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JS 44 (Rev. 06/17) The JS 44 civil cover sheet and	the information contained		OVER SHEET	vice of pleadings or other papers er 1974, is required for the use of	3 - 4526 as required by law, except as
provided by local rules of court purpose of initiating the civil do	set sheet. (SEE INSTRUC	TIONS ON NEXT PAGE O	of the United States in September F THIS FORM.)	er 1974, is required for the use of	I the Clerk of Court for the
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFENDAN		4526
BRANDON BEST, individ situated,	lually and on behalivor	all others similarly	ECLIPSE FINAN	NCIAL, L.L.C.	
(b) County of Residence of	/ -	Iontgomery	County of Residen	nce of First Listed Defendant	
(E)	(CEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CA	ISES)	NOTE: IN LAND THE TRA	(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES) CONDEMNATION CASES, USE 1 CT OF LAND INVOLVED.	· ·
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, A MARCUS & ZELMAN, LL	address, and Telephone Numbe	uite 1010cean NU	Attorneys (If Know	(n)	
Tel: 732.695.3282; Email			0112		
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	OTION (Place on "Y" in (	na Bay (Juli)	UL CITIZENSHIP OF	PRINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff
		ne box Only)	(For Diversity Cases Only	v)	and One Box for Defendant) PTF DEF
1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	3 Federal Question (U.S. Government)	Not a Party)	Citizen of This State	PTF DEF 1 1 Incorporated or P of Business In	rincipal Place 🗖 4 🗖 4
2 U.S. Government Defendant	Diversity (Indicate Citizenshi	p of Parties in Item III)	Citizen of Another State	□ 2 □ 2 Incorporated and of Business In	
Ň			Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	□ 3 □ 3 Foreign Nation	□ 6 □ 6
IV. NATURE OF SUIT		ly) RTS	EXADELETTED E/DENAL TO		of Suit Code Descriptions.
	PERSONAL INJURY	PERSONAL INJUR	Y C 625 Drug Related Seizure	□ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158	☐ 375 False Claims Act
<ul> <li>120 Marine</li> <li>130 Miller Act</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>310 Airplane</li> <li>315 Airplane Product</li> </ul>	365 Personal Injury - Product Liability	of Property 21 USC 88		376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a))
140 Negotiable Instrument	Liability	367 Health Care/		PROPERTY RIGHTS	□ 400 State Reapportionment □ 410 Antitrust
150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment		Pharmaceutical Personal Injury		820 Copyrights	430 Banks and Banking
<ul> <li>151 Medicare Act</li> <li>152 Recovery of Defaulted</li> </ul>	330 Federal Employers' Liability	Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal		<ul> <li>830 Patent</li> <li>835 Patent - Abbreviated</li> </ul>	□ 450 Commerce □ 460 Deportation
Student Loans	340 Marine	Injury Product		New Drug Application	470 Racketeer Influenced and
(Excludes Veterans) 153 Recovery of Overpayment	345 Marine Product Liability	Liability PERSONAL PROPER	TY LABOR	840 Trademark     SOCIAL SECURITY	Corrupt Organizations
of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' Suits	<ul> <li>350 Motor Vehicle</li> <li>355 Motor Vehicle</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>370 Other Fraud</li> <li>371 Truth in Lending</li> </ul>	710 Fair Labor Standards Act	<ul> <li>861 H1A (1395ff)</li> <li>862 Black Lung (923)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>499 Cable/Sat TV</li> <li>860 Securities/Commodities/</li> </ul>
190 Other Contract	Product Liability	380 Other Personal	720 Labor/Management	■ 863 D1WC/D1WW (405(g)) ■ 864 SS1D Title XV1	Exchange
<ul> <li>195 Contract Product Liability</li> <li>196 Franchise</li> </ul>	360 Other Personal Injury	Property Damage 385 Property Damage	Relations 740 Railway Labor Act	□ 865 RS1 (405(g))	<ul> <li>890 Other Statutory Actions</li> <li>891 Agricultural Acts</li> </ul>
	362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	Product Liability	751 Family and Medical Leave Act		<ul> <li>893 Environmental Matters</li> <li>895 Freedom of Information</li> </ul>
REAL PROPERTY	CIVIL RIGHTS		S 790 Other Labor Litigation	FEDERAL TAX SUITS	Act
<ul> <li>210 Land Condemnation</li> <li>220 Foreclosure</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>440 Other Civil Rights</li> <li>441 Voting</li> </ul>	Habeas Corpus: 463 Alien Detainee	791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act	870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant)	<ul> <li>896 Arbitration</li> <li>899 Administrative Procedure</li> </ul>
230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	442 Employment	510 Motions to Vacate		871 IRS—Third Party	Act/Review or Appeal of
<ul> <li>240 Torts to Land</li> <li>245 Tort Product Liability</li> </ul>	443 Housing/ Accommodations	Sentence 530 General		26 USC 7609	Agency Decision 950 Constitutionality of
290 All Other Real Property	445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment	535 Death Penalty Other:	IMMIGRATION  462 Naturalization Applicat	ion	State Statutes
	☐ 446 Amer. w/Disabilities -	540 Mandamus & Other	er 🗇 465 Other Immigration	ion	
	Other 448 Education	<ul> <li>550 Civil Rights</li> <li>555 Prison Condition</li> </ul>	Actions		
		560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of			
		Confinement			
V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in		_	<b>.</b>		
		Remanded from C Appellate Court		ther District (fy) G 6 Multidist Litigation Transfer	
	Cite the U.S. Civil Sta 15 U.S.C. 1692	tute under which you ar	re filing (Do not cite jurisdictional s	statutes unless diversity):	
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIC	DN Brief description of ca Defendant violate		- ····································		<u> </u>
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS UNDER RULE 2	IS A <b>CLASS ACTION</b> 3, F.R.Cv.P.	DEMAND \$	CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND	r if demanded in complaint: : 又Yes □No
VIII. RELATED CASE IF ANY	C(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE		DOCKET NUMBER	OCT 10 2017
DATE			FORNEY OF RECORD		<u>(</u>
10/06/2017		NU	$\sim$		51.
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY RECEIPT # AM	IOUNT	APPLYING IFP	JUDGE	MAG. JUI	DGE
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JS 44 Reverse (Rev. 06/17)

cases.)

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

#### Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading 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. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- **I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
  - (b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
  - (c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".

II. Jurisdiction. The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.
 United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here. United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box. Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment

to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked. Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity

- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties. This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: <u>Nature of Suit Code Descriptions</u>.
- V. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.

Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.

Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.

Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.

Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date. Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.

Multidistrict Litigation – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407.

Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7.** Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statue.

- VI. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity. Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- VII. Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P. Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction. Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

# Case 2:17-cv-04526-JD Document 1 Filed 10/10/17 Page 3 of 14

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 27 4526 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF BENNSYLVANIA -- DESIGNATION FORM to be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

7 T

Address of Plaintiff: 305 South Warminster Road, Hatboro PA 19040	
400 Travis Street, Suite 1004, Shreveport, Louisiana	71101
Address of Defendant:	
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction:	Additional Space)
Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation	and any publicly held corporation owning 10% of more of its stock?
(Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a	_ /_ \
Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities?	Yester Notentra UV
RELATED CASE, IF ANY: Case Number: Judge	Date Terminated:
	OCT 1 0 2017
Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions:	
1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one	year previously terminated action in this court?
	Xee
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior action in this court?	sun pending or within one year previously terminated
	Yes No
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier	numbered case pending or within one year previously Yes $\square$ No $\square$
terminated action in this court?	iest Nota
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rigi	hts case filed by the same individual?
	Yes No 🗷
CIVIL: (Place V in ONE CATEGORY ONLY)	P. Diversity Invision Cases
<ul> <li>A. Federal Question Cases:</li> <li>1.  <ul> <li>Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul> <li>B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:</li> <li>1.          Insurance Contract and Other Contracts     </li> </ul>
2. D FELA	<ol> <li>□ Airplane Personal Injury</li> <li>3. □ Assault, Defamation</li> </ol>
3. D Jones Act-Personal Injury	4. □ Marine Personal Injury
4. □ Antitrust 5. □ Patent	5. D Motor Vehicle Personal Injury
	6. □ Other Personal Injury (Please specify)
6. Labor-Management Relations	7. □ Products Liability
7. Civil Rights	8.  Products Liability — Asbestos
<ol> <li>B. □ Habeas Corpus</li> <li>G. □ Securities Act(s) Cases</li> </ol>	9.  All other Diversity Cases
9. D Securities Act(s) Cases	(Please specify)
	(ricase specify)
(1 <sup>1</sup> / 5 All other Federal Question Cases (Please specify) FDCPA - Consumer Credit	
Ari H Marcus Esa (Check Appropriate C	
, counsel of record do hereby cert	ify:
$\int$ pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and $500000.00$ exclusive of interest and costs;	I belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of
<ul> <li>Relief other than monetary damages is sought.</li> </ul>	
	322283
DATE: 10/6/2017 Attorney-at-Law	Attorney I.D.#
<b>NOTE:</b> A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if the	
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending o	r within one year previously terminated action in this court
except as noted above.	
DATE: 10/6/2017	322283
Attorney-at-1 aw	Attorney I D #

# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

## **CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM**

ANDON BEST, individually and on behalf : CIVIL ACTION of all others similarly situated, ECLIPSE FINANCIAL, L.L.C.

NO.17 < 526

In accordance with the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan of this court, counsel for plaintiff shall complete a Case Management Track Designation Form in all civil cases at the time of filing the complaint and serve a copy on all defendants. (See  $\S$  1:03 of the plan set forth on the reverse side of this form.) In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regarding said designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and serve on the plaintiff and all other parties, a Case Management Track Designation Form specifying the track to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned.

# **SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CASE MANAGEMENT TRACKS:**

	TT 1 C	<b>A 1 1 1</b>	28 U.S.C. § 2241 through § 2255.	( )
( )	Hobood Corplic	I acac brought under	$(1 \times 1) \times (1 \times 1)/(1)$ through $\times 1/(1)$	
14	Habbas Colbus -	- Cases Diougnit under	200.3.0.92241 unough $92233$ .	( )
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- (b) Social Security Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits.
- (c) Arbitration Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2. ()
- (d) Asbestos Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from exposure to asbestos.
- (e) Special Management Cases that do not fall into tracks (a) through (d) that are commonly referred to as complex and that need special or intense management by the court. (See reverse side of this form for a detailed explanation of special management cases.)
- (f) Standard Management Cases that do not fall into any one of the other tracks.

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10/6/2017	et	Plaintiff			
Date 732.695.3282	<b>Attorney-at-law</b> 732.298.6256	Attorney for ari@marcuszelman.com			
Telephone	FAX Number	E-Mail Address			
(Civ. 660) 10/02					

OCT 10 2017, 001 19 2017

#### **Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan Section 1:03 - Assignment to a Management Track**

(a) The clerk of court will assign cases to tracks (a) through (d) based on the initial pleading.

(b) In all cases not appropriate for assignment by the clerk of court to tracks (a) through (d), the plaintiff shall submit to the clerk of court and serve with the complaint on all defendants a case management track designation form specifying that the plaintiff believes the case requires Standard Management or Special Management. In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regarding said designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and serve on the plaintiff and all other parties, a case management track designation form specifying the track to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned.

(c) The court may, on its own initiative or upon the request of any party, change the track assignment of any case at any time.

(d) Nothing in this Plan is intended to abrogate or limit a judicial officer's authority in any case pending before that judicial officer, to direct pretrial and trial proceedings that are more stringent than those of the Plan and that are designed to accomplish cost and delay reduction.

(e) Nothing in this Plan is intended to supersede Local Civil Rules 40.1 and 72.1, or the procedure for random assignment of Habeas Corpus and Social Security cases referred to magistrate judges of the court.

#### SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CASE ASSIGNMENTS (See §1.02 (e) Management Track Definitions of the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan)

Special Management cases will usually include that class of cases commonly referred to as "complex litigation" as that term has been used in the Manuals for Complex Litigation. The first manual was prepared in 1969 and the Manual for Complex Litigation Second, MCL 2d was prepared in 1985. This term is intended to include cases that present unusual problems and require extraordinary treatment. See §0.1 of the first manual. Cases may require special or intense management by the court due to one or more of the following factors: (1) large number of parties; (2) large number of claims or defenses; (3) complex factual issues; (4) large volume of evidence; (5) problems locating or preserving evidence; (6) extensive discovery; (7) exceptionally long time needed to prepare for disposition; (8) decision needed within an exceptionally short time; and (9) need to decide preliminary issues before final disposition. It may include two or more related cases. Complex litigation typically includes such cases as antitrust cases; cases involving a large number of parties or an unincorporated association of large membership; cases involving requests for injunctive relief affecting the operation of large business entities; patent cases; copyright and trademark cases; common disaster cases such as those arising from aircraft crashes or marine disasters; actions brought by individual stockholders; stockholder's derivative and stockholder's representative actions; class actions or potential class actions; and other civil (and criminal) cases involving unusual multiplicity or complexity of factual issues. See §0.22 of the first Manual for Complex Litigation and Manual for Complex Litigation Second, Chapter 33.

,	Case 2	2:17-cv-04526-JD Dc	ocument :	L Filed 10/10/17	Page 6	of 14	
Ar 400	JD	UNITED ST FOR THE EASTER		STRICT COURT		1	
$\checkmark$		BEST, individually and o thers similarly situated,	on Ci	vil Case Number:		4526	
		Plaintiffs,		<u>CIVIL</u>	ACTION	I	
		-against-		CLASS ACTIO	AND		
	ECI IPSE FIN	JANCIAL, L.L.C.				.1	
	Lelli 51 m				OCT 10		
		Defendants.		K	ATE BARKMA	Dam Clerk	

Plaintiff BRANDON BEST (hereinafter, "Plaintiff"), a Pennsylvania resident, brings this class action complaint by and through the undersigned attorneys, against Defendant ECLIPSE FINANCIAL, L.L.C. (hereinafter "Defendant"), individually and on behalf of a class of all others similarly situated, pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, based upon information and belief of Plaintiff's counsel, except for allegations specifically pertaining to Plaintiff, which are based upon Plaintiff's personal knowledge.

# **INTRODUCTION/PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

- Congress enacted the FDCPA in 1977 in response to the "abundant evidence of the use of abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection practices by many debt collectors." 15 U.S.C. § 1692(a). At that time, Congress was concerned that "abusive debt collection practices contribute to the number of personal bankruptcies, to material instability, to the loss of jobs, and to invasions of individual privacy." *Id.* Congress concluded that "existing laws . . . [we]re inadequate to protect consumers," and that "the effective collection of debts" does not require "misrepresentation or other abusive debt collection practices." 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692(b) & (c).
- 2. Congress explained that the purpose of the Act was not only to eliminate abusive debt collection practices, but also to "insure that those debt collectors who refrain from using

abusive debt collection practices are not competitively disadvantaged." *Id.* § 1692(e). After determining that the existing consumer protection laws were inadequate, *id.* § 1692(b), Congress gave consumers a private cause of action against debt collectors who fail to comply with the Act. *Id.* § 1692k.

#### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 3. The Court has jurisdiction over this class action under 28 U.S.C. § 1331, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq. and 28 U.S.C. § 2201. If applicable, the Court also has pendent jurisdiction over the state law claims in this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).
- 4. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2).

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

- 5. Plaintiff brings this class action on behalf of a class of Pennsylvania consumers seeking redress for Defendant's actions of using false, deceptive and misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of an alleged debt.
- 6. Defendant's actions violated § 1692 et seq. of Title 15 of the United States Code, commonly referred to as the Fair Debt Collections Practices Act ("<u>FDCPA</u>") which prohibits debt collectors from engaging in false, deceptive or misleading practices.
- 7. Plaintiff is seeking damages, and declaratory and injunctive relief.

#### PARTIES

- Plaintiff is a natural person and a resident of the State of Pennsylvania, and is a "Consumer" as defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692(a)(3).
- 9. Defendant ECLIPSE FINANCIAL, L.L.C. is a collection agency with its registered agent located at 400 Travis Street, Suite 1004, Shreveport, LA 71101.
- 10. Upon information and belief, Defendant is a company that uses the mail, telephone, or facsimile in a business the principal purpose of which is the collection of debts, or that regularly collects or attempts to collect debts alleged to be due another.
- 11. Defendant is a "debt collector," as defined under the FDCPA under 15 U.S.C. §

1692a(6).

#### ALLEGATIONS OF FACT

- 12. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs above herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.
- 13. Some time prior to September 8, 2017, an obligation was allegedly incurred to PURCHASING POWER LLC.
- 14. The alleged PURCHASING POWER LLC obligation arose out of a transaction in which money, property, insurance or services, which are the subject of the transaction, are primarily for personal, family or household purposes.
- 15. The alleged PURCHASING POWER LLC obligation is a "debt" as defined by 15 U.S.C.§ 1692a(5).
- 16. PURCHASING POWER LLC is a "creditor" as defined by 15 U.S.C.§ 1692a(4).
- 17. Defendant contends that the PURCHASING POWER LLC debt is past due.
- 18. Defendant is a company that uses mail, telephone or facsimile in a business the principal purpose of which is the collection of debts, or that regularly collects or attempts to collect debts incurred or alleged to have been incurred for personal, family or household purposes on behalf of creditors.
- 19. PURCHASING POWER LLC sold or assigned the alleged debt to the Defendant.
- 20. On or about September 8, 2017, the Defendant caused to be delivered to the Plaintiff a letter in attempt to collect the alleged debt. *See* Exhibit A.
- 21. The September 8, 2017 letter was sent or caused to be sent by persons employed by Defendant as a "debt collector" as defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(6).
- 22. The September 8, 2017 letter is a "communication" as defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(2).
- 23. The Plaintiff received and read said letter.
- 24. The letter stated in part:

"This communication is from an attorney debt collector."

- 25. Upon information and belief, there is no attorney associated with this debt collector or the alleged debt.
- 26. As such, the communication was not from an attorney.
- 27. Pursuant to the FDCPA, a debt collector may not use any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt.
- 28. By falsely representing that the communication was from an attorney, the Defendant violated various provisions of the FDCPA and harmed the Plaintiff.
- 29. Defendants could have taken the steps necessary to bring its actions within compliance with the FDCPA, but neglected to do so and failed to adequately review its actions to ensure compliance with the law.

### **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

- 30. Plaintiff brings claims, pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (hereinafter "FRCP") Rule 23, individually and on behalf of the following consumer class (the "Class") consisting of: a) All consumers who have an address in the state of Pennsylvania b) who were sent a collection letter from the Defendant c) attempting to collect a consumer debt owed to Eclipse Financial, LLC d) which states "This communication is from an attorney debt collector" e) which letter was sent on or after a date one year prior to the filing of this action and on or before a date 21 days after the filing of this action.
- 31. The identities of all class members are readily ascertainable from the records of Defendants and those companies and entities on whose behalf they attempt to collect and/or have purchased debts.
- 32. Excluded from the Plaintiff Classes are the Defendants and all officers, members, partners, managers, directors, and employees of the Defendants and their respective immediate families, and legal counsel for all parties to this action and all members of

their immediate families.

- 33. There are questions of law and fact common to the Plaintiff Classes, which common issues predominate over any issues involving only individual class members. The principal issue is whether the Defendants' written communications to consumers, in the forms attached as *Exhibit A*, violate 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.
- 34. The Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the class members, as all are based upon the same facts and legal theories.
- 35. The Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Plaintiff Classes 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.
- 36. 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) <u>Numerosity</u>: The Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and on that basis allege, that the Plaintiff Classes defined above are so numerous that joinder of all members would be impractical.
  - (b) <u>Common Questions Predominate:</u> Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Plaintiff Classes and those questions predominate over any questions or issues involving only individual class members. The principal issue is whether the Defendants' written communications to consumers, in the forms attached as *Exhibit A*, violate 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.
  - (c) <u>Typicality:</u> The Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of the class members. The Plaintiffs and all members of the Plaintiff Classes have claims arising out of the Defendants' common uniform course of conduct complained of herein.

- (d) <u>Adequacy:</u> The Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class members insofar as Plaintiffs have no interests that are averse 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) <u>Superiority:</u> A class action is superior to the other available means for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy because individual joinder of all members would be 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.
- 37. 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 Plaintiff Classes 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.
- 38. Depending on the outcome of further investigation and discovery, Plaintiffs may, at the time of class certification motion, seek to certify a class(es) only as to particular issues pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(c)(4).

#### <u>COUNT I</u>

# VIOLATIONS OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT 15 U.S.C. §1692e et seq.

39. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs

above herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.

- 40. Defendants' debt collection efforts attempted and/or directed towards the Plaintiff violated various provisions of the FDCPA, including but not limited to 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.
- 41. Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692e, a debt collector may not use any false,misleading and/or deceptive means to collect or attempt to collect any debt orto obtain information concerning a consumer.
- 42. The Defendants violated said section in its letter to the Plaintiff by:
  - a. Using a false, deceptive, and misleading representations or means in connection with the collection of a debt;
  - b. Falsely representing that the communication was from an attorney in violation of 1692e(3);
  - c. Making a false representation or using deceptive means to collect a debt in violation of 1692e(10).
- 43. By reason thereof, Defendant is liable to Plaintiff for judgment that Defendant's conduct violated Section 1692e *et seq.* of the FDCPA, actual damages, statutory damages, costs and attorneys' fees.

# DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY

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

# PRAYER FOR RELIEF

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WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendants as follows:

(a) Declaring that this action is properly maintainable as a Class Action and

certifying Plaintiff as Class representative and undersigned as Class Counsel;

- (b) Awarding Plaintiff and the Class statutory damages;
- (c) Awarding Plaintiff and the Class actual damages;
- (d) Awarding Plaintiff costs of this Action, including reasonable attorneys'

fees and expenses;

- (e) Awarding pre-judgment interest and post-judgment interest; and
- (f) Awarding Plaintiff and the Class such other and further relief as this

Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: October 5, 2017

By:

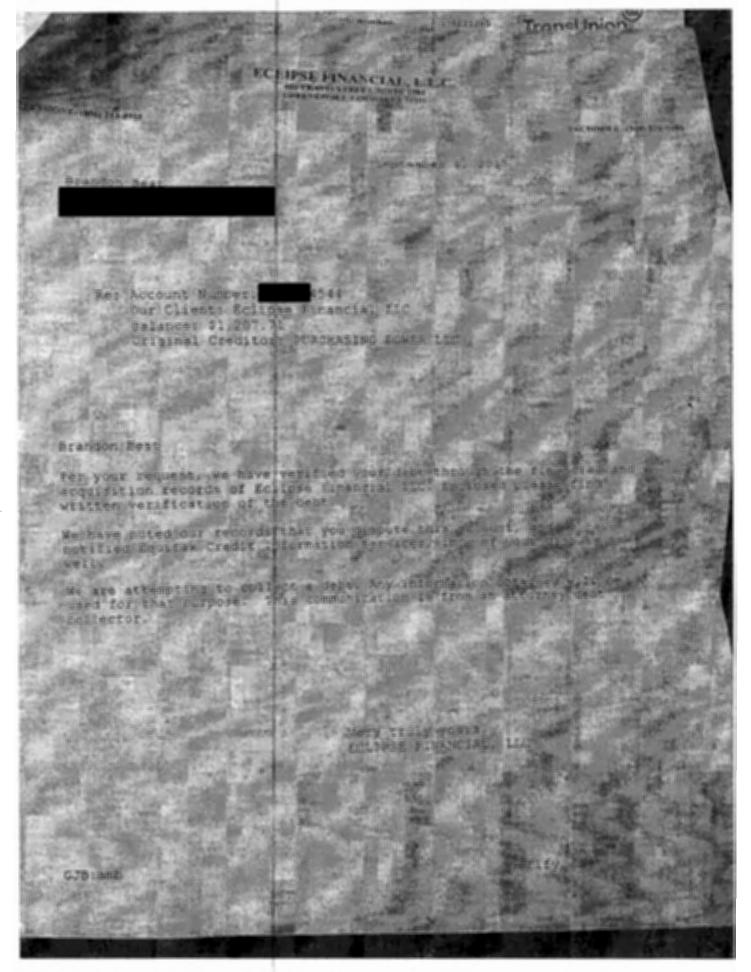
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<u>s/ Ari H. Marcus</u> Ari H. Marcus, Esq. MARCUS ZELMAN, LLC 1500 Allaire Avenue, Suite 101 Ocean, New Jersey 07712 Phone: (732) 695-3282 Facsimile: (732) 298-6256 Email: <u>ari@marcuszelman.com</u> Attorneys for Plaintiff

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# **ClassAction.org**

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: Lawsuit: Eclipse Financial Falsely Purports Attorney Involvement in Debt Collection