UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT MIDDLE DISTRICT FLORIDA TAMPA DIVISION

ALDA CABRERA,	individually and on	behalf of all others
similarly situated,		

Plaintiff,

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

DYNAMIC RECOVERY SOLUTIONS, LLC, JEFFERSON CAPITAL SYSTEMS, LLC and JOHN DOES 1-25,

Defendants.

Plaintiff Alda Cabrera (hereinafter, "Plaintiff" or "Cabrera"), a Florida resident, brings this Class Action Complaint by and through her attorneys, Zeig Law Firm, LLC, against Defendant Dynamic Recovery Solutions, LLC (hereinafter "Defendant Dynamic") and Defendant Jefferson Capital Systems, LLC (hereinafter "Defendant Jefferson"), 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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CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

Civil Action No: __

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 any 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 Florida 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

- 7. Plaintiff is a resident of the State of Florida, County of Hillsborough, residing at 8716

 North Ola Avenue, Tampa, FL 33604.
- 8. 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 Jefferson 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 16 McLeland Road, Saint Cloud, MN 56303.
- 11. Upon information and belief, Defendant Jefferson 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

- 13. 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 Florida;

- b. to whom Defendant Dynamic sent a collection letter attempting to collect a consumer debt;
- c. on behalf of Defendant Jefferson;
- 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

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. Adequacy: 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 December 13, 2017, an obligation was allegedly incurred to Cellco Partnership (hereinafter "Cellco").
- 24. The Cellco obligation arose out of Plaintiff's alleged receipt of Verizon Wireless telecommunications services, which Plaintiff allegedly obtained primarily for personal, family or household purposes.
 - 25. The alleged Cellco obligation is a "debt" as defined by 15 U.S.C.§ 1692a(5).

- 26. Due to her financial constraints, Plaintiff could not pay the alleged debt, and it went into default.
 - 27. Sometime thereafter, Defendant Jefferson purportedly purchased the alleged debt.
- 28. Defendant Jefferson, a subsequent owner of the Cellco debt, contracted with the Defendant Dynamic to collect the alleged debt.
- 29. Defendant Dynamic and Defendant Jefferson 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 - December 13, 2017 Collection Letter

- 30. On or about December 13, 2017, Defendant Dynamic sent Plaintiff a collection letter (the "Letter") regarding the alleged debt owed to Defendant Jefferson. 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 \$983.10 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 her account in full for \$442.40 if paid in full by January 27, 2018.
 - b. Option Two offers Plaintiff full resolution of the account for \$491.55, payable in two payments of \$245.78 each.
 - c. Option Three offers Plaintiff resolution of the account for \$540.71, payable in four payments of \$135.18 each.
 - 33. The third option is confusing and misleading.

- 34. In this option Defendant strategically determines the amount of each of the four required payments and provides this plan to Plaintiff.
 - 35. The sum of the four required payments results in a total amount paid of \$540.72.
 - 36. However, this amount is higher than the amount offered in Settlement Option Three.
- 37. Upon information and belief, Defendants effectively believe that since they are 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, Defendants are simply not entitled to collect an amount different than that of the stated 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 Jefferson are debt collectors as defined under the FDCPA.
- 42. Additionally, Defendant Dynamic was acting as Defendant Jefferson's agent in its attempt to collect Plaintiff's defaulted debt and, thus, Defendant Jefferson 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.

- 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 Alda Cabrera, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, demands judgment from Defendant Dynamic Recovery Solutions, LLC and Defendant Jefferson Capital Systems, LLC, as follows:

- 1. Declaring that this action is properly maintainable as a Class Action and certifying Plaintiff as Class representative, and Justin Zeig, 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

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

Dated: November 21, 2018

Respectfully Submitted,

ZEIG LAW FIRM, LLC

/s/ Justin Zeig
Justin Zeig, Esq.
FL Bar No. 112306
3475 Sheridan Street, Suite 310
Hollywood, FL 33021
Telephone: 754-217-3084
Fax: 954-272-7807
justin@zeiglawfirm.com
Attorneys for Plaintiff

EXHIBIT A

Netvicoli i i

December 13, 2017





Original Creditor: CELLCO PARTNERSHIP
Debt Description: VERIZON WIRELESS
Original Account Number: ********0001.
Current Creditor: Jefferson Capital Systems, LLC
DRS Account No.: 9188
Current Balance: \$983.10

Dear Alda N Cabrera,

We did not receive a response from our initial contact letter. In order to assist you in clearing this debt, we are offering you options have options listed below are not your only options.

- You may resolve your account for \$442,40 if payment is received before January 27, 2018. We are not obligated to renew in offer. Upon receipt and clearance of your payment, this account will be satisfied and closed, and a satisfaction letter will be or;
- You may resolve your account for \$491.55 in 2 payments starting on January 27, 2018. To comply with this offer, payments should be no more than 30 days apart. We are not obligated to renew this offer. Upon receipt and clearance of these two payments should be no more than 30 days apart. We are not obligated to renew this offer. Upon receipt and clearance of these two payments should be no more than 30 days apart. We are not obligated to renew this offer. Upon receipt and clearance of these two payments should be no more than 30 days apart. We are not obligated to renew this offer. Upon receipt and clearance of these two payments.
- You may resolve your account for \$540.71 in 4 payments starting on January 27, 2018. To comply with this offer, payment should be no more than 30 days apart. We are not obligated to renew this offer. Upon receipt and clearance of these four payment of \$135.18, this account will be considered satisfied and closed, and a satisfaction letter will be issued or.
- If you are unable to accept the above offer(s), please contact our office. We take pride in working with all consumers, regardless of your current financial position.

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Customer Service: 877-821-1659

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http://drs.cssimpact.com/negotiator/



PO BOX 25759, GREENVILLE, SC 29616-0759

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

The DISCLOSURE: When you provide a check as payment, you authorize us either to use information from your check to make a one-time electronic fund master to be proved the payment as a check transaction. When information from your check is used to make an electronic fund master turns may be officially from your account as soon as the same day we receive your payment, and you will not receive your check back from your funancial institution. If you wish the authorization and cancel this payment, or if the amount withdrawn is different than the amount authorized herein, please call 871-821-1659 sebusen 911 and 301 PM. EST, Monday – Friday at least 2 business days prior to the date of the payment.

he have limits how long you can be sued on a debt. Because of the age of your debt, Jefferson Capital Systems, LLC was the left of the credit reporting agencies as any way.

consists a partial payment on this account it may restart the statute of limitations on this account.

IS 44 (Rev. 06/17) Case 8:18-cv-02900-MSS-COVIDGOMER SHEETED 11/28/18 Page 1 of 2 PageID 14 The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.) I. (a) PLAINTIFFS Alda Cabrera, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated (b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Hillsborough County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

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(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Hillsborough (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)			County of Residence of First Listed Defendant			
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JS 44 Reverse (Rev. 06(17) Case 8:18-cv-02900-MSS-TGW Document 1-2 Filed 11/28/18 Page 2 of 2 PageID 157

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:

- Plaintiffs-Defendants. Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use 1.(a) 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.
 - 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.)
 - 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)".
- 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" II. 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.)
- Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties. This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this III. section for each principal party.
- 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 IV. that is most applicable. Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.
- Origin. Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes. V.
 - 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
 - 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.
- 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 VI. statutes unless diversity. Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- 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: Dynamic Recovery Solutions, Jefferson Capital Systems Sued Over Allegedly Misleading Settlement Offer