#### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS GALVESTON DIVISION

Trent Bonner, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated;

Plaintiff,

Civil Action No: 18-307

#### **CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

#### **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

-v.-

Dynamic Recovery Solutions, LLC, LVNV Funding, LLC and John Does 1-25

Defendants.

Plaintiff Trent Bonner (hereinafter, "Plaintiff" or "Bonner"), a Texas resident, brings this Class Action Complaint by and through his attorneys, The Law Office of Jonathan Kandelshein, against Defendant Dynamic Recovery Solutions, LLC (hereinafter "Defendant Dynamic") and Defendant LVNV Funding, LLC (hereinafter "Defendant LVNV"), individually and on behalf of a class of all others similarly situated, pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, based upon information and belief of Plaintiff's counsel, except for allegations specifically pertaining to Plaintiff, which are based upon Plaintiff's personal knowledge.

#### **INTRODUCTION/PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

1. Congress enacted the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (hereinafter "the FDCPA" or "Act")) 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,

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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 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et. seq. The Court 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), as this is where a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred.

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

5. Plaintiff brings this class action on behalf of a class of Texas consumers under §1692 et seq. of Title 15 of the United States Code, commonly referred to as the Fair Debt Collections Practices Act ("FDCPA"), and

6. Plaintiff is seeking damages and declaratory relief.

#### **PARTIES**

Plaintiff is a resident of the State of Texas, County of Brazoria, residing at 8226
 Tartan Court, Rosharon, TX 77583.

Defendant Dynamic is a "debt collector" as the phrase is defined in 15 U.S.C.
 § 1692(a)(6) and used in the FDCPA with an address at 135 Interstate Blvd., Suite 6, Greenville, SC 29615.

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

10. Defendant LVNV is a "debt collector" as the phrase is defined in 15 U.S.C.
§ 1692(a)(6) and used in the FDCPA with an address at P.O. Box 740281, Houston, TX 77274.

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

12. John Does 1-25, are fictitious names of individuals and businesses alleged for the purpose of substituting names of Defendants whose identities will be disclosed in discovery and should be made parties to this action.

#### **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

Plaintiff brings this claim on behalf of the following case, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ.P. 23(a) and 23(b)(3).

14. The Class consists of:

a. all individuals with addresses in the State of Texas;

- b. to whom Defendant Dynamic sent a collection letter attempting to collect a consumer debt;
- c. on behalf of Defendant LVNV;
- d. whose letter offers the consumer settlement options for reduced amounts;
- e. but actually requires the consumer to make payments which total more than the amount offered in the settlement option;
- f. which letter was sent on or after a date one (1) year prior to the filing of this action and on or before a date twenty-one (21) days after the filing of this action.

15. 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.

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

17. There are questions of law and fact common to the Plaintiff Class, 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 and 1692f.

18. The Plaintiff's claims are typical of the class members, as all are based upon the same facts and legal theories. The Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Plaintiff Class defined in this complaint. The Plaintiff has retained counsel with experience in handling consumer lawsuits, complex legal issues, and class actions, and neither the Plaintiff

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nor her attorneys have any interests, which might cause them not to vigorously pursue this action.

19. 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 Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that the Plaintiff Class defined above is 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 Class and those questions predominance 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 USC §1692e and 1692f.
- c. <u>Typicality</u>: The Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the class members.
   The Plaintiff and all members of the Plaintiff Class have claims arising out of the Defendants' common uniform course of conduct complained of herein.
- d. <u>Adequacy:</u> The Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class members insofar as Plaintiff has no interests that are adverse to the absent class members. The Plaintiff is committed to vigorously litigating this matter. Plaintiff has also retained counsel experienced in handling consumer lawsuits, complex legal issues, and class actions. Neither the Plaintiff nor her 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.

20. 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 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.

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

#### FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

22. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs numbered above herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.

23. Some time prior to October 3, 2017, an obligation was allegedly incurred to Conn Appliances, Inc.

24. The Conn Appliances, Inc. obligation arose out of transactions involving household goods which were purchased primarily for personal, family or household purposes.

25. The alleged Conn Appliances, Inc. obligation is a "debt" as defined by 15 U.S.C.§1692a(5).

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26. Due to his financial constraints, Plaintiff could not pay the alleged debt, and it went into default.

27. Sometime thereafter, Defendant LVNV purportedly purchased the alleged debt.

28. Defendant LVNV, a subsequent owner of the Conn Appliances, Inc. debt, contracted with the Defendant Dynamic to collect the alleged debt.

29. Defendant Dynamic and Defendant LVNV collect and attempt to collect debts incurred or alleged to have been incurred for personal, family or household purposes on behalf of creditors using the United States Postal Services, telephone and internet.

#### Violation – October 3, 2017 Collection Letter

30. On or about October 3, 2017, Defendant Dynamic sent Plaintiff an intial collection letter (the "Letter") regarding the alleged debt owed to Defendant LVNV. See a true and correct copy of the Letter attached hereto as Exhibit A.

31. The Letter was an attempt to collect an alleged balance of \$2,073.54 which, according to Defendants, is the amount owed on Plaintiff's alleged debt.

32. Defendants offered Plaintiff several settlement options to satisfy the debt for less than the full amount allegedly owed:

a. Option One offers Plaintiff a resolution of his account in full for \$829.42 if paid in full by November 17, 2017

b. Option Two offers Plaintiff full resolution of the account for \$933.09, payable in two payments of \$466.55 each..

c. Option Three offers Plaintiff resolution of the account for \$1,036.77, payable in four payments of \$259.19 each.

33. The second option is confusing and misleading.

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34. In this option Defendant strategically determines the amount of each of the two required payments and provides this plan to Plaintiff.

35. The sum of the required two payments results in a total amount paid of \$933.10.

36. However, this amount is higher than the amount offered in Settlement Option Two.

37. Upon information and belief, Defendant effectively believes that since it is only seeking a minor amount greater than the stated settlement amount, the difference is not noticeable.

38. However, no matter how small the amount is, Defendant is simply not entitled to collect an amount different than that of the statement settlement offer as it is a false statement and is misleading to the consumer.

39. Further, it is an attempt to collect an amount greater than allowed under the proposed offer.

40. When viewed in aggregate over a class of consumers, this unauthorized collection leads to a potentially exhorbitant amount illegally charged by Defendants.

41. Both Defendants Dynamic and LVNV are debt collectors as defined under the FDCPA.

42. Defendant Dynamic was acting as Defendant LVNV's agent and, thus, Defendant LVNV is vicariously liable.

43. Defendants made false and misleading representations when they offered Plaintiff a settlement offer the terms of which deceptively attempted to collect more than the amount of the offer, in violation of 15 U.S.C. §§1692e, 1692e(2), 1692e(10) and 1692f.

44. As a result of Defendants' deceptive, misleading and unfair debt collection practices, Plaintiff has been damaged.

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

45. 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.

46. 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.

47. Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692e, a debt collector may not use any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt.

48. Defendants made false and misleading representations when they offered Plaintiff a settlement offer the terms of which deceptively attempted to collect more than the amount of the offer, in violation of 15 U.S.C. §§1692e, 1692e(2), 1692e(10)

49. By reason thereof, Defendants are liable to Plaintiff for judgment that Defendants' conduct violated Section 1692e et seq. of the FDCPA, actual damages, statutory damages, costs and attorneys' fees.

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

50. 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.

51. 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. § 1692f.

52. Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692f, a debt collector may not use unfair or unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect any debt.

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53. Defendants made unfair offers and misrepresentations when they offered Plaintiff a settlement offer the terms of which attempted to collect more than the amount of the offer, in violation of 15 U.S.C. §§1692f.

54. By reason thereof, Defendants are liable to Plaintiff for judgment that Defendants' conduct violated Section 1692f et seq. of the FDCPA, actual damages, statutory damages, costs and attorneys' fees.

#### **DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY**

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

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff Trent Bonner, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, demands judgment from Defendant Dynamic Recovery Solutions, LLC and Defendant LVNV Funding, LLC, as follows:

1. Declaring that this action is properly maintainable as a Class Action and certifying Plaintiff as Class representative, and Jonathan Kandelshein, Esq. as Class Counsel;

- 2. Awarding Plaintiff and the Class statutory damages;
- 3. Awarding Plaintiff and the Class actual damages;

4. Awarding Plaintiff costs of this Action, including reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses;

5. Awarding pre-judgment interest and post-judgment interest; and

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6. Awarding Plaintiff and the Class such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

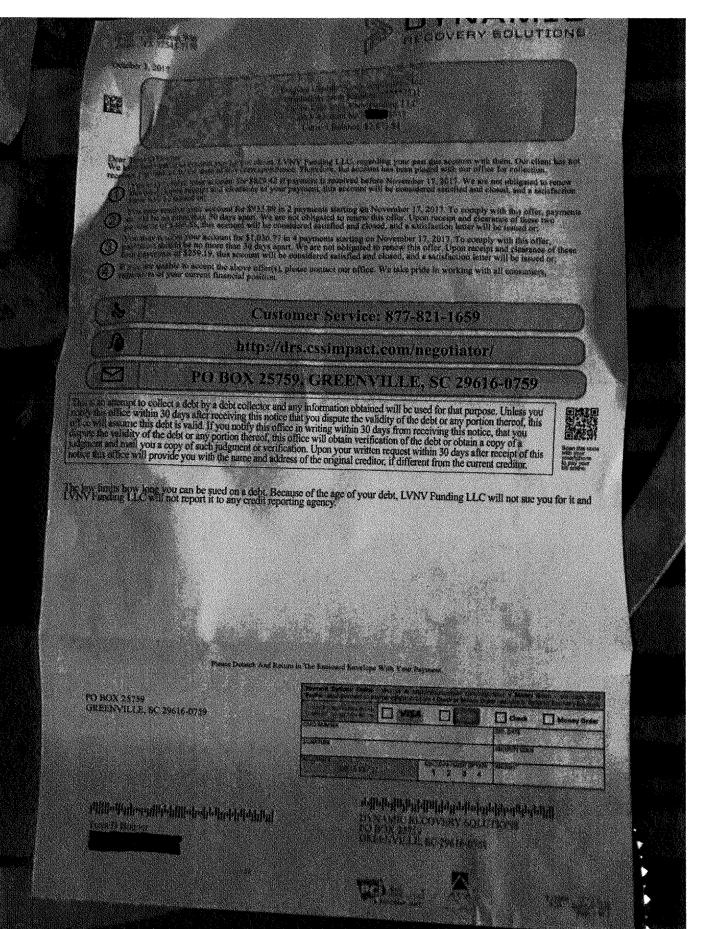
Dated: October 3, 2018

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Jonathan Kandelshein Jonathan Kandelshein TX Bar No. 24094768 18208 Preston Rd, Suite D-9 #256 Dallas, TX 75252 Tel: 469-677-7863 Fax: 972-380-8118 jonathan.kandelshein@gmail.com Counsel for Plaintiff Trent Bonner Case 3:18-cv-00307 Document 1-1 Filed in TXSD on 10/03/18 Page 1 of 2

# EXHIBIT A

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### JS 44 (Rev. 11/15) Case 3:18-cv-00307 Decument Cover Sheet on 10/03/18 Page 1 of 2

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.)* 

1 1									
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS Trent Bonner, individual	ated,	d, DEFENDANTS Dynamic Recovery Solutions, LLC, LVNV Funding, LLC and John Does 1-25,							
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Brazoria (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)					
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, A	Address, and Telephone Numbe	er)		Attorneys (If Known)	)				
The Law Offices of Jonathan Kandelshein, Esq. 18208 Preston Rd. Suite D-9 #256, Dallas, TX 75252									
Tel: (469) 677-7863	D-9 #200, Dallas, TA	15252							
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X" in C	One Box Only)		<b>TIZENSHIP OF F</b> (For Diversity Cases Only)		AL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in and One Box f	-	
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<ul> <li>160 Stockholders' Suits</li> <li>190 Other Contract</li> </ul>	355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability	<ul> <li>371 Truth in Lending</li> <li>380 Other Personal</li> </ul>	<b>7</b> 20	0 Labor/Management Relations	<ul> <li>863 DIW</li> <li>864 SSII</li> </ul>	/C/DIWW (405(g))	850 Securit Exchar		odities/
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VI. CAUSE OF ACTION		atute under which you ar ion Practices Act - 1	15 USC	Sect. 1692 et seq.					
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VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:Image: Complexity of the co			I DI	EMAND \$       CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:         JURY DEMAND:       X Yes         No					
VIII. RELATED CAS	E(S) (See instructions):								
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#### 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 cases.**)

- **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 the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerk(s) in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.
- V. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the six 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. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.

- 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.

## **ClassAction.org**

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Dynamic Recovery Solutions, LVNV Funding Hit with Class Action Over 'Misleading' Settlement</u> <u>Offer</u>