCHOCRON:

Unless you dispute the validity of this debt or any portion thereof please make your payment payable to DSNB at the remit address below or call our office for arrangements.

The below is an itemized accounting of the debt as required by state statute:

Original Creditor:	DEPARTMENT STORES NATIONAL BANK (DSNB)
Total amount due as of charge-off:	\$1093.04
Total amount of interest accrued since charge-off:	\$0.00
Total amount of non-interest charges accrued since charge-off:	\$0.00
Total amount of non-interest fees accrued since charge-off:	\$0.00
Total amount of payments made since charge-off:	\$0.00
Total amount of NSF's/other debits since charge-off:	\$0.00

Please scan the QR code below to be directed to our website to make a payment, or you can go to: www.ucbinc.com, click on make a payment and follow the prompts.



When calling our office at 1-800-890-8548, please refer to reference number [REDACTED]

This is an attempt to collect a debt by United Collection Bureau, Inc., a debt collector, and 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 this 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 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 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.

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION

7600027000MBNY

PLEASE RETURN THIS PORTION WITH PAYMENT. DO NOT ATTACH CHECK TO STOP.
PLEASE MAKE YOUR PAYMENT PAYABLE TO DSNB.

PO BOX 1448
MAUMEE OH 43537
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Creditor: DEPARTMENT STORES NATIONAL BANK (DSNB)
Regarding: MACY'S
Last Four Digits of Creditor Acct: Number: [REDACTED]
Current Account Balance: \$1093.04
United Collection Bureau, Inc. Reference No: [REDACTED]
United Collection Bureau, Inc. Telephone No: 1-800-890-8548

REMIT TO:

August 1, 2016

UNITED COLLECTION BUREAU, INC.
PO BOX 1448
MAUMEE OH 43537

ARI D BENCHOCRON
12512 22ND AVE APT 2FL
COLLEGE POINT NY 11356-2606

187976754



ARI D BENCHOCRON
12512 22ND AVE APT 2FL
COLLEGE POINT NY 11356-2606

Creditor: DEPARTMENT STORES NATIONAL BANK (DSNB)
Regarding: MACY'S
Last Four Digits of Creditor Account Number: [REDACTED]
United Collection Bureau, Inc. Reference Number: [REDACTED]
Current Account Balance: \$1093.04

In accordance with the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq., debt collectors 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.

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.

Please contact the undersigned with respect to any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,
Brian Macionsky
United Collection Bureau, Inc.

Business Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. ET Monday – Thursday
8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. ET Friday

This is an attempt to collect a debt by United Collection Bureau, Inc., a debt collector, and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION

ZBCU02700MDNNY

PLEASE RETURN THIS PORTION WITH PAYMENT. DO NOT ATTACH CHECK TO STUB.
PLEASE MAKE YOUR PAYMENT PAYABLE TO DSNB.

PO BOX 1448
MAUMEE OH 43537
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Creditor: DEPARTMENT STORES NATIONAL BANK (DSNB)
Regarding: MACY'S
Last Four Digits of Creditor Acct. Number: [REDACTED]
Current Account Balance: \$1093.04
United Collection Bureau, Inc. Reference No: [REDACTED]
United Collection Bureau, Inc. Telephone No: 1-800-890-8548

REMIT TO:

August 1, 2016

UNITED COLLECTION BUREAU, INC.
PO BOX 1448
MAUMEE OH 43537

ARI D BENCHOCRON
12512 22ND AVE APT 2FL
COLLEGE POINT NY 11356-2606

187976754



RAUL ESTEVEZ
1229 HALSEY ST APT 4L
BROOKLYN NY 11237-6269

Creditor: CITIBANK, N.A.
Regarding: BEST BUY
Last Four Digits of Creditor Account Number: [REDACTED]
United Collection Bureau, Inc. Reference Number: [REDACTED]
Current Account Balance: \$2063.85

Dear RAUL ESTEVEZ:

On behalf of CITIBANK, N.A., United Collection Bureau, Inc. will accept a settlement in the amount of \$928.73 for the above referenced account. This settlement offer will save you the sum of \$1,135.12. To take advantage of this offer please ensure the total payment is received in our office by November 29, 2016. We are not obligated to renew this offer and this agreement is contingent upon clearance of funds.

If you wish to accept this offer, please contact our office to establish a payment method and date, or mail a copy of this letter together with your payment to the remit address below. Please make your check or money order payable to Citibank. When calling our office, please refer to settlement offer number [REDACTED] and your reference number [REDACTED]

In the event you are unable to accept this offer, we encourage you to contact our office to establish a payment arrangement toward the full balance of the account.

Please scan the QR code below to be directed to our website to make a payment, or you can go to: www.ucbinc.com, click on make a payment and follow the prompts.



Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Please contact the undersigned with respect to any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,
Brian Macionsky
United Collection Bureau, Inc.

Business Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. ET Monday – Thursday
8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. ET Friday

This is an attempt to collect a debt by United Collection Bureau, Inc., a debt collector, and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION

240U027000CSIF

PLEASE RETURN THIS PORTION WITH PAYMENT. DO NOT ATTACH CHECK TO STUB.
PLEASE MAKE YOUR PAYMENT PAYABLE TO CITIBANK

PO BOX 140310
TOLEDO OH 43614
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Creditor: CITIBANK, N.A.
Regarding: BEST BUY
Last Four Digits of Creditor Acct. Number: [REDACTED]
Current Account Balance: \$2063.85
United Collection Bureau, Inc. Reference No: [REDACTED]
United Collection Bureau, Inc. Telephone No: 1-800-890-8738

REMIT TO: [REDACTED]

November 16, 2016

UNITED COLLECTION BUREAU, INC.
PO BOX 140310
TOLEDO OH 43614

RAUL ESTEVEZ
1229 HALSEY ST APT 4L
BROOKLYN NY 11237-6269



827840415

We are required under state law to notify consumers of the following rights. This list does not contain a complete list of the rights consumers have under state and federal law.

When you provide a check as payment, you authorize us either to use information from your check to make a one-time electronic fund transfer from your account or to process the payment as a check transaction.

CALIFORNIA: The state Rosenthal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and the federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act require that, except under unusual circumstances, collectors may not contact you before 8 a.m. or after 9 p.m. They may not harass you by using threats of violence or arrest or by using obscene language. Collectors may not use false or misleading statements or call you at work if they know or have reason to know that you may not receive personal calls at work. For the most part, collectors may not tell another person, other than your attorney or spouse, about your debt. Collectors may contact another person to confirm your location or enforce a judgment. For more information about debt collection activities, you may contact the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-FTC-HELP or www.ftc.gov. Nonprofit credit counseling services may be available in the area.

COLORADO: FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE COLORADO FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, SEE WWW.AGO.STATE.CO.US/CADC/CADCMAIN.CFM. A consumer has the right to request in writing that a debt collector or collection agency cease further communication with the consumer. A written request to cease communication will not prohibit the debt collector or collection agency from taking any other action authorized by law to collect the debt. Payments can be made in person at: Colorado Manager, Inc., Building B, 80 Garden Center, Suite 3, Broomfield, Colorado 80020, 303-920-4763.

IDAHO: Toll Free 1-866-209-0622 during normal business hours.

KANSAS: An investigative consumer report, which includes information as to your character, general reputation, personal characteristics and mode of living, has been requested. You have the right to request additional information, which includes the nature and scope of the investigation.

MAINE: Hours of operation (ET): Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

MASSACHUSETTS: **NOTICE OF IMPORTANT RIGHTS** You have the right to make a written or oral request that telephone calls regarding your debt not be made to you at your place of employment. Any such oral request will be valid for only ten days unless you provide written confirmation of the request postmarked or delivered within seven days of such request. You may terminate this request by writing to the debt collector. Hours of operation (ET): Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

MINNESOTA: This collection agency is licensed by the Minnesota Department of Commerce.

NEW YORK CITY: New York City Department of Consumer Affairs License Number 1004887.

NORTH CAROLINA: North Carolina Permit Numbers: 101866, 3843, 4022 and 4367.

TENNESSEE: This collection agency is licensed by the Collection Service Board of the Department of Commerce and Insurance.

WISCONSIN: This collection agency is licensed by the Division of Banking in the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions, www.wdfi.org.

If you have a concern about the way we are collecting this debt, please call our toll-free Consumer Service Hotline at 1-866-209-0622, email us at LCBCompliance@ucbine.com, or mail us at United Collection Bureau, Inc., Compliance Department, 5620 Southwyck Blvd, Ste 206, Toledo, OH 43614. Please include your account number on all communication.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

ARI BENCHOCRON and RAUL ESTEVEZ on
behalf of themselves and all other similarly situated
consumers

Case No.

Plaintiff,

-against-

UNITED COLLECTION BUREAU INC

Defendant.

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

TO: UNITED COLLECTION BUREAU INC
5620 SOUTHWYCK BLVD., SUITE 206
TOLEDO, OH 43614

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to file with the Clerk of this Court
and serve upon PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY:

IGOR B. LITVAK, ESQ.
THE LITVAK LAW FIRM, PLLC
1701 AVENUE P
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11229

an answer to the complaint which is herewith served upon you, with **21** days after service of this
summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will
be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

CLERK

DATE

BY DEPUTY CLERK

CIVIL COVER SHEET

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

ARI BENCHOCRON AND RAUL ESTEVEZ

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Queens (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) IGOR B. LITVAK, ESQ. THE LITVAK LAW FIRM, PLLC 1701 AVENUE P PHONE / FAX: (718) 989-2908 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11229 E-MAIL: IGOR@LITVAKLAWNY.COM

DEFENDANTS

UNITED COLLECTION BUREAU INC

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.

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)

- Citizen of This State, Citizen of Another State, Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country, PTF DEF, Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State, Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State, Foreign Nation

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

Table with 5 columns: CONTRACT, REAL PROPERTY, TORTS, CIVIL RIGHTS, PRISONER PETITIONS, FORFEITURE/PENALTY, LABOR, IMMIGRATION, BANKRUPTCY, SOCIAL SECURITY, FEDERAL TAX SUITS, OTHER STATUTES. Includes various legal categories like Insurance, Personal Injury, Real Estate, etc.

V. 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, 6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer, 8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity): 15 U.S.C. SECTION 1692 -- FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT (FDCPA) Brief description of cause: UNLAWFUL AND DECEITFUL DEBT COLLECTION BUSINESS PRACTICES

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P. DEMAND \$ CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: Yes No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions): JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER

DATE 03/21/2017 SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD /S/ IGOR B. LITVAK, ESQ.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # AMOUNT APPLYING IFP JUDGE MAG. JUDGE

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, N/A, counsel for _____, 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 of its stocks:

N/A

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 action being filed in the Eastern District removed from a New York State Court located in Nassau or Suffolk County? No
- 2.) 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? No
 - 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: /S/ IGOR B. LITVAK, ESQ.

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: [United Collection Bureau Faces FDCPA Lawsuit](#)
