UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

NATALY DEYNEKO, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

-against-

SOLOMON & SOLOMON P.C.

Defendant.

<u>CIVIL ACTION</u> CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff NATALY DEYNEKO (hereinafter, "Plaintiff"), a New York resident, brings this class action complaint by and through her attorney, Daniel Cohen, PLLC, against Defendant SOLOMON & SOLOMON P.C. (hereinafter "Defendant"), 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.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- The Court has jurisdiction over this class action under 28 U.S.C. § 1331, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 *et seq.* and 28 U.S.C. § 2201. If applicable, the Court also has pendent jurisdiction over the state law claims in this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).
- 2. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2).

NATURE OF THE ACTION

- 3. Plaintiff brings this class action on behalf of a class of New York consumers seeking redress for Defendant's actions of using an unfair and unconscionable means to collect a debt.
- 4. Defendant's actions violated § 1692 et seq. of Title 15 of the United States Code, commonly referred to as the Fair Debt Collections Practices Act ("<u>FDCPA</u>") which prohibits debt collectors from engaging in abusive, deceptive and unfair practices.

5. Plaintiff is seeking damages, and declaratory and injunctive relief.

PARTIES

- Plaintiff is a natural person and a resident of the State of New York, and is a "Consumer" as defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692(a)(3).
- Upon information and belief, Defendant's principal place of business is located in Albany, New York.
- 8. Upon information and belief, Defendant 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.
- 9. Defendant is a "debt collector," as defined under the FDCPA under 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

- 10. Plaintiff brings claims, pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (hereinafter "FRCP")Rule 23, individually and on behalf of the following consumer class (the "Class"):
 - All New York consumers who received a collection letter from Defendant attempting to collect an obligation owed to or allegedly owed to Synchrony Bank ("Synchrony"), which contain the alleged violation arising from Defendant's violation of 15 U.S.C. §1692e, *et seq*.
 - The Class period begins one year to the filing of this Action.
- 11. The Class satisfies all the requirements of Rule 23 of the FRCP for maintaining a class action:
 - Upon information and belief, the Class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable because there are hundreds and/or thousands of persons who have received debt collection letters and/or notices from Defendant that violate specific provisions of the FDCPA. Plaintiff is complaining of a standard form letter and/or notice that is sent to hundreds of persons (*See* **Exhibit A**, except that the

Case 1:17-cv-02424 Document 1 Filed 04/23/17 Page 3 of 13 PageID #: 3

undersigned attorney has, in accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 5.2 partially redacted the financial account numbers in an effort to protect Plaintiff's privacy);

- There are questions of law and fact which are common to the Class and which predominate over questions affecting any individual Class member. These common questions of law and fact include, without limitation:
 - a. Whether Defendant violated various provisions of the FDCPA;
 - b. Whether Plaintiff and the Class have been injured by Defendant's conduct;
 - c. Whether Plaintiff and the Class have sustained damages and are entitled to restitution as a result of Defendant's wrongdoing and if so, what is the proper measure and appropriate statutory formula to be applied in determining such damages and restitution; and
 - d. Whether Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to declaratory and/or injunctive relief.
- Plaintiff's claims are typical of the Class, which all arise from the same operative facts and are based on the same legal theories.
- Plaintiff has no interest adverse or antagonistic to the interest of the other members of the Class.
- Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interest of the Class and has retained experienced and competent attorneys to represent the Class.
- A Class Action is superior to other methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the claims herein asserted. Plaintiff anticipates that no unusual difficulties are likely to be encountered in the management of this class action.

- A Class Action will permit large numbers of similarly situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum simultaneously and without the duplication of effort and expense that numerous individual actions would engender. Class treatment will also permit the adjudication of relatively small claims by many Class members who could not otherwise afford to seek legal redress for the wrongs complained of herein. Absent a Class Action, class members will continue to suffer losses of statutory protected rights as well as monetary damages. If Defendant's conduct is allowed to proceed without remedy they will continue to reap and retain the proceeds of their ill-gotten gains.
- Defendant has acted on grounds generally applicable to the entire Class, thereby making appropriate final injunctive relief or corresponding declaratory relief with respect to the Class as a whole.

ALLEGATIONS PARTICULAR TO NATALY DEVNEKO

- 12. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs numbered"1" through "11" herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.
- 13. Defendant collects and attempts 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.
- 14. Upon information and belief, within the last year Defendant commenced efforts to collect an alleged consumer "debt" as defined by 15 U.S.C. 1692a(5), when it mailed a Collection Letter to Plaintiff seeking to collect an unpaid balance allegedly owing to Synchrony.
- 15. On or about August 31, 2016, Defendant sent Plaintiff a collection letter. See Exhibit A.
- 16. The letter was sent or caused to be sent by persons employed by Defendant as a "debt collector"

Case 1:17-cv-02424 Document 1 Filed 04/23/17 Page 5 of 13 PageID #: 5

as defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(6).

- 17. The letter is a "communication" as defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(2).
- 18. As a result of the following Counts Defendant violated the FDCPA.

<u>First Count</u> Violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692e, *et seq* False or Misleading Representations as to the Amount of Debt Owed

- 19. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs numbered"1" through "18" herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.
- 20. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e prohibits a debt collector from using any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt.
- 21. While § 1692e specifically prohibits certain practices, the list is non-exhaustive, and does not preclude a claim of falsity or deception based on any non-enumerated practice.
- 22. Collection letters are deceptive if they can be reasonably read to have two or more different meanings, one of which is inaccurate.
- 23. Defendant's August 31, 2016 Letter stated an "Amount due as of 08/31/2016" of \$630.78.
- 24. Upon affirmation and belief, the said letter to the Plaintiff was an initial communication from the Defendant.
- 25. The said letter was sent in an effort to collect on a defaulted consumer debt.
- 26. Such collection letter is open to one of multiple interpretations and would likely be misunderstood by the least sophisticated consumer.
- 27. § 1692e requires debt collectors, when informing debtors of their account balance, to disclose whether the balance may increase due to interest and fees. *Id*.
- 28. Defendant's collection letters fail to include the safe harbor language set out in Avila. Id.
- 29. An unsophisticated consumer would be left uncertain by the said letters as to whether the

Case 1:17-cv-02424 Document 1 Filed 04/23/17 Page 6 of 13 PageID #: 6

accounts were accruing interest or not.

- 30. The "Amount due as of 08/31/2016" in the case at hand was for an amount that included original principal, fees and contractual interest.
- 31. In this case, the "Amount due as of 08/31/2016" was increasing due to interest and other charges as per the creditor's contract. Nevertheless, the collection notices did not disclose that the amount of the debt stated in the letter "could," "may," or "will" increase over time.
- 32. The said letters failed to correctly state the in full the amount of the debt allegedly owed.
- 33. A reasonable consumer could read the notices and be misled into believing that he or she could pay her debt in full by paying the amount listed on the notice.
- 34. However, since contractual interest is automatically accruing daily, and since there are undisclosed legal fees that will accrue, a consumer who pays the "Amount due as of 08/31/2016" stated on the notices will be unaware as to whether or not the debt has been paid in full.
- 35. The debt collector could still seek the automatically accrued contractual interest that accumulated after the notices were sent but before the balance was paid, or sell the consumer's debt to a third party, which itself could seek the interest and fees from the consumer.
- 36. A letter that states a Current Balance without notice that the amount is already increasing due to automatically accruing contractual interest or other charges, would mislead the unsophisticated consumer into believing that payment of the amount stated will clear his or her account.
- 37. The FDCPA requires debt collectors, when notifying consumers of their account balance, to disclose that the balance may increase due to interest and fees; failure to include such disclosures would harm consumers such as the Plaintiff who may hold the reasonable but mistaken belief, that timely payment will satisfy her debts and it would abrogate the Congressional purpose of full and fair disclosure to consumers that is embodied in Section 1692e.

Case 1:17-cv-02424 Document 1 Filed 04/23/17 Page 7 of 13 PageID #: 7

- 38. Pursuant to New York state law, statutory interest starts to accrue on the debt from the date of the breach of contract at the rate of 9% per annum.
- 39. The amount of the contractual or statutory interest, automatically increases each day that the defaulted debt remains unpaid due to the automatically contractual or statutory accrued interest.
- 40. Collection notices that state only a Current Balance but fail to disclose that the balance might increase due to interest and fees, are "misleading" within the meaning of Section 1692e.
- 41. To the extent that the Creditor or the Defendant intended to waive the automatically accrued and accruing interest, it was required to disclose that in the most conspicuous of terms.
- 42. Defendant was required to include a disclosure that the automatically accrued interest was accruing, or in the alternative, Defendant was required to disclose that the creditor has made an intentional decision to waive the automatically accruing interest; yet the Defendant failed to make any such disclosures, violating Section 1692e of the FDCPA.
- 43. Failure to disclose such a waiver of the automatically accruing interest is in of itself deceptive and "misleading" within the meaning of Section 1692e of the FDCPA.
- 44. Defendant knew that balances would increase due to interest, fees and/or disbursements.
- 45. The Second Circuit adopted a safe harbor disclaimer stating "that requiring such disclosure best achieves the Congressional purpose of full and fair disclosure to consumers that is embodied in Section 1692e. It also protects consumers such as the Plaintiff, who may hold the reasonable but mistaken belief that timely payment will satisfy their debts." *Avila at 76*.
- 46. Because the statement of the Amount due as of 08/31/2016" included original principal, fees, and contractual and/or statutory interest, without notice that the accruing interest was expressly waived, can mislead the least sophisticated consumer into believing that payment of the amount stated will clear his or her account, the FDCPA requires debt collectors, when they notify

Case 1:17-cv-02424 Document 1 Filed 04/23/17 Page 8 of 13 PageID #: 8

consumers of their account balance, to expressly disclose that interest has stopped accruing.

- 47. According to the Second Circuit's finding that the "Amount Due" must contain a full and fair disclosure, if a credit card account was being charged interest, pursuant to a contract and the interest was intended to be waived, disclosure of such a waiver is necessary or the consumer would not know what the balance is. "[i]n fact, however, if interest is accruing daily, [or was not expressly waived] a consumer who pays the 'current balance' stated on the notice will not know whether the debt has been paid in full. The debt collector could still seek the [accruing or unwaived] interest and fees that accumulated after the notice was sent but before the balance was paid, or sell the consumer's debt to a third party, which itself could seek the interest and fees from the consumer." *Avila* at 76.
- 48. The 8th Circuit in *Haney v. Portfolio Recovery Assocs.*, No. 15-1932, 2016 U.S. App. LEXIS 17287 (8th Cir. Sep. 21, 2016) clearly explains that merely not including interest in post charge off statements is not an express waiver of interest, and the debt collector or creditor can seek the interest in the future.
- 49. In fact, in this case Plaintiff is still not sure whether there was any intent to waive the interest. There was no express waiver and disclosure of waiver is mandatory if interest was originally accruing per the contract or per statute. The consumer could not know what the real balance is.
- 50. The intent to waive a contractual right must be unmistakably manifested and may not be inferred from doubtful or equivocal acts. *Navillus Tile, Inc. v. Turner Const.* Co., 2 A.D.3d 209, 770 N.Y.S.2d 3 (1st Dep't 2003). A waiver of a contract right does not occur by negligence, oversight or thoughtlessness and cannot be inferred from mere silence. *Acumen Re Management Corp. v. General Sec. Nat. Ins. Co.*, 2012 WL 3890128, at *6 (S.D. N.Y. 2012), reconsideration denied, motion to certify appeal granted, 2012 WL 6053936 (S.D. N.Y. 2012).

Case 1:17-cv-02424 Document 1 Filed 04/23/17 Page 9 of 13 PageID #: 9

- 51. The 8th Circuit Court of Appeals found that the fact that the debt was charged off and that the creditor or debt buyer did not charge statutory or prejudgment interest in its statements post charge off does not constitute an express waiver and statutory or prejudgment interest is continuing to accrue and may be charged at a future time.
- 52. According to the Second Circuit in *Avila*, any such a debt would need full and complete disclosure. *See Haney* infra ("Nothing inherent in the process of charging off a debt precludes a claim for statutory interest, and [the states] prejudgment interest statute does not expressly preclude statutory prejudgment interest following a waiver of contractual interest...[The debtor] received monthly periodic statements from the original creditors prior to charge-off, and at least as to the Wal-Mart account, the charge-off statement itself is attached to the pleadings. [The debtor] received a demand for payment of his accounts when due. We conclude any demand requirement that exists as a precondition to the accrual of statutory prejudgment interest was satisfied by the original creditors' demands upon [the debtor].")
- 53. Failure to disclose such a waiver of the automatically accruing interest is in of itself deceptive and "misleading" within the meaning of Section 1692e. The Defendant knew that the balance would increase due to interest, fees and/or disbursements.
- 54. Since the "Amount Due" is for an amount that includes original principal, fees, and contractual interest, the collection notice must accurately inform the consumer that interest is accruing daily or that interest has stopped accruing. "Applying these principles, we hold that Plaintiffs have stated a claim that the collection notices at issue here are misleading within the meaning of Section 1692e... a consumer who pays the "current balance" stated on the notice will not know whether the debt has been paid in full." *Avila* at *10-11.
- 55. Although Defendant's collection letter stated an "Amount due as of 08/31/2016" the letter failed

Case 1:17-cv-02424 Document 1 Filed 04/23/17 Page 10 of 13 PageID #: 10

to disclose to the Plaintiff that the Defendant may collect the additional accruing interest at a later date. "The Court therefore finds that [the debt collectors] letters to [the debtor] are subject to two different interpretations as to the accumulation of interest, rendering them deceptive under § 1692e(10) ... The logic [applies] to stated outstanding debt and the need for consumers to be aware that this debt may be dynamic or static. They are concerned with a consumer's inability to discern whether an amount owed may grow with time, regardless of whether offers to settle are on the table or not. As [plaintiff] states, this information is relevant in a consumer's payment calculus, especially when some debts must be paid at the expense of others. And, of course, the existence of settlement offers would be entirely irrelevant to these considerations for the many consumers who are unable to take advantage of them...Plaintiff's claim is not that the stated balance was not itemized, but that it was unclear whether it was subject to future interest." *Michalek v. ARS Nat'l Sys.*, No. 3:11-CV-1374, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 142976, at *16-17 (M.D. Pa. Dec. 13, 2011)

- 56. Absent a disclosure by the holder of the debt that the automatic interest is waived, even if the debtors pays the "Amount Due" the Defendant and or the creditor could still seek the automatic interest that accumulated after the breach of contract, or sell the consumer's debt to a third party, which itself could seek the automatic interest and from the consumer. *Avila*, at *10-11.
- 57. A waiver of interest, even when made explicitly, has not prevented debt collection agencies from continuing to illegally charge the waived interest. At a minimum, a debt collection agency must clearly convey, even to the unsophisticated consumer that it intends to waive the automatically accruing interest, or that the debt has stopped accruing interest.
- 58. Upon receiving Defendant's collection letter, the Plaintiff was uncertain whether the "Amount due as of 08/31/2016" was accruing interest as there was no disclosure or admonition

indicating otherwise.

- 59. Defendant's letter would cause the unsophisticated consumer uncertainty and force him or her to guess how much money is allegedly owed to the Defendant, how much money would accrue daily on the alleged debt, how much additional money would be owed if the "Amount due as of 08/31/2016" stated in the collection letters was paid, and if or when the Defendant's collection efforts would discontinue if the "Amount due as of 08/31/2016" was remitted to the Defendant.
- 60. Section 1692e of the FDCPA prohibits a debt collector from using any false, or any deceptive or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of a debt, including the false representation of the character, amount or legal status of any debt, see, 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(2)(A) and § 1692e(10).
- 61. Upon information and belief, such actions are part of a scheme or business of the Defendant when attempting to collect alleged debts from consumers in the State of New York.
- 62. Upon information and belief, the Defendant's collection letters, such as the said August 31, 2016 collection letter, number in at least the hundreds.
- 63. The Defendant, by failing to state that it would add interest to the amount of the debt or by failing to clearly waive interest, made materially false statements, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692e of the FDCPA.
- 64. Defendant's collection letters are in violation of 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692e(2)(A) and 1692e(10) of the FDCPA for the use of any false representation or deceptive means to collect or attempt to collect any debt and for misrepresenting the amount of the debt owed by the Plaintiff.
- 65. Plaintiff suffered injury in fact by being subjected to unfair and abusive practices of Defendant.
- 66. Plaintiff suffered actual harm by being the target of the Defendant's misleading debt collection

communications.

- 67. Defendant violated the Plaintiff's right not to be the target of misleading debt collection communications.
- 68. Defendant violated the Plaintiff's right to a truthful and fair debt collection process.
- 69. Defendant used materially false, deceptive, misleading representations and means in its attempted collection of Plaintiff's alleged debt.
- 70. Defendant's communications were designed to cause debtors to suffer a harmful disadvantage in charting a course of action in response to the Defendant's collection efforts.
- 71. The FDCPA ensures that consumers are fully and truthfully apprised of the facts and of their rights, the act enables them to understand, make informed decisions about, and participate fully and meaningfully in the debt collection process. The purpose of the FDCPA is to provide information that helps consumers to choose intelligently. The Defendant's false representations misled the Plaintiff in a manner that deprived her of her right to enjoy these benefits, these materially misleading statements trigger liability under section 1692e of the Act.
- 72. These deceptive communications additionally violated the FDCPA since they frustrate the consumers' ability to intelligently choose his or her response.
- 73. Plaintiff seeks to end these violations of the FDCPA. Plaintiff has suffered damages including but not limited to, fear, stress, mental anguish, emotional stress and acute embarrassment. Plaintiff and putative class members are entitled to preliminary and permanent injunctive relief, including, declaratory relief, and damages.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendants as follows:

(a) Declaring that this action is properly maintainable as a Class Action and certifying Plaintiff as Class representative and Daniel Cohen, PLLC, as

Class Counsel;

- (b) Awarding Plaintiff and the Class statutory damages;
- (c) Awarding Plaintiff and the Class actual damages;
- (d) Awarding Plaintiff costs of this Action, including reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses;
- (e) Awarding pre-judgment interest and post-judgment interest; and
- (f) Awarding Plaintiff and the Class such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

By: <u>/s/ Daniel Cohen</u> Daniel Cohen, Esq. Daniel Cohen, PLLC 300 Cadman Plaza W, 12th floor Brooklyn, New York 11201 Phone: (646) 645-8482 Fax: (347) 665-1545 Email: Dan@dccohen.com *Attorneys for Plaintiff*

DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY

Pursuant to Rule 38 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff hereby requests a

trial by jury on all issues so triable.

/s/ Daniel Cohen Daniel Cohen, Esq.

Dated: Brooklyn, New York April 23, 2017

JS 44 (Rev. 07/16) Case 1:17-cv-02424 Document 1 Filed 04/23/17 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				DEFENDANTS			
NATALY DEYNEKO, on	behalf of herself and a	ll others similarly s	ituated	SOLOMON & SOL	OMON, P.C.		
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.			
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, .	Address, and Telephone Numbe	r)		Attorneys (If Known)			
DANIEL COHEN, PLLC, NY 11201, (646) 645-848		est, 12th Floor, Bro	ooklyn,				
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X" in O	ne Box Only)	III. CI	TIZENSHIP OF P	RINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff	
□ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff			(For Diversity Cases Only) and One Box for Defendant) PTF DEF PTF DEF Citizen of This State 1 1 Incorporated or Principal Place 4 4 of Business In This State 3 4 4 4				
2 U.S. Government Defendant Image: Comparison of the provided matching of the provide		ip of Parties in Item III)	Citizen of Another State 2 2 2 Incorporated <i>and</i> Principal Place 5 5 5 of Business In Another State				
				or Subject of a rign Country	3 🗇 3 Foreign Nation		
IV. NATURE OF SUIT		ly) RTS	FO	RFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
 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 245 Tort Product Liability 290 All Other Real Property 	PERSONAL INJURY ☐ 310 Airplane ☐ 315 Airplane Product Liability ☐ 320 Assault, Libel &	PERSONAL INJUR BERSONAL INJUR BIGGENERGENERGENERGENERGENERGENERGENERGEN	Y □ 625 □ 690 1 □ 690 1 □ 710 □ 720 □ 720 □ 740 □ 751 NS □ 791 ∞ □ 191	Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881	□ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 □ 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 ■ PROPERTY RIGHTS □ 820 Copyrights □ 820 Copyrights □ 840 Trademark ■ SOCIAL SECURITY □ 861 HIA (1395ff) □ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) □ 863 SID Title XVI □ 865 RSI (405(g)) ■ FEDERAL TAX SUITS □ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) □ 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	 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 890 Other Statutory Actions 891 Agricultural Acts 893 Environmental Matters 895 Freedom of Information Act 896 Arbitration 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes 	
V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" i							
		Remanded from Appellate Court	□ 4 Reins Reope		er District Litigation		
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION	15 USC 1692	use:	re filing (De	o not cite jurisdictional sta	tutes unless diversity):		
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS UNDER RULE 2	IS A CLASS ACTION 3, F.R.Cv.P.	N DE	MAND \$	CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND	if demanded in complaint: Yes D No	
VIII. RELATED CASI IF ANY	E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE			DOCKET NUMBER		
DATE 04/23/2017		signature of at /s/ Daniel Cohe		FRECORD			
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY				up cr		DCE	
RECEIPT # Al	MOUNT	APPLYING IFP		JUDGE	MAG. JU	DGE	

Case 1:17-cv-02424 Document 1-1 Filed 04/23/17 Page 2 of 2 PageID #: 15 CERTIFICATION OF ARBITRATION ELIGIBILITY

Local Arbitration Rule 83.10 provides that with certain exceptions, actions seeking money damages only in an amount not in excess of \$150,000, exclusive of interest and costs, are eligible for compulsory arbitration. The amount of damages is presumed to be below the threshold amount unless a certification to the contrary is filed.

I,	DANIEL COHEN	counsel for PLAIN	NTIFF,	do hereby certify	that the above of	captioned civi	il action is
in	eligible for compulsory arbit	tration for the fo	ollowing reason(s):				

- \mathbf{X} monetary damages sought are in excess of \$150,000, exclusive of interest and costs,
- the complaint seeks injunctive relief,
- Questions of law rather than questions of \mathbf{X} the matter is otherwise ineligible for the following reason fact predominate **DISCLOSURE STATEMENT - FEDERAL RULES CIVIL PROCEDURE 7.1**
- NONE

Identify any parent corporation and any publicly held corporation that owns 10% or more or its stocks:

RELATED CASE STATEMENT (Section VIII on the Front of this Form)

Please list all cases that are arguably related pursuant to Division of Business Rule 50.3.1 in Section VIII on the front of this form. Rule 50.3.1 (a) provides that "A civil case is "related" to another civil case for purposes of this guideline when, because of the similarity of facts and legal issues or because the cases arise from the same transactions or events, a substantial saving of judicial resources is likely to result from assigning both cases to the same judge and magistrate judge." Rule 50.3.1 (b) provides that "A civil case shall not be deemed "related" to another civil case merely because the civil case: (A) involves identical legal issues, or (B) involves the same parties." Rule 50.3.1 (c) further provides that "Presumptively, and subject to the power of a judge to determine otherwise pursuant to paragraph (d), civil cases shall not be deemed to be "related" unless both cases are still pending before the court."

NY-E DIVISION OF BUSINESS RULE 50.1(d)(2)

- Is the civil action being filed in the Eastern District removed from a New York State Court located in Nassau or Suffolk 1.) County: NO
- 2.) If you answered "no" above: a) Did the events or omissions giving rise to the claim or claims, or a substantial part thereof, occur in Nassau or Suffolk County?^{NO}

b) Did the events or omissions giving rise to the claim or claims, or a substantial part thereof, occur in the Eastern District?YES

If your answer to question 2 (b) is "No," does the defendant (or a majority of the defendants, if there is more than one) reside in Nassau or Suffolk County, or, in an interpleader action, does the claimant (or a majority of the claimants, if there is more than one) reside in Nassau or Suffolk County?

(Note: A corporation shall be considered a resident of the County in which it has the most significant contacts).

BAR ADMISSION

I am currently admitted in the Eastern District of New York and currently a member in good standing of the bar of this court. X Yes No

Are you currently the subject of any disciplinary action (s) in this or any other state or federal court? (If yes, please explain)

	2
X	No

I certify the accuracy of all information provided above.

Yes

Signature: /s/ Daniel Cohen

Case 1:17-cv-02424 Document 1-2 Filed 04/23/17 Page 1 of 2 PageID #: 16

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Eastern District of New York

)

Civil Action No.

NATALY DEYNEKO, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated

others similarly situated	
<i>Plaintiff(s)</i>	
v.	
SOLOMON & SOLOMON, P.C.	
Defendant(s)	

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address) SOLOMON & SOLOMON, P.C. 5 COLUMBIA CIRCLE ALBANY, NEW YORK 12203

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received 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 plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

DANIEL COHEN, PLLC 300 CADMAN PLAZA WEST 12TH FLOOR BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11201

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.

> DOUGLAS C. PALMER CLERK OF COURT

Date:

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Case 1:17-cv-02424 Document 1-2 Filed 04/23/17 Page 2 of 2 PageID #: 17

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action (Page 2)

Civil Action No.

PROOF OF SERVICE

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

	This summons for (nan	ne of individual and title, if any)						
was re	ceived by me on (date)							
	□ I personally served	the summons on the individua	al at (place)					
		; or						
	□ I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with (<i>name</i>)							
		, a per	son of suitable age and discretion who res	sides there,				
	on (<i>date</i>) , and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or							
	\Box I served the summo	I served the summons on (<i>name of individual</i>)						
	designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of (name of organization)							
			on (date)	; or				
	□ I returned the summ	nons unexecuted because		; or				
	Other (<i>specify</i>):							
	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:

08/31/2016

SOLOMON AND SOLOMON A.C.

File Number:26602128Account No.:XXXXXXXXXX8236Creditor:SYNCHRONY BANKAmount due as of 08/31/2016:\$630.78

Five Columbia Circle Albany NY, 12203

Dear Nataly Deyneko:

The above named creditor has referred your account to our office for collection. If your records do not agree with the amount above, then contact our office. Otherwise please make your check or money order payable to the creditor and mail directly to this office.

Our records show this to be a SYNCHRONY BANK financed TJX Rewards@MasterCard@ account.

This is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. This communication is from a debt collector. Calls are randomly monitored, and may be recorded to ensure quality service.

VALIDATION NOTICE

Unless you notify this office within thirty (30) days after receiving this notice that you dispute the validity of the debt, or any portion thereof, the debt will be assumed to be valid by this office. If you notify this office in writing within the thirty (30) day period that the debt, or any portion thereof is disputed, this office will obtain verification of the debt or a copy of a judgment against you and a copy of such verification will be mailed to you by this office. Upon your written request within the thirty (30) day period, this office will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor.

Contact us to find out if you are eligible for a payment arrangement

Se Habla Español



Nake payments via the Internet @ www.solomonpayments.com

email us @ myaccount@solomonpc.com

> or text us @ 518-708-7330



Office Hours Are: Mon - Tue 8:00am to 8:00pm Wed - Fri 8:00am to 5:00pm Toll Frec: 1-888-414-1982 Fix: (518) 456-0651

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Send Mail To: Solomon and Solomon P.C. Columbia Circle P.O. Box 15019 Albany, NY 12212-5019

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SEE SECOND PAGE FOR IMPORTANT NEW YORK RESIDENT DISCLOSURE

...** Please return the below portion with your payment in the enclosed envelope ** .

P.O. Box 2060 Southgate, MI 48195-4060

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Account No.: XXXXXXXXXXXXX8236 File Number: 26602128 GECF04

Amount due as of 08/31/2016: \$630.78

Amount Enclosed: \$

08/31/2016

Make Payable To: SYNCHRONY BANK

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File Number: Account No.: Creditor: Amount due as of 08/31/2016: \$630.78

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26602128 SYNCHRONY BANK

IMPORTANT NY DEBT COLLECTION RIGHTS

Debt collectors, in accordance with the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq., are prohibited from engaging in abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection efforts, including but not limited to:

- (i) the use or threat of violence;
- (ii) the use of obscene or profane language; and
- (iii) repeated phone calls made with the intent to annoy, abuse, or harass.

If a creditor or debt collector receives a money judgment against you in court, state and federal laws may prevent the following types of income from being taken to pay the debt:

- 1. Supplemental security income, (SSI);
- Social security: 2.
- Public assistance (welfare); 3.
- Spousal support, maintenance (alimony) or child support; 4.
- Unemployment benefits; 5.
- Disability benefits; 6.
- Workers' compensation benefits: 7.
- 8. Public or private pensions;
- 9. Veterans' benefits;

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- 10. Federal student loans, federal student grants, and federal work study funds; and
- 11. Ninety percent of your wages or salary earned in the last sixty days.

Our records show the name of the original creditor as: SYNCHRONY BANK The total amount of the debt due as of charge-off as \$630.78

The total amount of interest accrued since charge-off as \$0.00

The total amount of non-interest charges or fees accrued since charge-off as \$0.00

The total amount of payments made on the debt since the charge-off as \$0.00

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ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Consumer Sues Solomon & Solomon Over 'False Statements'</u>