#### Case 1:17-cv-05309-TWT Document 2 Filed 11/13/17 Page 1 of 10

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PATRICIA M. BENWAY		IN THE
1178 Annis Squam Harbour	2617 OCT -	5 AH 2:58
Pasadena, MD 21122-2554,	2011 001	CIRCUIT COURT
	CIVIL	DIVISION
For herself and on behalf of all others	. CIVIL	FOR
similarly situated,		
···		BALTIMORE CITY, MARYLAND
Plaintiffs,		
		Case No
v.		
EQUIFAX INC.		
c/o The Prentice Hall Corporation Sy	/stem, MA	
7 St. Paul Street, Suite 820	[	Jury Trial Demanded
Baltimore, MD 21202,		
Defendant.		

#### CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff, Patricia M. Benway ("Plaintiff" or the "Ms. Benway"), through her attorneys Gordon, Wolf & Carney, Chtd., for herself and on behalf of all others similarly situated, sues Defendant, Equifax Inc. ("Equifax"), and for their complaint state:

#### INTRODUCTION

1. Equifax is a global credit reporting agency that collects, stores, organizes, analyzes and disseminates data on hundreds of millions of consumers and tens of millions of business worldwide.

2. The data that Equifax collects includes Plaintiffs' and Class Members' personal identifying information ("PII") such as names, Social Security numbers, birth dates, addresses, driver's license numbers and credit card numbers.

3. Congress determined that fair and accurate credit reporting is essential to the banking system. Moreover, inaccurate credit reports lead to inefficiency, and unfair credit reports undermine public confidence, both of which harm the nation's banking system. Congress enacted the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq. ("FCRA") as a balance between providing fair and accurate credit reporting in support of the nation's banking system, and protecting the privacy of consumers. To that end, the FCRA imposes duties on credit reporting agencies ("CRA"), such as Equifax, to protect consumers' PII.

4. One important attribute of the FCRA is the duty imposed on CRAs to safeguard the private information they collect on individuals from inappropriate disclosure. This duty, codified in 15 U.S.C. § 1681b, only allows a CRA to disclose a consumer's information for a "permissible purpose" as defined in the statute. To fulfill this duty, CRAs must maintain procedures to ensure that disclosures are only made for permissible purposes. 15 U.S.C. § 1681e(a).

5. The FCRA allows consumers to monitor access to their PII by giving them the right to request "All information in the consumer's file at the time of the request." 15 U.S.C. § 1681g(a)(1). Through such monitoring, a consumer can often determine if their identity has been stolen.

6. Consumers also may submit a fraud alert to a CRA for either a 90-day period or for an extended period of seven years. 15 U.S.C. § 1681c-1(a)-(b). After being notified of a fraud alert, the CRA must send notification to all CRAs that report information on a nationwide basis. 15 U.S.C. § 1681c-1(a)(1)(B). In the event a consumer requests an extended alert, the CRAs must remove the consumer from lists it sends to third parties in order to extend firm offers of credit, and keep the consumer off such lists for five years unless the consumer requests otherwise. 15 U.S.C. § 1681c-1(b)(1)(B).

7. Consumers also may independently monitor their credit information. Specifically, once a fraud alert notice has been given, the CRA must provide the consumer with the disclosures required under 15 U.S.C. § 1681g. When the consumer requests an extended fraud

alert, the consumer is entitled to two free disclosures under 15 U.S.C. § 1681g within the 12 months following the notification. 15 U.S.C. § 1681c-1(b).

8. These provisions of the FCRA set forth in paragraphs 1-5 (and others) allow consumers to determine if their identity has been stolen, and whether their efforts to protect such thefts have been successful. The FCRA facilitates consumers subject to potential fraud the ability to investigate and determine the extent of any suspected fraud they may have suffered.

9. Equifax failed to properly safeguard the PII of Plaintiff and the Class as required under 15 U.S.C. § 1681e(a), resulting in the May-July 2017 data breach.

10. Plaintiff, for herself and on behalf of all others similarly situated, brings this action to hold Equifax responsible for failing to protect and safeguard the Plaintiffs' and the Class Members' PII.

#### PARTIES, JURISDICTION & VENUE

11. Plaintiff Patricia M. Benway is a natural person and at all times pertinent to this action resided at 1178 Annis Squam Harbour, Pasadena, Maryland 21122-2554. At all times pertinent to this action, Plaintiff was a "consumer" as that term is understood under 15 U.S.C. § 1681a(c).

12. Defendant Equifax Inc. is a corporation incorporated under the laws of the State of Georgia with its principal place of business at 1550 Peachtree Street NE, Atlanta, Georgia. Equifax does substantial business in the State of Maryland through various subsidiaries, and each of these entities acts as agents of Equifax, or alternatively acts in concert with Equifax as alleged in this complaint. Equifax is a "consumer reporting agency" as that term is defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1681a(f).

13. This Court has subject-matter jurisdiction pursuant to § 1-501 of the Courts Article because the amount in controversy exceeds the jurisdictional amount of district court, and Plaintiffs seek a jury trial and to represent a class of persons who are similarly situated.

14. Equifax is subject to personal jurisdiction in this Court pursuant to § 6-103(b)(1-4) of the Courts Article.

15. Venue is appropriate in this Court pursuant to §6-201(a) of the Courts Article because Equifax's principal office in Maryland is in Baltimore City, and Equifax carries on a regular business in Baltimore City.

#### GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

16. On September 7, 2017, Equifax publicly acknowledged that it experienced a data breach in which an unknown third party (or parties) gained unauthorized access to its files containing the PII of Plaintiffs and the Members of the Class. Equifax acknowledged that the data breach started sometime in May 2017, and was discovered by Equifax on July 29, 2017. Equifax chose not to disclose the data breach to Plaintiffs, Members of the Class, or the public at large for nearly 6 weeks after it had been discovered.

17. On or around September 19, 2017, Equifax disclosed for the first time that in or about March 2017 it had suffered a similar data breach, but chose not to notify the Plaintiff, Members of the Class, or the public of this incident. Even with the knowledge of the vulnerability and defects in its cybersecurity system that resulted in the March data breach, Equifax did nothing to inform the Plaintiff, Members of the Class or the public of the significant risks and took no measures or inadequate measures to prevent the data breach that occurred in May-July 2017.

18. The 2017 incidents were not the only data breaches in Equifax's history. Equifax reported data breaches of one sort or another in 2013, 2014 and 2016, all as a result of either lax security, old technology, or both.

19. At all relevant times, Equifax was aware, or reasonably should have been aware, that the PII collected, maintained and stored in its computer systems is highly sensitive, susceptible to attack, and could be used by third parties for wrongful purposes, such as identity theft and fraud.

20. It is well known and the subject of numerous media reports that PII is highly coveted and a frequent target of hackers. Despite the frequent public announcements of data breaches of corporate entities, including Equifax competitor Experian, Equifax maintained an insufficient and inadequate system to protect the PII of Plaintiffs and Members of the Class.

21. PII is a valuable commodity. A "cyber black market" exists in which criminals openly post stolen payment card numbers, Social Security numbers, and other personal information on underground Internet websites. PII is as good as gold to identity thieves because they can use victims' personal data to open new financial accounts and take out loans in another person's name, incur charges on existing accounts, or clone ATM, debit or credit cards.

22. In the nearly six weeks between the discovery of the May-July 2017 data breach (July 29, 2017) and the public disclosure (September 7, 2017), Equifax made no effort to warn the Plaintiff, Members of the Class or the public of the risks to which they had been exposed. But three Equifax executives, during that six-week period, sold approximately \$1.8 million in Equifax stock: Chief Financial Officer John Gamble - \$946,000 on August 1, 2017; President of United States Information Solutions Joseph Loughran - \$584,000 on August 1, 2017; and President of Workforce Solutions Rodolfo Ploder - \$250,000 on August 2, 2017.

23. The May-July 2017 data breach was a direct and proximate result of Equifax's failure to properly safeguard and protect Plaintiff's and Members of the Class' PII from unauthorized access, use and disclosure, as required by the FCRA and industry practices, including failure to establish and implement appropriate administrative, technical and physical safeguards to ensure the security of Plaintiff's and Members of the Class' PII against reasonably foreseeable threats to the security or integrity of such information.

24. Equifax had the resources to prevent a breach, but willfully neglected to adequately invest in data security, despite its own experience with prior data breaches, and knowledge of the increasing number of well-publicized data breaches.

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25. Had Equifax remedied the deficiencies in its data security systems, followed security guidelines, and adopted security measures as recommended by experts in the field, it could have prevented the May-July 2017 data breach and theft of Plaintiff's, and Members of the Class' PII.

#### CLASS ALLEGATIONS

26. Ms. Benway brings this claim on behalf of a Class that consists of:

All persons residing in the United States whose personally identifiable information (PII) was acquired by unauthorized persons in the May-July 2017 data breach.

Excluded from the Class are Equifax and any of its affiliates, parents or subsidiaries; all employees, officers and directors of Equifax; government entities, judges assigned to this case and their immediate families; and court staff.

27. The Class, as defined above, is identifiable. Equifax has access to information regarding the May-July 2017 data breach, the time period of the data breach, and which individual's PII was part of the May-July 2017 data breach. Ms. Benway is a member of the Class.

28. The Class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable. Plaintiff does not know the exact number of members in the Class, but Equifax has publicly announced that the PII of at least 145.5 million individuals was compromised in the May-July 2017 data breach.

29. There are questions of law and fact which are not only common to the Class but which predominate over any questions affecting only individual Class members. The common and predominating questions include, but are not limited to:

(a) Whether Equifax had a duty to protect PII;

(b) Whether Equifax's security measures to protect their systems from a data breach were reasonable and adequate;

(c) Whether Equifax failed to notify consumers of the data breach within a reasonable period of time;

(d) Whether Ms. Benway and Class members are entitled to statutory damages;

(e) Whether Ms. Benway and Class members are entitled to punitive damages; and

(f) Whether Equifax knowingly or willfully maintained inadequate security measures to protect consumers' PII.

30. The claims of Ms. Benway are typical of the claims of the respective members of the Class within the meaning of Md. Rule 2-231(a)(3), and are based on and arise out of the same data breach, and the same actions and/or inactions of Equifax.

31. Ms. Benway will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class within the meaning of Md. Rule 2-231(a)(4). Ms. Benway is committed to vigorously litigating this matter to obtain relief for the Class, and has no conflicts of interest with the Class. Further, Ms. Benway has secured counsel experienced in handling consumer class actions and complex consumer litigation.

32. Neither Ms. Benway nor her counsel has any interests which might cause them not to vigorously pursue this claim.

33. The prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the Class would create a risk of establishing incompatible standards of conduct for Equifax within the meaning of Md. Rule 2-231(b)(1)(A).

34. Common questions of law and fact enumerated above predominate over questions affecting only individual members of the Class and a class action is the superior method for fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy within the meaning of Md. Rule 2-231(b)(3).

35. The likelihood that individual members of the Class will prosecute separate actions is remote due to the time and expense necessary to conduct such litigation.

36. Ms. Benway's counsel are experienced in class actions, and foresee little difficulty in the management of this case as a class action.

#### CAUSE OF ACTION

#### Willful Violation of the Fair Credit Reporting Act 15 U.S.C. §§ 1681 et seq.

37. Plaintiff restates and realleges the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 36 as if fully set forth herein.

38. Equifax violated the FCRA by providing impermissible access to Ms. Benway's and Class' consumer reports, and by failing to maintain adequate procedures to limit the furnishing of consumer reports to the purposes allowed under the FCRA.

39. Equifax acted willfully and recklessly because it knew or should have known about its legal obligations regarding data security, and that its data security measures were inadequate to satisfy its legal obligations. Equifax's willful conduct evidences evil motive, intent to injure, and ill will, constitutes actual malice.

40. Ms. Benway and the Class do not allege actual damages.

41. Ms. Benway and each member of the Class are entitled to recover statutory damages of not less than \$100 and not more than \$1,000.

42. Ms. Benway and the Class are entitled to punitive damages, costs of the action, and reasonable attorney's fees.

WHEREFORE, Patricia M. Benway, individually and on behalf of the Class, respectfully request that the Court enter judgment in their favor and against Equifax as follows:

a. Certify the Class as defined herein pursuant to Md. Rule 2-231(b)(1) and (b)(3);

b. Appoint Ms. Benway as Class Representative;

c. Appoint Plaintiff's counsel as Class Counsel;

d. Award statutory damages of not less than \$100 or more than \$1,000 to Ms. Benway and each member of the Class;

e. Award punitive damages in an amount to be determined by the Court;

f. Award the costs of litigation and reasonable attorney's fees; and

g. Award such other relief that the Court deems just and proper.

[continued for signatures]

Case 1:17-cv-05309-TWT Document 2 Filed 11/13/17 Page 10 of 10

Respectfully submitted,

Kichard S. Gordon rgordon@GWCfirm.com Martin E. Wolf mwolf@GWCfirm.com Benjamin H. Carney bcarney@GWCfirm.com GORDON, WOLF & CARNEY, CHTD. 100 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Suite 100 Towson, Maryland 21204 Tel. (410) 825-2300 Fax. (410) 825-0066

Attorneys for Named Plaintiff and the Putative Class

#### JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury of all issues so triable. Wolf Martin E.

# KING & SPALDING

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Phyllis B. Sumner Direct Dial: +1 404 572 4799 Direct Fax: +1 404 572 5100 psumner@kslaw.com

September 7, 2017

To: Exhibit A; Distribution List

Re: Data Security Incident Affecting Equifax Inc.

Dear Sir or Madam,

I write on behalf of Equifax Inc. ("Equifax") regarding a cybersecurity incident potentially impacting information relating to approximately 143 million U.S. consumers. The approximate number of potentially impacted residents in your state is identified in Exhibit B. Equifax takes seriously its responsibility to protect the security of personal information, and our priority is to assist consumers who may have been impacted. The circumstances of the incident and the steps Equifax is taking to protect consumers are set forth below.

On July 29, 2017, Equifax discovered that criminals exploited a U.S. website application vulnerability to gain access to certain files. Upon discovery, Equifax acted immediately to stop the intrusion. The company promptly engaged a leading, independent cybersecurity firm that has been conducting a comprehensive forensic review to determine the scope of the intrusion, including the specific data impacted. Equifax also reported the criminal access to law enforcement and continues to work with authorities. While the company's investigation is substantially complete, it remains ongoing and is expected to be completed in the coming weeks.

The information accessed primarily includes names, Social Security numbers, birth dates, addresses and, in some instances, driver's license numbers. In addition, credit card numbers for approximately 209,000 U.S. consumers, and certain dispute documents with personal identifying information for approximately 182,000 U.S. consumers, were accessed. The company has found no evidence of unauthorized access on Equifax's core consumer or commercial credit reporting databases.

Equifax has established a dedicated website, www.equifaxsecurity2017.com, to notify consumers of the incident, help them understand if they were potentially impacted, and provide steps they can take to protect against the potential misuse of their information. In addition to the website, Equifax will send direct mail notices to consumers whose credit card numbers or dispute documents with personal identifying information were impacted.

September 7, 2017 Page 2

Equifax is also offering to all U.S. consumers complimentary credit file monitoring and identity theft protection for one year, even if a consumer is not impacted by this incident. The offering, called TrustedID Premier, includes 3-Bureau credit monitoring of Equifax, Experian and TransUnion credit reports; copies of Equifax credit reports; the ability to lock and unlock Equifax credit reports; identity theft insurance; and Internet scanning for Social Security numbers. Information on how to enroll for this offering is included on the dedicated website. Additionally, Equifax has established a dedicated call center, 866-447-7559, available from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. Eastern time, seven days a week, to answer questions about the incident, assist consumers in signing up for the complimentary service, and provide information about how to further protect personal information.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding this notification.

Sincerely,

Phyllis B. Sumner

Enclosures

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## **Exhibit A - Distribution List**

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## Exhibit B – Approximate Number of Potentially Impacted Residents

Maryland – Approximately 2,964,180

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# KING & SPALDING

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October 12, 2017

To: Exhibit A; Distribution List

Re: Data Security Incident Announced on September 7, 2017 Affecting Equifax Inc.

Dear Sir or Madam,

l write on behalf of Equifax Inc. ("Equifax") to follow up on the September 7, 2017 notification regarding a cybersecurity incident impacting the personal information of U.S. consumers. On October 2, 2017, Equifax announced that the cybersecurity firm Mandiant completed the forensic portion of its investigation of the cybersecurity incident announced on September 7, 2017 to finalize the consumers potentially impacted. The completed review determined that approximately 2.5 million additional U.S. consumers were potentially impacted, for a total of approximately 145.5 million. An updated approximate number of potentially impacted residents in your state is identified in Exhibit B.

Mandiant did not identify any evidence of additional or new attacker activity or any access to new databases or tables. Instead, this additional population of consumers was confirmed during Mandiant's completion of the remaining investigative tasks and quality assurance procedures built into the investigative process. To be clear, additional U.S. consumers identified, and the unauthorized access of information, all relate to the cybersecurity incident disclosed on September 7, 2017. To minimize confusion, Equifax will mail written notices to all of the additional potentially impacted U.S. consumers identified since the September 7 announcement. An unaddressed copy of that letter is attached as Exhibit C. The feature on the dedicated website, www.equifaxsecurity2017.com, that U.S. consumers may use to determine whether they may have been impacted has been updated to reflect the additional 2.5 million impacted U.S. consumers. Equifax takes seriously its responsibility to protect the security of personal information, and our priority is to assist consumers who may have been impacted.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding this update.

Phyllis B. Sumner

CC: Zachary Fardon Christopher C. Burris

Enclosures

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Eric T. Schneiderman Office of the New York Attorney General The Capitol Albany, NY 12224-0341	Josh Stein North Carolina Attorney General's Office 9001 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-9001	
Wayne Stenehjem North Dakota Attorney General's Office 600 E. Boulevard Ave. Dept. 125 Bismarck, ND 58505 ndag@nd.gov	Mike DeWine Ohio Attorney General's Office 30 E. Broad Street, 14th Floor Columbus, OH 43215	
Mike Hunter Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General 313 NE 21st Street Oklahoma City, OK 73105	Ellen F. Rosenblum Office of the Oregon Attorney General Oregon Department of Justice 1162 Court Street, NE Salem, OR 97301-4096	

Josh Shapiro Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General 16th Floor, Strawberry Square Harrisburg, PA 17120	Puerto Rico Departmento de Asuntos del Consumidor Ave. José De Diego, Pda. 22 Centro Gubernamental Minillas Edificio Torre Norte, Piso 7 San Juan, PR 00940 servicio@daco.pr.gov
Peter F. Kilmartin Office of the Rhode Island Attorney General 150 South Main Street Providence, RI 02903	Alan Wilson Office of the South Carolina Attorney General P.O. Box 11549 Columbia, SC 29211
Consumer Protection Division of the Department of Consumer Affairs P.O. Box 5757 Columbia, SC 29250	Marty J. Jackley South Dakota Attorney General's Office 1302 East Highway 14, Suite 1 Pierre, SD 57501-8501 consumerhelp@state.sd.us
Herbert H. Slatery, III Office of the Tennessee Attorney General and Reporter P.O. Box 20207 Nashville, TN 37202-0207	Ken Paxton Office of the Texas Attorney General P.O. Box 12548 Austin, TX 78711-2548
Sean D. Reyes Utah Office of the Attorney General Utah State Capitol Complex 350 N. State St., Suite 230 Salt Lake City, UT 84114-2320 uag@agutah.gov	TJ Donovan Vermont Attorney General's Office 109 State Street Montpelier, VT 05609-1001 ago.cap@vermont.gov
Mark R. Herring Office of the Virginia Attorney General 202 North Ninth Street Richmond, VA 23219	Bob Ferguson Washington State Office of the Attorney General 1125 Washington St SE P.O. Box 40100 Olympia, WA 98504-0100 SecurityBreach@atg.wa.gov

Patrick Morrisey Office of the West Virginia Attorney General State Capitol Complex Bldg. 1, Room E-26 Charleston, WV 25305 consumer@wvago.gov	Brad Schimel Office of the Wisconsin Attorney General Wisconsin Department of Justice P.O. Box 7857 Madison, WI 53707-7857
Peter K. Michael Wyoming Attorney General's Office Kendrick Building 2320 Capitol Avenue Cheyenne, WY 82002 ag.consumer@wyo.gov	

## Exhibit B – Approximate Number of Potentially Impacted Residents

### Updated: October 12, 2017

Maryland – Approximately 3,007,916



P.O. Box 105054 Atlanta, GA 30348

Name Street City, State Zip

October 13, 2017

#### NOTICE OF DATA BREACH

Dear Customer:

This letter follows up on the cybersecurity incident Equifax announced on September 7, 2017. At Equifax, our priorities with regard to this incident are transparency and continuing to provide timely, reassuring support to every consumer. You are receiving this letter because you are one of the 2.5 million additional potentially impacted U.S. consumers that has personal information that was potentially exposed, as described below.

#### What Happened

On July 29, 2017, Equifax discovered that criminals exploited a U.S. website application vulnerability to gain access to certain files. Upon discovery, we acted immediately to stop the intrusion. The company promptly engaged a leading, independent cybersecurity firm which has been conducting a comprehensive forensic review to determine the scope of the intrusion, including the specific data impacted. Equifax also reported the criminal access to law enforcement and continues to work with authorities. Based on the company's investigation, the unauthorized access occurred from mid-May through July 2017.

On September 7, 2017 Equifax notified U.S. consumers of the data security incident, including that approximately 143 million U.S. consumers were impacted. On October 2, 2017, following the completion of the forensic portion of the investigation of the incident, Equifax announced that the review determined that approximately 2.5 million additional U.S. consumers were potentially impacted. To minimize confusion, you are receiving this letter because you are one of the 2.5 million additional potentially impacted U.S. consumers.

#### What Information Was Involved

Most of the consumer information accessed includes names, Social Security numbers, birth dates, addresses, and in some instances, driver's license numbers. In addition to this notice, Equifax will send you a direct mail notice if your credit card number was impacted. We have found no evidence of unauthorized access to Equifax's core consumer or conumercial credit reporting databases.

#### What We Are Doing

Upon learning of this incident, Equifax took steps to stop the intrusion, and engaged an independent cybersecurity firm to forensically investigate and determine the scope. Equifax also engaged the cybersecurity firm to conduct an assessment and provide recommendations on steps that can be taken to help prevent this type of incident from happening again.

Equifax is focused on consumer protection and has established dedicated а website, www.equifaxsecurity2017.com to help consumers. We are also offering free identity theft protection and credit file monitoring to all U.S. consumers, even if a consumer is not impacted by this incident. This offering, called TrustedID Premier, includes 3-Bureau credit monitoring of your Equifax, Experian and TransUnion credit reports; copies of your Equifax credit report; the ability to lock and unlock your Equifax credit report; identity theft insurance; and Internet scanning for your Social Security number - all complimentary to U.S. consumers for one year. To find out more information on this complimentary offer and to sign up, please click on the tab "What Can I Do" on the dedicated website. You must complete the enrollment process by January 31, 2018.

In addition, by January 31, 2018, Equifax will offer a new service allowing all consumers the option of controlling access to their personal credit data. The service we are developing will let consumers easily lock and unlock access to their Equifax credit files -- for free, for life.

#### What You Can Do

In addition to enrolling in identity theft protection and credit file monitoring, please see the "Identity Theft Prevention Tips" and State Information below. This information provides additional steps you can take, including how to obtain a free copy of your credit report and place a fraud alert and/or credit freeze on your credit report. In addition, please monitor your account statements and report any unauthorized charges to your credit card companies and financial institutions.

#### For More Information

Equifax is committed to ensuring that your personal information is protected, and we apologize to you for the concern and frustration this incident causes. If you have additional questions, please call our dedicated call center at 866-447-7559, available from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. Eastern time, seven days a week. Si usted tiene preguntas, por favor llama nuestro centro de llamadas que está abierto durante los siete días de la semana desde las 7:00 a.m. hora de la costa este: 866-447-7559.

Sincerely,

Equifax Inc.

#### **Identity Theft Prevention Tips**

We recommend that you remain vigilant for incidents of fraud and identity theft by reviewing account statements and monitoring your credit reports. You may obtain a free copy of your credit report from each company listed below once every 12 months by requesting your report online at www.annualcreditreport.com, calling toll-free 1-877-322-8228, or mailing an Annual Credit Report Request Form (available at www.annualcreditreport.com) to: Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA, 30348-5281. You may also purchase a copy of your credit report by contacting any of the credit reporting agencies below:

Equifax	Experian	TransUnion
PO Box 740241	PO Box 9554	PO Box 2000
Atlanta, GA 30374	Allen, TX 75013	Chester, PA 19016
www.equifax.com	www.experian.com	www.transunion.com
888-766-0008	888-397-3742	800-680-7289

If you believe you are the victim of identity theft, you should contact the proper law enforcement authorities, including local law enforcement, and you should consider contacting your state attorney general and/or the Federal Trade Commission ("FTC"). You also may contact the FTC to obtain additional information about avoiding identity theft.

**Federal Trade Commission**, Consumer Response Center 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20580; 1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338) www.ftc.gov/idtheft

**State Attorneys General**: Information on how to contact your state attorney general may be found at www.naag.org/naag/attorneys-general/whos-my-ag.php.

You may obtain information from the FTC and the credit reporting agencies listed above about placing a fraud alert and/or credit freeze on your credit report.

#### IF YOU ARE A MARYLAND RESIDENT

You may obtain information about avoiding identity theft from the Maryland Attorney General's Office. This office can be reached at:

Office of the State of Maryland Attorney General 200 St. Paul Place Baltimore, MD 21202; 1-888-743-0023 www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov

#### IF YOU ARE A MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENT

Under Massachusetts law, you also have the right to obtain a police report in regard to this incident. If you are the victim of identity theft, you also have the right to file a police report and obtain a copy of it. You may also consider placing a fraud alert message or security freeze on your credit file by calling the toll-free telephone numbers for each of the three national consumer credit reporting agencies listed above. A security freeze prohibits a credit reporting agency from releasing any information from a consumer's credit report without written authorization. However, please be aware that placing a security freeze on your credit report may delay, interfere with, or prevent the timely approval of any requests you make for new loans, credit, mortgages, employment, housing or other services.

If you have been a victim of identity theft and you provide the credit reporting agency with a valid police report, it cannot charge you to place, lift or remove a security freeze. In all other cases, a credit reporting agency may charge you up to \$5.00 each to place, temporarily lift, or permanently remove a security freeze. To place a security freeze on your credit file, you must send a written request to each of the three national consumer reporting agencies listed above by regular, certified or overnight mail. In order to request a security freeze, you will need to provide the following information:

- 1. Your full name (including middle initial as well as Jr., Sr., II, III, etc.);
- 2. Social Security number;
- 3. Date of birth;
- 4. If you have moved in the past five (5) years, provide the addresses where you have lived over the prior five years;
- 5. Proof of current address such as a current utility bill or telephone bill;
- 6. A legible photocopy of a government issued identification card (state driver's license or ID card, military identification, etc.);
- 7. If you are a victim of identity theft, include a copy of either the police report, investigative report, or complaint to a law enforcement agency concerning identity theft;
- 8. If you are not a victim of identity theft, include payment by check, money order, or credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover only). Do not send cash through the mail.

The credit reporting agencies have three (3) business days after receiving your request to place a security freeze on your credit report. The credit bureaus must also send written confirmation to you within five (5) business days and provide you with a unique personal identification number (PIN) or password, or both, that can be used by you to authorize the removal or lifting of the security freeze.

To lift the security freeze in order to allow a specific entity or individual access to your credit report, you must call or send a written request to the credit reporting agencies by mail and include proper identification (name, address, and social security number) and the PIN number or password provided to you when you placed the security freeze as well as the identities of those entities or individuals you would like to receive your credit report or the specific period of time you want the credit report available. The credit reporting agencies have three (3) business days after receiving your request to lift the security freeze for those identified entities or for the specified period of time.

To remove the security freeze, you must send a written request to each of the three credit bureaus by mail and include proper identification (name, address, and social security number) **and** the PIN number or password provided to you when you placed the security freeze. The credit bureaus have three (3) business days after receiving your request to remove the security freeze.

#### IF YOU ARE A NEW MEXICO RESIDENT

Under New Mexico law, you also have the right to obtain a police report in regard to this incident. If you are the victim of identity theft, you also have the right to file a police report and obtain a copy of it. You may also consider placing a fraud alert message or security freeze on your credit file by calling the toll-free telephone numbers for each of the three national consumer credit reporting agencies listed above. A security freeze prohibits a credit reporting agency from releasing any information from a consumer's credit report without written authorization. However, please be aware that placing a security freeze on your credit report may delay, interfere with, or prevent the timely approval of any requests you make for new loans, credit, mortgages, employment, housing or other services.

If you have been a victim of identity theft and you provide the credit reporting agency with a valid police

report, it cannot charge you to place, lift or remove a security freeze. Alternatively, if you are over the age of 65, then the fee will also be waived. In all other cases, a credit reporting agency may charge you up to \$10.00 each to place, temporarily lift, or permanently remove a security freeze. To place a security freeze on your credit file, you must send a written request to **each** of the three national consumer reporting agencies listed above by regular, certified or overnight mail. In order to request a security freeze, you will need to provide the following information:

- 1. Your full name (including middle initial as well as Jr., Sr., II, III, etc.);
- 2. Social Security number;
- 3. Date of birth;
- 4. If you have moved in the past five (5) years, provide the addresses where you have lived over the prior five years;
- 5. Proof of current address such as a current utility bill or telephone bill;
- 6. A legible photocopy of a government issued identification card (state driver's license or ID card, military identification, etc.);
- 7. If you are a victim of identity theft, include a copy of either the police report, investigative report, or complaint to a law enforcement agency concerning identity theft;
- 8. If you are not a victim of identity theft, include payment by check, money order, or credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover only). Do not send cash through the mail.

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To remove the security freeze, you must send a written request to each of the three credit bureaus by mail and include proper identification (name, address, and Social Security number) and the PIN number or password provided to you when you placed the security freeze. The credit bureaus have three (3) business days after receiving your request to remove the security freeze.

#### IF YOU ARE A NORTH CAROLINA RESIDENT

You may obtain information about avoiding identity theft from the North Carolina Attorney General's Office. This office can be reached at:

#### North Carolina Attorney General's Office

9001 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-9001; 919-716-6400 www.ncdoj.gov

#### IF YOU ARE A RHODE ISLAND RESIDENT

You may obtain information about avoiding identity theft from the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office. This office can be reached at:

#### Office of the State of Rhode Island Attorney General

150 South Main Street Providence, RI 02903; 401-274-4400 www.riag.ri.gov

Under Rhode Island law, you also have the right to obtain a police report in regard to this incident. If you are the victim of identity theft, you also have the right to file a police report and obtain a copy of it. You may also consider placing a fraud alert message or security freeze on your credit file by calling the toll-free telephone numbers for each of the three national consumer credit reporting agencies listed above. A security freeze prohibits a credit reporting agency from releasing any information from a consumer's credit report without written authorization. However, please be aware that placing a security freeze on your credit report may delay, interfere with, or prevent the timely approval of any requests you make for new loans, credit, mortgages, employment, housing or other services.

If you have been a victim of identity theft and you provide the credit reporting agency with a valid police report, it cannot charge you to place, lift or remove a security freeze. Alternatively, if you are over the age of 65, then the fee will also be waived. In all other cases, a credit reporting agency may charge you up to \$10.00 each to place, temporarily lift, or permanently remove a security freeze. To place a security freeze on your credit file, you must send a written request to each of the three national consumer reporting agencies listed above by regular, certified or overnight mail. In order to request a security freeze, you will need to provide the following information:

- 1. Your full name (including middle initial as well as Jr., Sr., II, III, etc.);
- 2. Social Security number;
- 3. Date of birth;
- 4. If you have moved in the past five (5) years, provide the addresses where you have lived over the prior five years;
- 5. Proof of current address such as a current utility bill or telephone bill;
- 6. A legible photocopy of a government issued identification card (state driver's license or ID card, military identification, etc.);
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To remove the security freeze, you must send a written request to each of the three credit bureaus by mail and include proper identification (name, address, and Social Security number) and the PIN number or password provided to you when you placed the security freeze. The credit bureaus have three (3) business days after receiving your request to remove the security freeze. IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR Baltimore City

#### CIVIL - NON-DOMESTIC CASE INFORMATION REPORT

(City or County)

- CATIL	11011 2011201100		
	DIRE	CTIONS	1
Plaintiff: This Inform	ation Report must be com	pleted and attached to the co	omplaint filed with the
Clerk of Court unless you	ur case is exempted from t	he requirement by the Chief	Judge of the Court of
Appeals pursuant to Rule			-
		t as required by Rule 2-323	(h).
		CANNOT BE ACCEPTE	
	LAINTIFF DDEFENDA		
		Equifax Inc.	(Clerk to insert)
CASE NAME: Patricia N	Plaintiff	vs	
PARTY'S NAME: Patric	ia M. Benway	DUC	Defendant DNE:
PARTI S NAME;	78 Anis Squam Harbour, J	Pasadena, MD 21122-2554	JNE:
	i e i nie e quain i ia eeu ;		
PARTY'S E-MAIL:	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
If represented by an att	orney: Martin E Walf		(410) 825-2300
PARTY'S ATTORNEY'S	SNAME:	PHO	NE: (410) 825-2300
PARTY'S ATTORNEV'S	AUDBEGGTOO IL LOUNS	yivania Ave., Suite 100, Tov	vson MD 21204
PARTY'S ATTORNEY'S	E-MAIL: mwolf@GWCf	irm.com	
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TORTS	Government	PUBLIC LAW	Constructive Trust
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Assault and Battery Business and Commercial	Product Liability	Bond Forfeiture Remission	
Conspiracy	TROPERTY	Civil Rights	Dist Ct Mtn Appeal
Conversion	Adverse Possession	County/Mncpl Code/Ord	Financial
Defamation	Detinue	Election Law	Grand Jury/Petit Jury
False Arrest/Imprisonmen	It Distrace/Distrain	Eminent Domain/Condemn	
J Fraud	$\Box$ Ejectment	Environment	Derpetuate Testimony/Evidence
Lead Paint - DOB of	G Forcible Entry/Detainer	Error Coram Nobis	Prod. of Documents Req. Receivership
Youngest Plt:	D Foreclosure	Habeas Corpus Mandamus	Sentence Transfer
Loss of Consortium	Commercial	Prisoner Rights	Set Aside Deed
Malicious Prosecution	Residential	Public Info. Act Records	Special Adm Atty
Malpractice-Medical	Currency or Vehicle	Quarantine/Isolation	Subpoena Issue/Quash
Malpractice-Professional	Deed of Trust Land Installments	Writ of Certiorari	Trust Established
Misrepresentation	Lien		Trustee Substitution/Removal Witness Appearance-Compel
Motor Tort Negligence	Mortgage	EMPLOYMENT	PEACE ORDER
JNuisance	Right of Redemption	ADA	D Peace Order
Premises Liability	Statement Condo	Conspiracy	EQUITY
Droduct Linbility	Forfeiture of Property /	EEO/HR	Declaratory Judgment
Specific Performance	Personal Item	OFLSA	Equitable Relief
Trespass	Fraudulent Conveyance Landlord-Tenant	OFMLA	Injunctive Relief
Specific Performance Toxic Tort Trespass Wrongful Death	Lis Pendens	Workers' Compensation	D Mandamus
CONTRACT	Mechanic's Lien	Wrongful Termination	OTHER
Asbestos	Ownership	INDEPENDENT	Accounting
Breach	Partition/Sale in Lieu	PROCEEDINGS	Friendly Suit
Business and Commercial Confessed Judgment	Quiet Title	Assumption of Jurisdiction	Grantor in Possession
	Rent Escrow Return of Seized Property	Authorized Sale	Maryland Insurance Administration
(Cont'd) Construction	Q Right of Redemption	L) Attorney Appointment	Miscellaneous
Debt	Tenant Holding Over	Body Attachment Issuance	Specific Transaction
Fraud	-	Commission Issuance	Structured Settlements

IF NEW OF	R EXISTING CASE: R	ELIEF (Check All that	Apply)	
Abatement Administrative Action Appointment of Receiver Arbitration Asset Determination Attachment b/f Judgment Cease & Desist Order Condemn Bldg Contempt Court Costs/Fees Damages-Compensatory	<ul> <li>Earnings Withholding</li> <li>Enrollment</li> <li>Expungement</li> <li>Findings of Fact</li> <li>Foreclosure</li> <li>Injunction</li> <li>Judgment-Affidavit</li> <li>Judgment-Confessed</li> <li>Judgment-Consent</li> </ul>	□ Judgment-Interest □ Judgment-Summary □ Liability □ Oral Examination □ Order □ Ownership of Property □ Partition of Property	Return of Property         Sale of Property         Specific Performance         Writ-Error Coram Nobis         Writ-Exceution         Writ-Garnish Property         Writ-Garnish Wages         Writ-Habeas Corpus         Writ-Habeas Corpus         Writ-Possession         der	
If you indicated Liability about the may not be used for any purp	pose other than Track Assi	gnment.		
Liability is conceded. Liab	ility is not conceded, but is n	ot seriously in dispute. ILiab	ility is seriously in dispute.	
MONETARY DAM	AGES (Do not include A	ttorney's Fees, Interest, o	r Court Costs)	
□ Under \$10,000 □\$	10,000 - \$30,000 🛛 5	\$30,000 - \$100,000 🛛 🗹	Over \$100,000	
Medical Bills \$	🗇 Wage Loss \$	Property I	Damages \$	
ALTERI	NATIVE DISPUTE RES	OLUTION INFORMATI	ON	
Is this case appropriate for m A. Mediation 20Yes B. Arbitration DYes	eferral to an ADR process ⊡No ≌No	under Md. Rule 17-101? ( C. Settlement Confere D. Neutral Evaluation	nce ØYes ONo	
	SPECIAL REQU	IREMENTS		
If a Spoken Language Interpreter State	erpreter is needed, check h	ere and attach form CC-l	DC-041	
□ If you require an accomm here and attach form CC	odation for a disability und			
ESTIMATED LENGTH OF TRIAL				
With the exception of Baltim	•		timated LENGTH OF	
TRIAL.	(Case will be tracked	accordingly)		
$\Box$ 1/2 day of trial or less		3 days of trial time		
1 day of trial time		More than 3 days of tri	al time	
🛛 2 days of	trial time	•		
BUSINESS AN	ND TECHNOLOGY CAS	SE MANAGEMENT PRO	OGRAM	
For all jurisdictions, if Business and Technology track designation under Md. Rule 16-308 is requested, attach a duplicate copy of complaint and check one of the tracks below.				
C Expedited- Tri	ial within 7 months of	🛙 Standard - Trial with	in 18 months of	

Defendant's response

Defendant's response

#### EMERGENCY RELIEF REQUESTED

COMPLEX SCIENCE AND/OR TECHNOLOGICAL CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (ASTAR)					
FOR PURPOSES OF POSSIBLE SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT TO ASTAR RESOURCES JUDGES under Md. Rule 16-302, attach a duplicate copy of complaint and check whether assignment to an ASTAR is requested.					
	Expedited - Trial within 7 months of Defendant's response       Defendant's response     Defendant's response				
IF YOU ARE FILING YOUR COMPLAINT IN BALTIMORE CITY, OR BALTIMORE COUNTY,					
PLEASE FILL OUT THE APPROPRIATE BOX BELOW. CIRCUIT COURT FOR BALTIMORE CITY (CHECK ONLY ONE)					
Ы	Expedited	Trial 60 to 120 days from notice. Non-jury matters.			
	Civil-Short	Trial 210 days from first answer.			
N N N	Civil-Standard	Trial 360 days from first answer.			
	Custom	Scheduling order entered by individual judge.			
	Asbestos	Special scheduling order.			
	Lead Paint	Fill in: Birth Date of youngest plaintiff			
	Tax Sale Foreclosures Special scheduling order.				
	Mortgage Foreclos	ures No scheduling order.			
CIRCUIT COURT FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY					
<ul> <li>Expedited Attachment Before Judgment, Declaratory Judgment (Simple),</li> <li>(Trial Date-90 days) Administrative Appeals, District Court Appeals and Jury Trial Prayers, Guardianship, Injunction, Mandamus.</li> </ul>					
□ (Tr	Standard (Trial Date-240 days)Condemnation, Confessed Judgments (Vacated), Contract, Employment Related Cases, Fraud and Misrepresentation, International Tort, Motor Tort, Other Personal Injury, Workers' Compensation Cases.				
	Extended Standard (Trial Date-345 days) Asbestos, Lender Liability, Professional Malpractice, Serious Motor Tort Personal Injury Cases (medical expenses and wage loss of \$100,000, exp and out-of-state witnesses (parties), and trial of five or more days), State Insolvency.				
	Complex ial Date-450 days)	Class Actions, Designated Toxic Tort, Major Construction Contracts, Major Product Liabilities, Other Complex Cases.			
	October 5, 2017				
	100 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Suite 100 Martin E. Wolf				
	Addre				

Printed Name

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City

MD

21204

State Zip Code

Towson

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