	Case 3:17-cv-02259-GPC-NLS D	ocument 1	Filed 11/06/17	PageID.1	Page 1 of 12				
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	LAW OFFICES OF RONALD RONALD A. MARRON (SBN 1 ron@consumersadvocates.com ALEXIS M. WOOD (SBN 2702) alexis@consumersadvocates.com KAS GALLUCCI (SBN 288709) kas@consumersadvocates.com 651 Arroyo Drive San Diego, California 92103 Telephone:(619) 696-9006 Facsimile: (619) 564-6665	.75650) 00) n	ON						
8 9 10 11 12	LAW OFFICES OF DANIEL DANIEL G. SHAY (SBN 25054 409 Camino Del Rio South, Suite San Diego, California 92108 <i>danielshay@tcpafdcpa.com</i> Telephone: (619) 222-7429 Facsimile: (866) 431-3292	8)							
13	Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Proposed Class								
14	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT								
15	SOURTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA								
16 17 18	GREGORY COLLINS, on behal himself, and all others similarly situated,		Case No.: <u>'17 CV2259 GPC NLS</u> CLASS ACTION						
19 20	Plaintiff, v.	AN	OMPLAINT F D INJUNCTI	VE RELII					
21 22	ACCOUNT SERVICES COLLECTIONS, INC.,		PURSUANT TO THE CALIFORNIA PENAL CODE §§ 632.7 <i>ET SEQ</i> .						
23	Defendant.	DE	MAND FOR J	URY TRIA	<u>AL</u>				
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28		Colli	ns v. Account S	ervices Co	llections, Inc.				

INTRODUCTION

Gregory Collins ("Plaintiff") brings this Class Action Complaint for 1. damages, injunctive relief, and any other available legal or equitable remedies, resulting from the illegal actions of Account Services Collections, Inc. ("Defendant") for recording telephone conversations with Plaintiff and putative Class members without consent, in violation of the California Invasion of Privacy Act, Cal. Pen. Code § 632.7 ("CIPA"), thereby invading their privacy. Plaintiff alleges as follows upon personal knowledge as to his own acts and experiences, and, as to all other matters, upon information and belief, including investigation conducted by his attorneys.

NATURE OF THE ACTION

2. Defendant is a collection company with many accounts in California. While attempting to collect debts, Defendant often talks to Californians on their cellular telephones. Defendant records all of its calls, both inbound and outbound, without consent.

3. The CIPA was enacted to protect consumers from a violation of their privacy, requiring that a party warn an individual if a call is monitored or recorded.

4. Defendant violated Plaintiff's constitutionally protected privacy rights by failing to advise, or otherwise provide notice, at the onset of at least one recorded conversation with Plaintiff that the call would be recorded, and Defendant did not try to obtain the Plaintiff's consent before such recording.

5. Defendant's violations caused Plaintiff and the members of the putative Class to experience actual harm, including the invasion of privacy, as well as a violation of their statutory rights.

Plaintiff and members of the Class suffered concrete injuries in fact, 6. whether tangible or intangible, that are directly traceable to Defendant's conduct, and are likely to be redressed by a favorable decision in this action.

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7. In response to Defendant's unlawful conduct, Plaintiff brings the instant lawsuit and seeks an injunction requiring Defendant to cease recording conversations with consent of the parties, and award actual and statutory damages to the members of the putative Class, together with costs and reasonably attorneys' fees.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

8. Jurisdiction is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2) because Plaintiff seeks \$5,000 in damages for each violation of the CIPA, which, when aggregated among a proposed class number in the tens of thousands, exceeds the \$5,000,000 threshold for federal court jurisdiction. Further, Plaintiff and the putative Class members are residents of California and Defendant's principal place of business is in Texas where it is incorporated, providing jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2)(A). Therefore, both elements of diversity jurisdiction under the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 ("CAFA") are present, and this Court has jurisdiction.

9. Venue is proper in the United States District Court for the Southern District of California pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b) because Defendant, at all times herein mentioned, was doing business in the County of San Diego, State of California. Further, venue is proper in this district because Plaintiff has resided in this district at all times herein mentioned such that a substantial part of the events giving rise to the claim occurred in this district.

PARTIES

10. Plaintiff is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a resident of the State of California, County of San Diego. He is, and at all times mentioned herein was a "person" as defined by Cal. Pen. Code § 632(b).

11. Defendant is a collection company incorporated in Texas that maintains its principal place of business at 1802 N. E. Loop 410, Suite 400, San Antonio, Texas 78217 and is a "person" as defined by Cal. Pen. Code § 632(b).

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12. Plaintiff alleges that at all times relevant herein Defendant conducted business in the state of California and in the County of San Diego, and within this judicial district.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

13. On or around September 6, 2017, Defendant called Plaintiff on his landline telephone ending 2045 in an attempt to collect a debt. Defendant called from the telephone number 800-551-0646.

14. On or around October 20, 2017, Plaintiff returned Defendant's call using his cell phone ending 8165 to call Defendant at 800-551-0646 to inform Defendant that he was filing bankruptcy.

15. When Defendant answered the call, it went straight to a live representative. There was no pre-recorded warning that the call would be recorded, and the representative did not verbally provide any warning that the call would be recorded.

16. During the call, Defendant asked for the last four digits of Plaintiff's social security number which Plaintiff provided. Defendant indicated there was an outstanding balance and they discussed Plaintiff's pending bankruptcy.

17. At the end of the call, Plaintiff asked if the call was recorded and Defendant answered affirmatively.

18. Plaintiff was upset the call was recorded without his consent and ended the call. The call lasted about a minute and a half.

19. At no point during the conversation with Defendant was Plaintiff advised that the conversation was being recorded by Defendant, nor did Plaintiff consent to the call being recorded.

20. Upon information and belief, Defendant records all of its telephone calls, inbound and outbound, without consent.

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21. Plaintiff was personally affected by Defendant's aforementioned conduct because Plaintiff was shocked, upset and angry that Defendant recorded a cellular telephone conversation with Plaintiff without Plaintiff's knowledge or consent.

22. The call was a communication that Plaintiff did not desire to be recorded by Defendant. The telephone call between Plaintiff and Defendant's representative concerned personal information that Plaintiff had not openly discussed with others.

23. Plaintiff was completely unaware that Defendant was recording the call.

24. Due to the lack of a recording advisement at the outset of the telephone call, Plaintiff reasonably believed and expected that Defendant was not secretly recording the telephone conversation with Plaintiff, which concerned a debt.

25. California Penal Code § 632.7(a) is very clear in its prohibition against such unauthorized tape recording without the consent of the other party to the conversation:

"Every person who, without the consent of all parties to a communication, intercepts or receives and intentionally records, or assists in the interception or reception and intentional recordation of, a communication transmitted between two cellular radio telephones, a cellular radio telephone and a landline telephone, two cordless telephones, a cordless telephone and a landline telephone, or a cordless telephone and a cellular radio telephone [violates this section]."

26. California Penal Code § 637.2 permits Plaintiff to bring this action for any violation of California Penal Code § 632.7(a) and provides for statutory damages of \$5,000.00 for each violation and injunctive relief.

27. This suit seeks only damages and injunctive relief for recovery of economic injury and it expressly is not intended to request any recovery for personal

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injury and claims related thereto.

28. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendant intentionally recorded communications transmitted between a cellular radio telephone and a landline telephone without Plaintiff's consent as prohibited by California Penal Code § 632.7(a).

29. Defendant violated Plaintiff's constitutionally protected privacy rights by failing to advise or otherwise provide notice at the beginning of the recorded conversation with Plaintiff that the call would be recorded, and Defendant did not try to obtain the Plaintiff's consent before such recording.

30. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that during the relevant time period, Defendant had a policy and a practice of recording California consumers.

31. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that during the relevant time period, Defendant had installed and/or caused to be installed certain recording equipment in its employees' or agents' telephone lines. Defendant uses these devices to record each and every telephone conversation on said telephone lines.

32. Defendant's conduct alleged herein constitutes violations of the right to privacy of the public, including Plaintiff and other California residents, and California Penal Code § 630 *et seq*.

33. Defendant concealed from Plaintiff, and similarly situated California residents, that Defendant was recording the outbound calls between itself on the one hand and Plaintiff and other similarly situated California residents on the other.

34. Defendant concealed the fact that it was recording the afore-mentioned phone calls to create the false impression in the minds of Plaintiff and similarly situated California residents that they were not being recorded. At the outset of many of the calls there was no warning that the calls were, or even may be, recorded. 35. As a result thereof, Plaintiff and the class have been damaged as set

forth in the Prayer for Relief herein.

36. Plaintiff seeks statutory damages for himself and the class and injunctive relief under California Penal Code § 637.2.

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

37. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of himself and on behalf of all other similar situated ("the CIPA Class"). Because Plaintiff's cellular phone calls were recorded, the representative Plaintiff represents, and is a member of the Class he seeks to represent, persons whose cellular telephone calls were recorded by Defendant in the Class Period from one year prior to the filing of this Complaint through the date of trial, with the Class defined as follows:

Class: All persons from one year prior to the filing of this Complaint through the date of trial, that engaged in a telephone conversation with Defendant, their employees, agents or other persons working on Defendant's behalf, which was recorded by Defendant, their employees and agents, while engaging in such communication using a cellular telephone with a California area code (i.e., 209, 213, 310, 323, 408, 415, 424, 442, 510, 530, 559, 562, 619, 626, 650, 657, 661, 707, 714, 760, 805, 818, 831, 858, 909, 916, 925, 949, or 951).

38. Defendant, and its employees and agents are excluded from the Class. Plaintiff does not know the number of members in the Class, but believes the Class members number in the several thousands, if not more. Thus, this matter should be certified as a Class action to assist in the expeditious litigation of this matter.

39. This suit seeks only damages and injunctive relief for recovery of economic injury on behalf of the Class and it expressly is not intended to request any recovery for personal injury and claims related thereto. Plaintiff reserves the right to modify or expand the definition of the Class to seek recovery on behalf of additional persons as warranted as facts are learned in further investigation and discovery.

40. The joinder of the Class members is impractical and the disposition of their claims in the Class action will provide substantial benefits both to the parties and to the Court. The Class can be identified through Defendant's records and/or Defendant's agent's records.

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41. There is a well-defined community of interest in the questions of law and fact involved affecting the parties to be represented. The questions of law and fact to the Class predominate over questions which may affect individual Class members, including, but not limited to, the following:

a. Whether Defendant has a policy of recording its calls;

- Whether Defendant always discloses to Californians at the outset of the conversations that Defendant's telephone conversations are recorded;
 - c. Whether Defendant recorded its telephone conversations with persons in California while those persons were on a cellular telephone;
 - d. Whether Defendant's policy of recording all of its calls without the required call recording disclosures constituted violations of California Penal Code § 632.7;
 - e. Whether Defendant should be enjoined from engaging in such conduct in the future; and,

f. Whether Plaintiff and Class members are entitled to any other relief.
42. Plaintiff is asserting claims that are typical of the Class because every other member of the Class, like Plaintiff, was exposed to virtually identical conduct and are entitled to the greater of statutory damages of \$5,000 per violation or three times actual damages per violation pursuant to Penal Code § 637.2(a).

43. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the Class in that Plaintiff has no interests antagonistic to any member of the Class. Plaintiff has retained counsel experienced in handling class actions and claims under California's Invasion of Privacy Act to further ensure such protection. 44. Plaintiff and the members of the Class have all suffered irreparable harm as a result of the Defendant's unlawful and wrongful conduct. Absent a class action, the Class will continue to face the potential for irreparable harm. In addition, these violations of law will be allowed to proceed without remedy and Defendants will likely continue such illegal conduct. Because of the size of the individual Class members' claims, few Class members could afford to seek legal redress for the wrongs complained of herein.

45. A class action is a superior method for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy. Class-wide damages are essential to induce Defendant to comply with federal and California law. The interest of the Class members in individually controlling the prosecution of separate claims against Defendant is small because the maximum statutory damages in an individual action for violation of privacy are minimal. Management of these claims is likely to present significantly fewer difficulties than those presented in many class actions.

46. Defendant has acted on grounds generally applicable to the Class,

47. Californians have a right to thereby making appropriate final injunctive relief and corresponding declaratory relief with respect to the Class as a whole.

CAUSE OF ACTION

UNLAWFUL INVASION OF PRIVACY

CALIFORNIA PENAL CODE SECTION 632.7

48. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.

49. Californians have a constitutional right to privacy. Moreover, the California Supreme Court has definitively linked the constitutionally protected right to privacy within the purpose, intent and specific protections of the Privacy Act, including specifically, Penal Code § 632. In addition, California's explicit constitutional privacy provision (Cal. Const., 1 § 1) was enacted in part specifically to protect California from overly intrusive business practices that were seen to pose

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a significant and increasing threat to personal privacy. Thus, we believe that California must be viewed as having a strong and continuing interest in the full and vigorous application of the provisions of section 632 prohibiting the recording of telephone conversations without the knowledge or consent of all parties to the conversation. *See Kearney v. Salmon Smith Barney, Inc.*, (2006) 39 Cal. 4th 95, 125.

50. California Penal Code § 632.7 prohibits one party to a telephone call from intentionally recording any part of the conversation without the knowledge or consent of the other party, where a cellular telephone is involved. Cal. Pen. Code § 632.7 is violated the moment the recording is made without the consent of all parties thereto, regardless of whether it is subsequently disclosed that the telephone call was recorded. The only intent required by Cal. Pen. Code § 632.7 is that the act of recording itself be done intentionally. There is no requisite intent on behalf of the party doing the surreptitious recording to break California law or any other law, or to invade the privacy right of any other person.

51. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereupon alleges that Defendant employed and/or caused to be employed certain recording equipment on the telephone lines of all employees, officers, directors, and managers of Defendant.

52. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereupon alleges that all these devises were maintained and utilized to record each and every one of Defendant's telephone conversations over said telephone lines.

53. Said recording equipment was used to record Defendant's telephone conversations with Plaintiff and the members of the Class, all in violation of California Penal Code § 632.7.

54. Defendant or any employees, agents, managers, officers, or directors of Defendant, and any other person, failed to inform Plaintiff or any other member of the Class, at the outset of Defendant's telephone conversations, that the recording of the telephone conversations were taking place, and at no time did Plaintiff or any other member of the Class consent to this activity.

55. If any consent and/or disclosure were given, such disclosure/s and/or consent was not at the inception of the call/s.

56. Defendant, knowing that it was unlawful and a violation of Plaintiff's and Class members' right to privacy and a violation of California Penal Code § 630, et seq., intruded on Plaintiff's and Class members' right to privacy by intentionally engaging in recording activities relative to the telephone conversations between Plaintiff and the Class on the one hand, and Defendant on the other hand, as alleged herein.

57. Based on the foregoing, Plaintiff and the members of the Class are entitled to, and below herein do pray for, their statutory remedies and damages, including but not limited to, those set forth in California Penal Code § 637.2.

58. Because this case is brought for the purposes of enforcing important rights affecting the public interest, Plaintiff and the Class seek recovery of their attorneys' fees pursuant to the private attorney general doctrine codified in Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5, or any other statutory basis.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Wherefore, Plaintiff respectfully requests the Court to grant Plaintiff and the Class members the following relief against Defendant:

INVASION OF PRIVACY

CALIFORNIA PENAL CODE SECTION 632.7

59. As a result of Defendant's violations of Cal. Pen Code § 637.2(a), Plaintiff seeks for himself and each Class member the greater of \$5,000 for each and every violation or three times actual damage per violation, pursuant to Cal. Pen Code § 637.2(a).

60. Pursuant to California Penal Code § 637.2(a), injunctive relief prohibiting such conduct in the future.

61. Any other relief the Court may deem just and proper including attorney
fees and costs.

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JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

Dated: November 6, 2017

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<u>s/ Ronald A. Marron</u> Ronald A. Marron, Esq. **LAW OFFICES OF RONALD A. MARRON** RONALD A. MARRON ALEXIS M. WOOD KAS L. GALLUCCI 651 Arroyo Drive San Diego, California 92103 *ron@consumersadvocates.com* Telephone: (619) 696-9006 Facsimile: (619) 564-6665

<u>s/ Daniel G. Shay</u> Daniel G. Shay, Esq. **LAW OFFICES OF DANIEL G. SHAY** DANIEL G. SHAY 409 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 101B San Diego, California 92108 *danielshay@tcpafdcpa.com* Telephone: (619) 222-7429 Facsimile: (866) 431-3292

Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Proposed Class

JS 44 (Rev. 06/1) Case 3:17-cv-02259-GPC-NLS Prevent 1 SHEET /06/17 PageID.13 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.)*

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDANTS			
Gregory Collins, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated				Account Services Collections, Inc.			
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff San Diego, California				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant			
(E2	KCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CA	ASES)		NOTE: IN LAND CC THE TRACT	(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES O ONDEMNATION CASES, USE T OF LAND INVOLVED.		
(c) Attorneys (<i>Firm Name, A</i> Law Offices of Ronald A. 619-696-9006 & Law Off	Marron, 651 Arroyo E	Dr, San Diego, CA 9		Attorneys (If Known)	'17	CV2259 GPC NLS	
South, Ste 101B San Die							
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an "X" in C	One Box Only)			RINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff	
□ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	`				F DEF C 1 □ 1 Incorporated <i>or</i> Pr of Business In T		
□ 2 U.S. Government Defendant		ip of Parties in Item III)	Citize	Citizen of Another State 🗆 2 🗖 2 Incorporated <i>and</i> Principal Place 🗔 5 🛣 5 of Business In Another State			
				en or Subject of a reign Country	3 🗖 3 Foreign Nation		
IV. NATURE OF SUIT						of Suit Code Descriptions.	
CONTRACT 110 Insurance 120 Marine 130 Miller Act 140 Negotiable Instrument 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment 151 Medicare Act 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' Suits 190 Other Contract 195 Contract Product Liability 196 Franchise REAL PROPERTY 210 Land Condemnation 220 Foreclosure 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability 290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY ☐ 310 Airplane ☐ 315 Airplane Product Liability ☐ 320 Assault, Libel &	PRTS PERSONAL INJUR BERSONAL INJUR BERSONAL INJUR BERSONAL Product Liability Product Liability BERSONAL PROPEL BERSONAL PROPELITION BERSONER PETITION BERSONER PETITION BERSONER PETITION BERSONER PETITION BERSONER DETINES BESONER SOLUTION BERSONER SOLUTIO	Y 0 62 0 69 1 71 0 71 0 71 0 72 0 74 0 75 NS 0 79 0 79 0 46	DRFEITURE/PENALTY 5 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 0 Other 0 Fair Labor Standards Act 0 Labor/Management Relations 0 Railway Labor Act 1 Family and Medical Leave Act 0 Other Labor Litigation 1 Employee Retirement Income Security Act IMMIGRATION 2 Naturalization Application 5 Other Immigration Actions	BANKRUPTCY □ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 □ 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 □ 820 Copyrights □ 830 Patent □ 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application □ 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY □ 861 HIA (1395ff) □ 862 Black Lung (923) □ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) □ 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS □ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) □ 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	OTHER STATUTES 375 False Claims Act 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) 400 State Reapportionment 410 Antitrust 430 Banks and Banking 450 Commerce 460 Deportation 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations 480 Consumer Credit 490 Cable/Sat TV 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange \$89 Other Statutory Actions 891 Agricultural Acts 895 Freedom of Information Act 896 Arbitration 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes	
V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in		Confinement	1 4 D :				
	moved from 3 te Court	Appellate Court	1	bened Anothe (specify)	r District Litigation Transfer		
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	DN Diversity - 28 U.S Brief description of ca Invasion of privat	S.C. 1332 (CAFA) ause: cy re recording tele	phone c	Do not cite jurisdictional stat			
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS UNDER RULE 2	IS A CLASS ACTION 3, F.R.Cv.P.	N D	EMAND \$	CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND:	if demanded in complaint: : X Yes □No	
VIII. RELATED CASH IF ANY	E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE			DOCKET NUMBER		
DATE 11/06/2017		SIGNATURE OF AT s/ Ronald A. M		DF RECORD			
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY							
RECEIPT # AM	//OUNT	APPLYING IFP		JUDGE	MAG. JUD	DGE	

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 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.

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Account Services Collections Accused of Secretly Recording Phone Calls</u>