

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN
MILWAUKEE DIVISION**

RHONDA BOWER, Individually and on Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated,)	Case No.: 17-cv-1683
)	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
Plaintiff,)	
v.)	
PHILLIPS & COHEN ASSOCIATES, LTD.,)	Jury Trial Demanded
Defendant.)	
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INTRODUCTION

1. This class action seeks redress for collection practices that violate the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 *et seq.* (the “FDCPA”).

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. The court has jurisdiction to grant the relief sought by the Plaintiff pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1337. Venue in this District is proper in that Defendant directed its collection efforts into the District.

PARTIES

3. Plaintiff Rhonda Bower is an individual who resides in the Eastern District of Wisconsin (Milwaukee County).

4. Plaintiff is a “consumer” as defined in the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3), in that Defendant sought to collect from her a debt allegedly incurred for personal, family, or household purposes.

5. Defendant Phillips & Cohen Associates, Ltd. (“Phillips”) is a foreign corporation with its principal offices located at 1002 Justison Street, Wilmington, DE 19801.

6. Phillips is engaged in the business of a collection agency, using the mails and telephone to collect consumer debts originally owed to others.

7. Phillips is engaged in the business of collecting debts owed to others and incurred for personal, family or household purposes. Phillips is a debt collector as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692a.

FACTS

8. On September 25, 2017, Phillips called Plaintiff's cellular telephone and left a voicemail message regarding an alleged debt owed to "BMO Harris Bank N.A." ("BMO Harris").

9. Upon information and belief, the alleged debt that Phillips was attempting to collect was a personal credit card account, used only for personal, family, or household purposes.

10. 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a) requires debt collectors to provide a written notice including certain information to consumers within five days of the initial contact with the consumer:

Notice of debt; contents

Within five days after the initial communication with a consumer in connection with the collection of any debt, a debt collector shall, unless the following information is contained in the initial communication or the consumer has paid the debt, send the consumer a written notice containing—

- (1) the amount of the debt;
- (2) the name of the creditor to whom the debt is owed;
- (3) a statement that unless the consumer, within thirty days after receipt of the notice, disputes the validity of the debt, or any portion thereof, the debt will be assumed to be valid by the debt collector;
- (4) a statement that if the consumer notifies the debt collector in writing within the thirty-day period that the debt, or any portion thereof, is disputed, the debt collector will obtain verification of the debt or a copy of a judgment against the consumer and a copy of such verification or judgment will be mailed to the consumer by the debt collector; and
- (5) a statement that, upon the consumer's written request within the thirty-day period, the debt collector will provide the consumer with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor.

11. Upon information and belief, Phillips did not send a written communication containing a debt validation notice to Plaintiff within five days of the September 25, 2017 phone call.

12. Plaintiff reviews her mail personally every day. She does not dispose of collection letters, but brings them to her attorneys.

13. Plaintiff had lived at her current address for more than one year before the September 25, 2017 phone call. She had not moved residences and was not in the process of moving in September 2017.

14. Moreover, Plaintiff has been involved in several other billing and collection disputes. As a result, she is careful not to dispose of any mail that could be relevant to those disputes.

15. If Phillips had mailed a collection letter to Plaintiff, she would have received it and brought it to her attorneys.

16. There is no requirement that a consumer make a showing of materiality for a debt collector's failure to comply with 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a). *Janetos v. Fulton Friedman & Gullace, LLP*, 825 F.3d 317, 324 (7th Cir. 2016) ("we have not extended the implicit materiality requirement of § 1692e to reach claims under § 1692g(a).").

17. For the purposes of Plaintiff's claims under 15 U.S.C. § 1692e, Phillips's misrepresentation is a material false statement.

18. The debt validation notice informs consumers of their rights under 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(b), which states:

Disputed debts

If the consumer notifies the debt collector in writing within the thirty-day period described in subsection (a) that the debt, or any portion thereof, is disputed, or that the consumer requests the name and address of the original creditor, the debt

collector shall cease collection of the debt, or any disputed portion thereof, until the debt collector obtains verification of the debt or a copy of a judgment, or the name and address of the original creditor, and a copy of such verification or judgment, or name and address of the original creditor, is mailed to the consumer by the debt collector. Collection activities and communications that do not otherwise violate this subchapter may continue during the 30-day period referred to in subsection (a) unless the consumer has notified the debt collector in writing that the debt, or any portion of the debt, is disputed or that the consumer requests the name and address of the original creditor. Any collection activities and communication during the 30-day period may not overshadow or be inconsistent with the disclosure of the consumer's right to dispute the debt or request the name and address of the original creditor.

19. Failing to provide the validation notice interferes with the 30-day period in which the consumer has the right to temporarily stop collection activities. See 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(b).

20. On October 9, 2017, Phillips again called Plaintiff's cellular telephone regarding the alleged debt owed to BMO Harris.

21. On or about October 25, 2017, Phillips mailed a debt collection letter to Plaintiff regarding an alleged debt, allegedly owed "BMO Harris Bank N.A." ("BMO Harris"). A copy of this letter is attached to this complaint as Exhibit A.

22. Upon information and belief, Exhibit A is a form letter, generated by computer, and with the information specific to Plaintiff inserted by computer.

23. Upon information and belief, Exhibit A is a form debt collection letter used by Phillips to attempt to collect alleged debts.

24. Exhibit A was the first letter Plaintiff received from Phillips regarding the alleged debt.

25. Exhibit A contains the following settlement offer:

Interested in reducing your balance?

To accept this offer, call us at **866-504-1701** to set-up an approved payment plan. Once all payments are received and clear, you are released from your creditor's debt obligation and collection activity ends.

If you are unable to pay in full or pay the reduced amount, please contact our office to discuss your situation and available solutions. Please notify us of your decision or payment status by **November 24, 2017***.

26. The settlement offer in Exhibit A falsely states or implies that the settlement offer is valid only if accepted by November 24, 2017.

27. Upon information and belief, Phillips had authority from BMO Harris to settle consumers' accounts for 40% of the amount owed, or less, at any time.

28. Statements such as a settlement offer is a "limited time offer," or that the offer expires on a specific date, or that payments must be received by that date, are false and misleading because the same offer is, upon information and belief, available at any time.

29. Such false statements are material false statements, as they impart in the unsophisticated consumer, a false belief that he or she must hurry to take Phillips of a limited-time opportunity, when in reality, there is no such time limit.

30. The Seventh Circuit has established "safe harbor" language regarding settlement offers in collection letters:

As in previous cases in which we have created safe-harbor language for use in cases under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, we think the present concern can be adequately addressed yet the unsophisticated consumer still be protected against receiving a false impression of his options by the debt collector's including with the offer the following language: "We are not obligated to renew this offer." The word "obligated" is strong and even the unsophisticated consumer will realize that there is a renewal possibility but that it is not assured.

Evory v. RJM Acquisitions Funding L.L.C., 505 F.3d 769, 775-76 (7th Cir. 2007).

31. Phillips did not use the safe harbor language in Exhibit A.
32. Plaintiff was confused by Exhibit A.
33. The unsophisticated consumer would be confused by Exhibit A.
34. Plaintiff had to spend time and money investigating Exhibit A and the consequences of any potential responses to Exhibit A.

35. Plaintiff had to take time to obtain and meet with counsel, including travel to counsel's office by car and its related expenses (including but not limited to the cost of gasoline and mileage), to advise Plaintiff on the consequences of Exhibit A.

36. The FDCPA creates substantive rights for consumers; violations cause injury to consumers, and such injuries are concrete and particularized. *Pogorzelski v. Patenaude & Felix APC*, No. 16-C-1330, 2017 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 89678 *9 (E.D. Wis. June 12, 2017) (“A plaintiff who receives misinformation from a debt collector has suffered the type of injury the FDCPA was intended to protect against.”); *Spuhler v. State Collection Servs.*, No. 16-CV-1149, 2017 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 177631 (E.D. Wis. Oct. 26, 2017) (“As in *Pogorzelski*, the Spuhlers’ allegations that the debt collection letters sent by State Collection contained false representations of the character, amount, or legal status of a debt in violation of their rights under the FDCPA sufficiently pleads a concrete injury-in-fact for purposes of standing.”); *Bock v. Pressler & Pressler, LLP*, No. 11-7593, 2017 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 81058 *21 (D.N.J. May 25, 2017) (“through [s]ection 1692e of the FDCPA, Congress established ‘an enforceable right to truthful information concerning’ debt collection practices, a decision that ‘was undoubtedly influenced by congressional awareness that the intentional provision of misinformation’ related to such practices, ‘contribute[s] to the number of personal bankruptcies, to marital instability, to the loss of jobs, and to invasions of individual privacy,”); *Quinn v. Specialized Loan Servicing, LLC*, No. 16 C 2021, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 107299 *8-13 (N.D. Ill. Aug. 11, 2016) (rejecting challenge to Plaintiff’s standing based upon alleged FDCPA statutory violation); *Lane v. Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC*, No. 15 C 10446, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 89258 *9-10 (N.D. Ill. July 11, 2016) (“When a federal statute is violated, and especially when Congress has created a cause of action for its violation, by definition Congress has created a legally protected interest that it deems

important enough for a lawsuit.”); *Church v. Accretive Health, Inc.*, No. 15-15708, 2016 U.S. App. LEXIS 12414 *7-11 (11th Cir. July 6, 2016) (same); *see also Mogg v. Jacobs*, No. 15-CV-1142-JPG-DGW, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 33229, 2016 WL 1029396, at *5 (S.D. Ill. Mar. 15, 2016) (“Congress does have the power to enact statutes creating legal rights, the invasion of which creates standing, even though no injury would exist without the statute,” (quoting *Sterk v. Redbox Automated Retail, LLC*, 770 F.3d 618, 623 (7th Cir. 2014))). For this reason, and to encourage consumers to bring FDCPA actions, Congress authorized an award of statutory damages for violations. 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a).

37. Moreover, Congress has explicitly described the FDCPA as regulating “abusive practices” in debt collection. 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692(a) – 1692(e). Any person who receives a debt collection letter containing a violation of the FDCPA is a victim of abusive practices. *See* 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692(e) (“It is the purpose of this subchapter to eliminate abusive debt collection practices by debt collectors, to insure that those debt collectors who refrain from using abusive debt collection practices are not competitively disadvantaged, and to promote consistent State action to protect consumers against debt collection abuses”).

38. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e generally prohibits “any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt.”

39. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(1) specifically prohibits the false representation that “the debt collector is vouched for, bonded by, or affiliated with the United States or any State, including the use of any badge, uniform, or facsimile thereof.”

40. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(9) specifically prohibits “the use or distribution of any written communication which simulates or is falsely represented to be a document authorized, issued, or

approved by any court, official, or agency of the United States or any State, or which creates a false impression as to its source, authorization, or approval.”

41. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(10) specifically prohibits the “use of any false representation or deceptive means to collect or attempt to collect any debt.”

42. 15 U.S.C. § 1692f generally prohibits “unfair or unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect any debt.”

COUNT I – FDCPA

43. Plaintiff incorporates by reference as if fully set forth herein the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

44. Phillips first contacted Plaintiff by telephone on September 25, 2017.

45. Phillips never provided a written debt validation notice to Plaintiff.

46. Phillips sent its first written communication to Plaintiff on or around October 25, 2017. Exhibit A. Exhibit A does not include the FDCPA validation notice.

47. Phillips conduct is misleading and confusing to the unsophisticated consumer, in that the notice of Plaintiff’s debt validation rights was never provided. 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a).

48. The Defendant has therefore violated 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692e(10), 1692g(a) and 1692g(b).

COUNT II – FDCPA

49. Plaintiff incorporates by reference as if fully set forth herein the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

50. Exhibit A includes false statements to the effect that the settlement offer is for a limited time only.

51. Upon information and belief, the creditor and/or Phillips would settle Plaintiff's and class members' debts at the offered discount and likely for less at any time, regardless of the supposed deadline.

52. Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692e(10) and 1692f.

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

53. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of a class consisting of (a) all natural persons in the State of Wisconsin (b) who were sent an initial collection letter in the form represented by Exhibit A to the complaint in this action, (c) seeking to collect a debt for personal, family or household purposes, (d) between November 30, 2016, and November 30, 2017, inclusive, (e) that was not returned by the postal service.

54. The class is so numerous that joinder is impracticable. Upon information and belief, there are more than 50 members of the Class.

55. There are questions of law and fact common to the members of the class, which common questions predominate over any questions that affect only individual class members. The predominant common question is whether the Defendant complied with 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692e(10), and 1692f, and whether Defendant complied with 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii).

56. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the class members. All are based on the same factual and legal theories.

57. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent the interests of the class members. Plaintiff has retained counsel experienced in consumer credit and debt collection abuse cases.

58. A class action is superior to other alternative methods of adjudicating this dispute. Individual cases are not economically feasible.

JURY DEMAND

59. Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests that the Court enter judgment in favor of Plaintiff and the Class and against Defendant for:

- (a) actual damages;
- (b) statutory damages;
- (c) attorneys' fees, litigation expenses and costs of suit; and
- (d) such other or further relief as the Court deems proper.

Dated: December 1, 2017

ADEMI & O'REILLY, LLP

By: s/ John D. Blythin
John D. Blythin (SBN 1046105)
Mark A. Eldridge (SBN 1089944)
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EXHIBIT A

Phillips & Cohen Associates, Ltd.
Mail Stop: 924
1002 Justison Street
Wilmington, DE 19801
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



PHILLIPS & COHEN
ASSOCIATES LTD.

Ph 866-504-1701 • mail@phillips-cohen.com
Office Hours: M-Th: 8am-9pm, Fri: 8am-6pm EST
Sat: 8am-12pm EST

October 25, 2017

Phillips & Cohen Associates, Ltd.
Mail Stop: 924
1002 Justison Street
Wilmington, DE 19801-5148

556483199



RHONDA BOWER
4537 W Ramsey Ave Apt 96
Greendale WI 53129-2041



008481
1 of 1

Reference #: [REDACTED] 804
Balance: \$1,618.51

PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE WITH YOUR PAYMENT

Re: Our Client/Your Creditor: BMO Harris Bank N.A.
Client Account #: ***2208**
Reference #: [REDACTED] 804
Balance: \$1,618.51

OFFER TO REDUCE YOUR BALANCE

Dear RHONDA BOWER:

It is our hope to resolve your financial obligation owed to BMO Harris Bank N.A. without continuing our collection efforts. To make repayment easier, please consider the below offer to resolve your debt for less than the full amount:

Balance Reduction Offer Pay 60% of the amount owed or \$971.11

Interested in reducing your balance?

To accept this offer, call us at **866-504-1701** to set-up an approved payment plan. Once all payments are received and clear, you are released from your creditor's debt obligation and collection activity ends.

If you are unable to pay in full or pay the reduced amount, please contact our office to discuss your situation and available solutions. Please notify us of your decision or payment status by **November 24, 2017***.

Sincerely,
Phillips & Cohen Associates, Ltd.

** IMPORTANT CONSUMER INFORMATION **

* Although this offer has an expiration date, other opportunities may be available at a later time.

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

This collection agency is exempt from licensing by the Division of Banking in the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions, www.wdfi.org.

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

Place an X in the appropriate Box: Green Bay Division Milwaukee Division

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

RHONDA BOWER

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Milwaukee

(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

Ademi & O'Reilly, LLP, 3620 E. Layton Ave., Cudahy, WI 53110
(414) 482-8000-Telephone (414) 482-8001-Facsimile

DEFENDANTS

PHILLIPS & COHEN ASSOCIATES, LTD.

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant _____

(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff
- 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
- 2 U.S. Government Defendant
- 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | PTF | DEF | | PTF | DEF |
| Citizen of This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Incorporated <i>or</i> Principal Place of Business In This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Citizen of Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Incorporated <i>and</i> Principal Place of Business In Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Foreign Nation | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |

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

CONTRACT	TORTS		FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance	PERSONAL INJURY	PERSONAL INJURY	<input type="checkbox"/> 610 Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158	<input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment
<input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine	<input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane	<input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Med. Malpractice	<input type="checkbox"/> 620 Other Food & Drug	<input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157	<input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust
<input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881	PROPERTY RIGHTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking
<input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument	<input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander	<input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 630 Liquor Laws	<input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights	<input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce
<input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment	<input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability	PERSONAL PROPERTY	<input type="checkbox"/> 640 R.R. & Truck	<input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent	<input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine	<input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud	<input type="checkbox"/> 650 Airline Regs.	<input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark	<input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations
<input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans)	<input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending	<input type="checkbox"/> 660 Occupational Safety/Health	SOCIAL SECURITY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit
<input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits	<input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage	<input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff)	<input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV
<input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits	<input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	LABOR	<input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923)	<input type="checkbox"/> 495 Selective Service
<input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract	<input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury		<input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))	<input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange
<input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability			<input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations	<input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI	<input type="checkbox"/> 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410
<input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise			<input type="checkbox"/> 730 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g))	<input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions
REAL PROPERTY	CIVIL RIGHTS	PRISONER PETITIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act	FEDERAL TAX SUITS	<input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts
<input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation	<input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting	<input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence	<input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation	<input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant)	<input type="checkbox"/> 892 Economic Stabilization Act
<input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure	<input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment	Habeas Corpus:	<input type="checkbox"/> 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters
<input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	<input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations	<input type="checkbox"/> 530 General	IMMIGRATION		<input type="checkbox"/> 894 Energy Allocation Act
<input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land	<input type="checkbox"/> 444 Welfare	<input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty	<input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application		<input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act
<input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment	<input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 463 Habeas Corpus - Alien Detainee		<input type="checkbox"/> 900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice
<input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	<input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights	<input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions		<input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
	<input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights	<input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition			

V. ORIGIN

(Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- 1 Original Proceeding
- 2 Removed from State Court
- 3 Remanded from Appellate Court
- 4 Reinstated or Reopened
- 5 Transferred from another district (specify)
- 6 Multidistrict Litigation
- 7 Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):

15 U.S.C. 1692 et seq

Brief description of cause:

Violation of Fair Debt Collection Practices Act

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23

DEMAND \$ _____

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:

JURY DEMAND: Yes No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions):

JUDGE _____

DOCKET NUMBER _____

DATE

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

December 1, 2017

s/ John D. Blythin

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # _____

AMOUNT _____

APPLYING IEP _____

JUDGE _____

MAG. JUDGE _____

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.C.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; 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 clerks 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 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. (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.

Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment. (7) Check this box for an appeal from a magistrate judge's decision.

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 dollar amount (in thousands of dollars) 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.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
for the
Eastern District of Wisconsin

RHONDA BOWER

Plaintiff(s)

v.

PHILLIPS & COHEN ASSOCIATES, LTD.

Defendant(s)

Civil Action No. 17-cv-1683

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address) PHILLIPS & COHEN ASSOCIATES, LTD.
c/o CORPORATION TRUST CENTER
1209 ORANGE ST
Wilmington, DE 19801

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you receive it) – or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(a)(2) or (3) – you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or the plaintiff’s attorney, whose name and address are:

John D. Blythin
Ademi & O'Reilly, LLP
3620 East Layton Avenue
Cudahy, WI 53110

If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

STEPHEN C. DRIES, CLERK OF COURT

Date: _____

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(l))

This summons and the attached complaint for *(name of individual and title, if any)*:

_____ were received by me on *(date)* _____.

I personally served the summons and the attached complaint on the individual at *(place)*:

_____ on *(date)* _____ ; or

I left the summons and the attached complaint at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with *(name)*

_____, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there, on *(date)* _____, and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or

I served the summons and the attached complaint on *(name of individual)* _____

who is designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of *(name of organization)* _____ on *(date)* _____ ; or

I returned the summons unexecuted because _____ ; or

Other *(specify)*: _____

My fees are \$ _____ for travel and \$ _____ for services, for a total of \$ _____ 0.00

I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.

Date: _____

Server's signature

Printed name and title

Server's address

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc.:

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: [Phillips & Cohen Associates Pegged with Debt Collection Class Action](#)
