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1 2 3 4 5 6 7	Russell S. Thompson, IV (029098) Joseph Panvini (028359) Thompson Consumer Law Group, PLLC 5235 E. Southern Ave., D106-618 Mesa, AZ 85206 Telephone: (602) 388-8898 Facsimile: (866) 317-2674 rthompson@consumerlawinfo.com jpanvini@consumerlawinfo.com Attorneys for Plaintiff	
8	UNITED STATES	
9 10 11	FOR THE DISTRI David Dees, on behalf of himself and all) others similarly situated	
12) Plaintiff,	CLASS COMPLAINT AND TRIAL BY JURY DEMAND
13 14) vs.)	
15	I.Q. Data International, Inc.,	
16) Defendant.	
17 18	NATURE O	OF ACTION
19	1. Plaintiff David Dees ("Plaintif	f") brings this putative class action against
20 21	Defendant I.Q. Data International, Inc.("	Defendant") pursuant to the Fair Debt
22	Collection Practices Act ("FDCPA"), 15 U	S.C. § 1692 et seq., individually and on
23	behalf of all others similarly situated.	
24	JURISDICTION, V	ENUE, AND STANDING
25 26	2. This Court has jurisdiction p	ursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d) and 28
20	U.S.C. § 1331.	
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	1	

1 3. Venue is proper before this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), where 2 the acts and transactions giving rise to Plaintiff's action occurred in this district, where 3 Plaintiff resides in this district, and where Defendant transacts business in this district. 4

4. "In determining whether an intangible harm constitutes injury in fact, both 5 6 history and the judgment of Congress play important roles." Spokeo, Inc. v. Robins, 136 7 S. Ct. 1540, 1549, 194 L. Ed. 2d 635 (2016), as revised (May 24, 2016). Congress is 8 "well positioned to identify intangible harms that meet minimum Article III 9 10 requirements," thus "Congress may 'elevat[e] to the status of legally cognizable injuries 11 concrete, *de facto* injuries that were previously inadequate in law." *Id.* (quoting *Lujan* 12 v. Defs of Wildlife, 504 U.S. 555, 578 (1992). 13

"Without the protections of the FDCPA, Congress determined, the

14 5. 15

'[e]xisting laws and procedures for redressing these injuries are inadequate to protect 16 consumers." Lane v. Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC, No. 15 C 10446, 2016 WL 17 18 3671467, at *3 (N.D. Ill. July 11, 2016) (quoting 15 U.S.C. § 1692(b)). Thus, a failure 19 to honor a consumer's right under the FDCPA constitutes an injury in fact for Article III 20 standing. See Id. at *3 (holding that a consumer "has alleged a sufficiently concrete 21 22 injury because he alleges that [Defendant] denied him the right to information due to 23 him under the FDCPA."); see also Church v. Accretive Health, Inc., No. 15-15708, 24 2016 WL 3611543, at *3 (11th Cir. July 6, 2016) (holding that consumer's § 1692g 25 claim was sufficiently concrete to satisfy injury-in-fact requirement). 26

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6. "[E]ven though actual monetary harm is a sufficient condition to show
concrete harm, it is *not* a necessary condition." *Lane*, 2016 WL 3671467 at *4
(emphasis in original).

PARTIES

7. Plaintiff is a natural person who at all relevant times resided in the State of
7 Arizona, County of Maricopa, and City of Phoenix.
8. Plaintiff is a "consumer" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).

¹⁰
9. Defendant, I.Q. Data International, Inc. ("Defendant") is an entity who at
¹¹
¹² all relevant times was engaged, by use of the mails and telephone, in the business of
¹³ attempting to collect a "debt" from Plaintiff, as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5).

10. Defendant is a "debt collector" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

11. Plaintiff is a natural person allegedly obligated to pay a debt owed or due a creditor other than Defendant.

Plaintiff's alleged obligation arises from a transaction in which the
 money, property, insurance, or services that are the subject of the transaction were
 incurred primarily for personal, family, or household purposes—namely, a residential
 lease agreement (the "Debt").

13. Defendant uses instrumentalities of interstate commerce or the mails in a
 ²⁶ business the principal purpose of which is the collection of any debts, and/or regularly
 ²⁷ collects or attempts to collect, directly or indirectly, debts owed or due, or asserted to be
 ²⁸ owed or due, another.

1	14.	In connection with the collection of the Debt, Defendant mailed Plaintiff a	
2 3	letter dated December 12, 2016.		
4	15.	A true and correct copy of Defendant's December 12, 2016 letter is	
5	attached to th	his complaint as Exhibit A.	
6	16.	Defendant's December 12, 2016 letter was its initial communication with	
7 8	Plaintiff with	n respect to the Debt.	
9	17.	Among the requirements in an initial communication, a debt collector	
10	must meanin	ngfully convey "the name of the creditor to whom the debt is owed." 15	
11 12	U.S.C. § 169	22g(a)(2).	
12	18.	Defendant's December 12, 2016 letter gave the following information	
14	regarding the	e Debt: "Original Creditor: GRANITE BAY APTS (AZ)." Exhibit A.	
15			
16	19.	It further provided that "[y]our past due account has been referred to our	
17	office for co	llection," and informed Plaintiff to contact or make payments to Defendant.	
18	Id.		
19	20.	Defendant's December 12, 2016 letter does not clearly identify the name	
20			
21	of the credito	or to whom the Debt is owed.	
22	21.	Defendant's December 12, 2016 letter states the "Original Creditor" to be	
23 24	"Granite Ba	y Apts (AZ)," but it does not state who the "current creditor" is, or	
25	otherwise inc	dicate to whom the debt is currently owed.	
26	22.	Plaintiff, or the least sophisticated consumer, may reasonably believe that	
27	Defendant is	s the current creditor given that the letter states that the Debt has been	
28			

1	"referred to our office for collection," and informs Plaintiff to contact or make payments		
2	to Defendant.		
3 4	23. Or, Plaintiff, or the least sophisticated consumer, may just as reasonably		
5	think that Defendant's December 12, 2016 letter simply does not mention who the		
6	current creditor is.		
7 8	24. Because Defendant's December 12, 2016 letter leaves Plaintiff, or the		
9	least sophisticated consumer, to guess as to the identity of the creditor to whom the debt		
10	is currently owed, it fails to meaningfully convey the name of the creditor.		
11	CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS		
12			
13	25. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges all factual allegations above.		
14 15	26. Defendant's December 12, 2016 letter is based on a form or template used		
16	by Defendant to send collection letters (the "Template").		
17	27. The Template fails to meaningfully convey the name of the current creditor		
18	to whom the alleged debt is owed, in the same manner as Defendant did with Plaintiff		
19	above.		
20	28. Defendant has used the Template to send collection letters to over 40		
21			
22 23	individuals in the State of Arizona within the year prior to the filing of the original		
24	complaint in this matter.		
25	29. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of himself and all others similarly		
26	situated. Specifically, Plaintiff seeks to represent the following class of individuals:		
27 28	All persons with an Arizona address, to whom Defendant sent a letter based upon the Template, within one year before the date of this complaint, in connection with the collection of a consumer debt.		
	5		

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2	30. The proposed class specifically excludes the United States of America, the
3	State of Arizona, counsel for the parties, the presiding United States District Court Judge,
4	the Judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and the Justices of
5 6	the United States Supreme Court, all officers and agents of Defendant, and all persons
7	related to within the third degree of consanguinity or affection to any of the foregoing
8	persons.
9 10	31. The class is averred to be so numerous that joinder of members is
11	impracticable.
12	32. The exact number of class members is unknown to Plaintiff at this time and
13 14	can be ascertained only through appropriate discovery.
15	33. The class is ascertainable in that the names and addresses of all class
16	members can be identified in business records maintained by Defendant.
17 18	34. There exists a well-defined community of interest in the questions of law
19	and fact involved that affect the parties to be represented. These common questions of
20	law and fact predominate over questions that may affect individual class members. Such
21 22	issues include, but are not limited to: (a) the existence of Defendant's identical conduct
23	particular to the matters at issue; (b) Defendant's violations of the FDCPA; (c) the
24	availability of statutory penalties; and (d) attorneys' fees and costs.
25	35. Plaintiff's claims are typical of those of the class he seeks to represent.
26 27	36. The claims of Plaintiff and of the class originate from the same conduct,
28	practice, and procedure on the part of Defendant. Thus, if brought and prosecuted

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	individually, the claims of the members of the class would require proof of the same	
2	material and substantive facts.	
3		

37. Plaintiff possesses the same interests and has suffered the same injuries as
 each class member. Plaintiff asserts identical claims and seeks identical relief on behalf
 of the unnamed class members.

⁸ 38. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class and has
 ⁹ no interests adverse to or which directly and irrevocably conflict with the interests of
 ¹⁰ other members of the class.

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39. Plaintiff is willing and prepared to serve this Court and the proposed class.
 40. The interests of Plaintiff are co-extensive with and not antagonistic to those
 of the absent class members.

41. Plaintiff has retained the services of counsel who are experienced in
 consumer protection claims, as well as complex class action litigation, will adequately
 prosecute this action, and will assert, protect and otherwise represent Plaintiff and all
 absent class members.

42. Class certification is appropriate under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(1)(A) and
23(b)(1)(B). The prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the class
would, as a practical matter, be dispositive of the interests of other members of the class
who are not parties to the action or could substantially impair or impede their ability to
protect their interests.

43. The prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the class would create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual

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members of the class, which would establish incompatible standards of conduct for the parties opposing the classes. Such incompatible standards of conduct and varying adjudications, on what would necessarily be the same essential facts, proof and legal theories, would also create and allow the existence of inconsistent and incompatible rights within the class.

⁸
 ⁹ Defendant has acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the class,
 ¹⁰ making final declaratory or injunctive relief appropriate.

45. Class certification is appropriate under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3) in that the
 questions of law and fact that are common to members of the class predominate over any
 questions affecting only individual members.

46. Moreover, a class action is superior to other methods for the fair and 16 efficient adjudication of the controversies raised in this Complaint in that: (a) individual 17 18 claims by the class members will be impracticable as the costs of pursuit would far 19 exceed what any one plaintiff or class member has at stake; (b) as a result, very little 20 litigation has commenced over the controversies alleged in this Complaint and individual 21 22 members are unlikely to have an interest in prosecuting and controlling separate 23 individual actions; and (c) the concentration of litigation of these claims in one forum 24 will achieve efficiency and promote judicial economy. 25

COUNT I VIOLATION OF 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(2)

47. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each factual allegation contained above.

1	48.	Defendant's letter does not identify of the current creditor that holds	
2	Plaintiff's alleged debt.		
3			
4	49.	Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(2) by failing to meaningfully	
5	convey the r	name of the creditor to whom the alleged debt is owed to Plaintiff in its	
6	initial comm	unication or in writing within five days thereafter.	
7	WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief and judgment, as follows:		
8			
9	a)	Determining that this action is a proper class action, certifying Plaintiff as a	
10		class representative under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure,	
11 12		and designating this Complaint the operable complaint for class purposes;	
12	b)	Adjudging that Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(2) with respect to	
14		Plaintiff and the class he seeks to represent;	
15			
16	c)	Awarding Plaintiff and the class he seeks to represent actual damages	
17		pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1);	
18	d)	Awarding Plaintiff such additional damages as the Court may allow in the	
19		amount of \$1,000, pursuant to \$ 1692k(a)(2)(B)(i);	
20	e)	Awarding all other class members such amount as the Court may allow,	
21			
22		without regard to a minimum individual recovery, not to exceed the lesser	
23 24		of \$500,000 or one percent of the net worth of the debt collector, pursuant	
25		to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(2)(B)(ii);	
26	f)	Awarding Plaintiff and the class he seeks to represent, reasonable	
27			
28		attorneys' fees and costs incurred in this action pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §	
		1692k(a)(3) and Rule 23;	
		9	

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1 2 3	 g) Awarding Plaintiff and the class he seeks to represent, pre-judgment and post-judgment interest as permissible by law; and h) Awarding such other and further relief as the Court may deem proper.
4 5	TRIAL BY JURY
6	
7	50. Plaintiff is entitled to and hereby demands a trial by jury.
8	Dated: December 4, 2017 Respectfully submitted,
9 10	s/ Russell S. Thompson IV
11	Russell S. Thompson IV (029098) Thompson Consumer Law Group, PLLC
12	5235 E. Southern Ave., D106-618 Mesa, AZ 85206
13	Telephone: (602) 388-8898 Facsimile: (866) 317-2674
14	rthompson@consumerlawinfo.com
15 16	<u>s/ Joseph Panvini</u>
17	Joseph Panvini (028359) Thompson Consumer Law Group, PLLC
18	5235 E. Southern Ave., D106-618 Mesa, AZ 85206
19	Telephone: (602) 388-8875
20	Facsimile: (866) 317-2674 jpanvini@consumerlawinfo.com
21	Attorneys for Plaintiff
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24 25	
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EXHIBIT "A"

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PO Box 2130, Everett, Washington 98213-0430 +1010 SE Everett Mall Way #100, Everett, WA 98208 Hours: Monday-Friday 8AM TO 5PM PST + Toll Free 888-248-2509 or 425-609-2150 Fax: 425-609-2151 Send all Written Disputes to: P.O. Box 3568, Everett, WA 98213

December 12, 2016



Original Creditor: GRANUE BAY APTS (AZ)

R01-Account #: 0008164979

 Principal Due:
 \$2,573.38

 Interest Due:
 \$18.33

 Other Due:
 \$0.00

 Total Due:
 \$2,591.71

Dear DAVID DEES

Your past due account has been referred to our office for collection. Please remit payment in full or contact our office to make anicable arrangements.

Unless you notify this office within 30 days after receiving this notice that you dispute the validity of this debt or any portion thereof, this office will assume this debt is valid. If you notify this office in writing within 30 days from receiving this notice that you dispute the validity of this debt or any portion thereof, this office will obtain verification of the debt or a copy of a judgment and mail you a copy of such judgment or verification. If you request this office in writing within 30 days after receiving this notice this office will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor if different from the current creditor. This communication from a debt collector is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Your unpaid principal balance will accrue interest at a rate of 040.00 percent per annum.

Sincerely,

KEN BANKS Account Representative 888-248-2509

CONTRACTORY 20 (1993)

IQD PO Box 1022 Wixom MI 48393-1022

ADDRESS SERVICE REOULSTED

Detach Lower Portion and Retorn with Payment

 Card number plus 3 or 4 digit security code (on twick of card)

 Cardholder Name

 LXP_DATE

 X

 Cardholder Signature

 S

December 12, 2016

Account # 0008164979 Total Due: \$2,591.71 Case 2:17-cv-04489-D@@@az@b@cuth@y/cgt-bp/g@##ted_gv2/04/117 Page 1 of 2

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

Civil Cover Sheet

This automated JS-44 conforms generally to the manual JS-44 approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974. The data is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. The information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law. This form is authorized for use <u>only</u> in the District of Arizona.

The completed cover sheet must be printed directly to PDF and filed as an attachment to the Complaint or Notice of Removal.

Plaintiff(s): **David Dees**

County of Residence: Maricopa County Where Claim For Relief Arose: Maricopa

Plaintiff's Atty(s):

Russell S Thompson IV Thompson Consumer Law Group, PLLC 5235 E Southern Ave, #D106-618 Mesa, Arizona 85206 602-388-8898 **Defendant**(s): **I.Q. Data International, Inc.**

County of Residence: Outside the State of Arizona

Defendant's Atty(s):

Josehp Panvini Thompson Consumer Law Group, PLLC 5235 E Southern Ave, #D106-618 Mesa, Arizona 85206 602-388-8875

II. Basis of Jurisdiction:

3. Federal Question (U.S. not a party)

<u>III. Citizenship of Principal</u> <u>Parties</u> (Diversity Cases Only) Plaintiff:- N/A Defendent: N/A

Defendant:-N/A

IV. Origin :

1. Original Proceeding

V. Nature of Suit:

890 Other Statutory Actions

VI.Cause of Action:

15 USC 1692, Violation of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act

<u>VII. Requested in Complaint</u> Class Action: **Yes** Dollar Demand: VIII. This case is not related to another case.

Signature: s/Russell S. Thompson, IV

Date: <u>12/04/2017</u>

If any of this information is incorrect, please go back to the Civil Cover Sheet Input form using the *Back* button in your browser and change it. Once correct, save this form as a PDF and include it as an attachment to your case opening documents.

Revised: 01/2014

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>FDCPA Lawsuit: I.Q. Data International Failed to Specify Consumer's Creditor</u>