# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

NELSON ESPINAL, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

-against-

CLIENT SERVICES, INC.

Defendant.

## **CIVIL ACTION**

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
AND
DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff NELSON ESPINAL (hereinafter, "Plaintiff"), a New York resident, brings this class action complaint by and through his attorneys, Daniel Cohen, PLLC, against Defendants CLIENT SERVICES, INC. (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.

### INTRODUCTION/PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

- 1. Congress enacted the FDCPA 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, Congress was concerned that "abusive debt collection practices contribute to the number of personal bankruptcies, to marital 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 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).
- 4. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2).

### NATURE OF THE ACTION

- 5. Plaintiff brings this class action on behalf of a class of New York consumers seeking redress for Defendant's actions of using a misleading, deceptive, unfair and unconscionable means to collect a debt.
- 6. 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 ("FDCPA") which prohibits debt collectors from engaging in abusive, deceptive and unfair practices.
- 7. Plaintiff is seeking damages, and declaratory and injunctive relief.

### **PARTIES**

- 8. 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 St. Charles, Missouri.
- 10. 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.

11. Defendant is a "debt collector," as defined under the FDCPA under 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

### **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

- 12. 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"):
  - Plaintiff brings this action individually and as a class action on behalf of all
    persons similarly situated in the State of New York from whom Defendant
    attempted to collect a consumer debt using the same unlawful form letter herein,
    from one year before the date of this Complaint to the present.
  - The Class satisfies all the requirements of Rule 23 of the FRCP for maintaining a class action:
- 13. 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 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, it will continue to reap and retain the proceeds of its 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 NELSON ESPINAL

- 14. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs numbered "1" through "13" heretofore with the same force and effect as if set forth at length herein.
- 15. 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, facsimile, and Internet.
- 16. 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 on an unpaid account allegedly owed to Chase Bank USA, N.A.
- 17. On or around April 19, 2017, Defendant sent Plaintiff a collection letter (hereinafter, the "Letter"). *See* Exhibit A.
- 18. The Letter was sent or caused to be sent by persons employed by Defendant as a "debt collector" as defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(6).
- 19. The Letter is a "communication" as defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(2).
- 20. The Letter states in pertinent part: "If we settle this debt with you for less than the full outstanding balance, Chase may offer you less favorable terms in the future for some Chase products or services, or may deny your application."
- 21. As a result of the following Counts, Defendant violated the FDCPA.

### First Count

15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692e(10), 1692e(2)(A) & 1692f

<u>Defendant's Letter Dated April 19, 2017 Falsely Implies That Paying The Debt Claimed In</u>
<u>Full Rather Than Accepting A Settlement Will Enhance The Consumer's Likelihood Of</u>
<u>Receiving Future Credit Products, And Will Lead To Improved Creditworthiness</u>

- 22. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs numbered "1" through "21" heretofore with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.
- 23. Sections 1692e, 1692e(10), and 1692e(2)(A), of Title 15 of the U.S. Code, prohibit false, misleading or deceitful statements in collection communications.
- 24. Section 1692f prohibits debt collectors from using unconscionable or unfair means in connection with the collection of a debt.
- 25. A collection notice that may confuse or mislead the least sophisticated consumer is deceptive under the FDCPA, such as where "it can be reasonably read to have two or more different meanings, one of which is inaccurate." *Russell v. Equifax A.R.S.*, 74 F.3d 30, 35 (2d Cir. 1996); *accord Brown v. Card Serv. Ctr.*, 464 F.3d 450, 455 (3<sup>rd</sup> Cir. 2006); *Kistener v. Law Offices of Michael P. Margelefsky, LLC*, 518 F.3d 433, 441 (6<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2008); *Gonzales v. Arrow Fin. Servs., LLC*, 660 F.3d 1055 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2011) (conditional language on liability such as "may" or "if" may render a true statement misleading).
- 26. According to guidance published by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (hereinafter "CFPB"), a debt collector's representation to a consumer that paying debts may improve the consumer's creditworthiness or "enhance the likelihood that a consumer will subsequently receive credit from a lender" may be deceptive. CFPB Bulletin 2013-08 Representations Regarding Effect of Debt Payments on Credit Reports and Scores (July 10, 2013). available at: <a href="http://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201307\_cfpb\_bulletin\_collections-consumer-credit.pdf">http://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201307\_cfpb\_bulletin\_collections-consumer-credit.pdf</a>.

- 27. "The CFPB has authority to issue substantive rules for debt collection under the FDCPA."

  Zweigenhaft v. Receivables Performance Mgmt., LLC, No. 14 CV 01074 (RJD)(JMA), 2014

  U.S. Dist. LEXIS 160441, at \*9 n.2 (E.D.N.Y. Nov. 13, 2014).
- 28. Courts appropriately consider guidance in CFPB Bulletins and other publications to determine whether a given statement or communication violates the FDCPA. See, e.g., Zweigenhaft, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 160441; Bautz v. ARS Nat'l Servs., 226 F. Supp. 3d 131, 148 n.7 (E.D.N.Y. 2016); Portalatin v. Blatt, 125 F. Supp. 3d 810, 816 (N.D. III. 2015) (citing Jerman v. Carlisle, McNellie, Rini, Kramer & Ulrich, L.P.A., 559 U.S. 573, 130 S. Ct. 1605 (2010)). Carter v. First Nat'l Collection Bureau, Inc., 135 F. Supp. 3d 565, 573 (S.D. Tex. 2015); Buchanan v. Northland Grp., 776 F.3d 393, 398 (6th Cir. 2015); Oberg v. Blatt, Hasenmiller, Leibsker & Moore, LLC, No. 14 C 7369, 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 172439, at \*9 (N.D. III. Dec. 29, 2015).
- 29. Courts frequently adjure debt collectors to look to consumer protection agencies for compliance with the FDCPA, as the rules, guidance and advisory opinions issued by these agencies are supported by extensive scientific studies and research to determine whether certain collection practices are likely to deceive the least sophisticated consumer. See, e.g., Bautz, 226 F. Supp.3d at 148 n.7; Portalatin, 125 F. Supp. 3d at 816 (citing Jerman, 559 U.S. 573 (2010)) ("the whole point of authorizing the CFPB to produce advisory opinions is to encourage debt collectors to seek CFPB guidance regarding the meaning of the FDCPA."); Hasenmiller, 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 172439, at \*9 (Section 1692k(e) "provides that a debt collector that acts in reliance on a CFPB advisory opinion cannot be held liable even if the CFPB advisory opinion is later rescinded or reversed, either by the agency or by judicial decision").

- 30. Defendant's April 19, 2017 letter is misleading and deceptive viewed from the perspective of the least sophisticated consumer, in that it implies that the consumer may enhance her likelihood of approval for credit products by paying the claimed debt in full rather than the reduced settlement amount.
- 31. The language at issue states: "If we settle this debt with you for less than the full outstanding balance, Chase may offer you less favorable terms in the future for some Chase products or services, or may deny your application."
- 32. This language falsely implied that if the Plaintiff does the converse -- that is, pays the claimed balance in full rather than agreeing to the lesser settlement amount -- Plaintiff could enhance her likelihood of receiving future credit products from Chase Bank or improve her overall creditworthiness.
- 33. On information and belief, Plaintiff's payment in full of the amount claimed would not have enhanced her likelihood of obtaining Chase credit products or services in the future, nor would it have improved her overall creditworthiness.
- 34. Thus, Defendant's April 19, 2017 Letter violates Section 1692e(10) of the FDCPA when viewed from the perspective of the "least sophisticated consumer," by falsely implying that payment in-full (rather than settlement) of the claimed debt would have enhanced her likelihood of receiving future credit products or enhanced her overall creditworthiness.

### **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: /s/ Daniel Cohen
Daniel Cohen, Esq.
Daniel Cohen, PLLC

300 Cadman Plaza W, 12<sup>th</sup> floor

Brooklyn, New York 11201 Phone: (646) 645-8482

Fax: (347) 665-1545 Email: Dan@dccohen.com Attorneys for Plaintiff

/s/ Daniel M. Luisi

Daniel M. Luisi, Esq. Law Firm of Daniel M. Luisi 147 Prince Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

Brooklyn, New York 11201

Phone: (646) 923-0453 Fax: (347) 620-9391

Email: luisiatlaw@gmail.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 November 9, 2017 JS 44 (Rev. 06/17)

## Case 1:17-cv-06543 Document 20 VER 511/09/17 Page 1 of 2 PageID #: 11

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.)

| purpose of initiating the civil do                                     | ocket sneet. (SEE INSTRUC              | TIONS ON NEXT PAGE O   | F THIS FC       | ORM.)   |   |   |  |
|--|--|--|-----------------|---|---|---|--|
| (a) PLAINTIFFS DEFENDANTS  |  |  |                 |   |   |   |  |
| NELSON ESPINAL, on behalf of himself and all others similarly si       |  |  | tuated          |   |   |   |  |
| TALLEGOTA LOT INVIL., OT BOTTAIN OF THITISON AND AN OTHERS SHITMANY SI |  |  | iuuiou          | J CELETT CERTICES, INC.                               |   |   |  |
| a>   |  |  |                 |   |   |   |  |
| <b>(b)</b> County of Residence o                                       |  | lassau   |                 | County of Residence                                   | of First Listed Defendant                     |   |  |
| (E)  | XCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CA             | ISES)  |                 | NOTE BY LIVE CO                                       | (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES O                    | ,   |  |
|  |  |  |                 |   | ONDEMNATION CASES, USE T<br>OF LAND INVOLVED. | THE LOCATION OF   |  |
|  |  |  |                 |   |   |   |  |
| (c) Attorneys (Firm Name, A  | Address, and Telephone Number          | r)   |                 | Attorneys (If Known)                                  |   |   |  |
| DANIEL COHEN PLLC, 3   | 200 Cadman Dlz W 1                     | O El Brooklyn NV   | 11201           |   |   |   |  |
| (646) 645-8482   | 500 Gaurrian Fiz vv, 12                | Z FI, DIOUKIYII, IN I  | 11201,          |   |   |   |  |
| (040) 043-0402   |  |  |                 |   |   |   |  |
| II. BASIS OF JURISDI   | CTION (N. "V": 0                       | n 0 1)   | ш               | TIZENCUID OF D  | DINCIDAL DADTIES                              | (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintif   |  |
| II. DASIS OF JURISDI   | CTION (Place an "X" in O               | ne Box Only)   |                 | (For Diversity Cases Only)                            | KINCIPAL PARTIES                              | (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintif<br>and One Box for Defendant)             |  |
| ☐ 1 U.S. Government  | ★ 3 Federal Question                   |  |                 | P   | TF DEF  | PTF DEF   |  |
| Plaintiff  | (U.S. Government l                     | Not a Party)   | Citiz           | en of This State                                      |   |   |  |
|  |  |  |                 |   | of Business In                                | This State  |  |
| ☐ 2 U.S. Government  | ☐ 4 Diversity                          |  | Citiz           | en of Another State                                   | 2   | Principal Place   |  |
| Defendant  |  | ip of Parties in Item III)   | Citiz           | en of Amounci State                                   | of Business In                                |   |  |
|  |  |  |                 |   |   |   |  |
|  |  |  |                 | 5   | 3   |   |  |
| IV. NATURE OF SUIT   | Con con o                              | * )  | FC              | oreign Country  | CU 1.1 C N.                                   | CO VOLD IV  |  |
| CONTRACT   |  | ORTS   | E               | ORFEITURE/PENALTY                                     | BANKRUPTCY                                    | of Suit Code Descriptions. OTHER STATUTES                                       |  |
|  | PERSONAL INJURY                        |  |                 |   |   | ☐ 375 False Claims Act  |  |
| ☐ 110 Insurance<br>☐ 120 Marine  | ☐ 310 Airplane                         | PERSONAL INJUR  ☐ 365 Personal Injury -                                |                 | 25 Drug Related Seizure<br>of Property 21 USC 881     | ☐ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 ☐ 423 Withdrawal      | ☐ 376 Qui Tam (31 USC   |  |
| ☐ 130 Miller Act   | ☐ 315 Airplane Product                 | Product Liability  |                 | 90 Other  | 28 USC 157                                    | 3729(a))  |  |
| ☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument  | Liability                              | ☐ 367 Health Care/   |                 |   |   | ☐ 400 State Reapportionment   |  |
| ☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment  | ☐ 320 Assault, Libel & Slander         | Pharmaceutical   |                 |   | PROPERTY RIGHTS                               | 1 410 Antitrust   |  |
| & Enforcement of Judgment  151 Medicare Act                            | ☐ 330 Federal Employers'               | Personal Injury<br>Product Liability                                   |                 |   | ☐ 820 Copyrights ☐ 830 Patent                 | ☐ 430 Banks and Banking<br>☐ 450 Commerce                                       |  |
| ☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted  | Liability                              | ☐ 368 Asbestos Personal  | 1               |   | ☐ 835 Patent - Abbreviated                    | ☐ 460 Deportation   |  |
| Student Loans  | □ 340 Marine                           | Injury Product   |                 |   | New Drug Application                          | ☐ 470 Racketeer Influenced and  |  |
| (Excludes Veterans)  153 Recovery of Overpayment                       | ☐ 345 Marine Product<br>Liability      | Liability PERSONAL PROPEI  | OTV             | LABOR   | ■ 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY               | Corrupt Organizations  480 Consumer Credit                                      |  |
| of Veteran's Benefits  | ☐ 350 Motor Vehicle                    | ☐ 370 Other Fraud  |                 | 10 Fair Labor Standards                               | □ 861 HIA (1395ff)                            | ☐ 490 Cable/Sat TV  |  |
| ☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits  | ☐ 355 Motor Vehicle                    | ☐ 371 Truth in Lending   |                 | Act   | ☐ 862 Black Lung (923)                        | ☐ 850 Securities/Commodities/   |  |
| 190 Other Contract   | Product Liability                      | ☐ 380 Other Personal   |                 | 20 Labor/Management                                   | □ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))                      | Exchange  |  |
| ☐ 195 Contract Product Liability☐ 196 Franchise                        | ☐ 360 Other Personal<br>Injury         | Property Damage  385 Property Damage                                   |                 | Relations<br>40 Railway Labor Act                     | ☐ 864 SSID Title XVI<br>☐ 865 RSI (405(g))    | <ul><li>□ 890 Other Statutory Actions</li><li>□ 891 Agricultural Acts</li></ul> |  |
|  | ☐ 362 Personal Injury -                | Product Liability  |                 | 51 Family and Medical                                 | □ 803 K31 (403(g))                            | ☐ 893 Environmental Matters   |  |
|  | Medical Malpractice                    |  |                 | Leave Act   |   | ☐ 895 Freedom of Information  |  |
| REAL PROPERTY  | CIVIL RIGHTS                           | PRISONER PETITIO   |                 | 90 Other Labor Litigation                             | FEDERAL TAX SUITS                             | Act   |  |
| 210 Land Condemnation  | ☐ 440 Other Civil Rights               | Habeas Corpus:   | □ 79            | 91 Employee Retirement                                | ☐ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff                   | ☐ 896 Arbitration   |  |
| ☐ 220 Foreclosure<br>☐ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment                      | ☐ 441 Voting ☐ 442 Employment          | <ul><li>☐ 463 Alien Detainee</li><li>☐ 510 Motions to Vacate</li></ul> | a .             | Income Security Act                                   | or Defendant)  ☐ 871 IRS—Third Party          | ☐ 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of                          |  |
| 240 Torts to Land  | ☐ 443 Housing/                         | Sentence   |                 |   | 26 USC 7609                                   | Agency Decision   |  |
| 245 Tort Product Liability   | Accommodations                         | □ 530 General  |                 |   |   | ☐ 950 Constitutionality of  |  |
| ☐ 290 All Other Real Property  | ☐ 445 Amer. w/Disabilities -           | ☐ 535 Death Penalty  | 7.4             | IMMIGRATION   |   | State Statutes  |  |
|  | Employment  446 Amer. w/Disabilities - | Other:  540 Mandamus & Oth   |                 | 62 Naturalization Application<br>65 Other Immigration |   |   |  |
|  | Other                                  | ☐ 550 Civil Rights   |                 | Actions   |   |   |  |
|  | ☐ 448 Education                        | ☐ 555 Prison Condition   |                 |   |   |   |  |
|  |  | ☐ 560 Civil Detainee -<br>Conditions of                                |                 |   |   |   |  |
|  |  | Confinement  |                 |   |   |   |  |
| V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in   | n One Pay Only)                        | I  |                 |   | I   | _   |  |
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|  |  | Appellate Court  |                 | nstated or  | erred from                                    |   |  |
| Troccoung Su   | to Court                               | rippenate Court  | 1100            | (specify)   |   | Direct File   |  |
|  | Cite the U.S. Civil Sta                | tute under which you a   | re filing (A    | Do not cite jurisdictional stat                       | utes unless diversity):                       |   |  |
| VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO   | 15 USC 1692                            |  |                 |   |   |   |  |
| VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO   | brief description of ca                | iuse:  |                 |   |   |   |  |
|  | Defendant violate                      | d the FDCPA  |                 |   |   |   |  |
| VII. REQUESTED IN  |  | IS A CLASS ACTION  | N D             | EMAND \$  | CHECK YES only                                | if demanded in complaint:   |  |
| COMPLAINT:   | UNDER RULE 2                           | 3, F.R.Cv.P.   |                 |   | JURY DEMAND                                   | : ⊠ Yes □No   |  |
| VIII. RELATED CASI   | E(S)                                   |  |                 |   |   |   |  |
| IF ANY   | (See instructions):                    | HIDGE  |                 |   | DOCKET MI IMDED                               |   |  |
|  |  | JUDGE  |                 |   | DOCKET NUMBER                                 |   |  |
| DATE   |  | SIGNATURE OF AT  |                 | OF RECORD   |   |   |  |
| 11/09/2017   |  | /s/ Daniel Cohe  | en              |   |   |   |  |
| FOR OFFICE USE ONLY  |  |  |                 |   |   |   |  |
| RECEIPT # AN   | MOUNT                                  | APPLYING IFP   |                 | JUDGE   | MAG. JUI                                      | DGE   |  |
| <del></del>  | <del></del>                            | <del></del>  |                 | <del></del>   |   |   |  |

## 

## 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 PLAINTIFF, do hereby certify that the above captioned civil action is ompulsory arbitration for the following reason(s):   |
|---|---|--|
| mengn                                       |   |  |
|   | $\boxtimes$                                       | monetary damages sought are in excess of \$150,000, exclusive of interest and costs,   |
|   |   | the complaint seeks injunctive relief,   |
|   | $\boxtimes$                                       | Question of law rather than question of fact predominates <u>DISCLOSURE STATEMENT - FEDERAL RULES CIVIL PROCEDURE 7.1</u>  |
| 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)  |
| provides<br>because<br>same jud<br>case: (A | that "A cathe cases a<br>dge and ma<br>) involves | s 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) ivil case is "related" to another civil case for purposes of this guideline when, because of the similarity of facts and legal issues or arise from the same transactions or events, a substantial saving of judicial resources is likely to result from assigning both cases to the agistrate judge." Rule 50.3.1 (b) provides that "A civil case shall not be deemed "related" to another civil case merely because the civil identical legal issues, or (B) involves the same parties." Rule 50.3.1 (c) further provides that "Presumptively, and subject to the power mine otherwise pursuant to paragraph (d), civil cases shall not be deemed to be "related" unless both cases are still pending before the |
|   |   | NY-E DIVISION OF BUSINESS RULE 50.1(d)(2)  |
| 1.)   | Is the ci   | ivil action being filed in the Eastern District removed from a New York State Court located in Nassau or Suffolk   |
| 2.)   |   | he events or omissions giving rise to the claim or claims, or a substantial part thereof, occur in Nassau or Suffolk   |
|   | b) Did t<br>District                              | the events or omissions giving rise to the claim or claims, or a substantial part thereof, occur in the Eastern ? YES  |
| Suffolk                                     | County,<br>olk Count                              | o question 2 (b) is "No," does the defendant (or a majority of the defendants, if there is more than one) reside in Nassau or or, in an interpleader action, does the claimant (or a majority of the claimants, if there is more than one) reside in Nassau try?   |
|   | (1)   | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·  |
|   |   | BAR ADMISSION  |
| I am cu                                     | rrently ac  | Imitted in the Eastern District of New York and currently a member in good standing of the bar of this court.  Yes  No   |
| Are you                                     | ı currentl  | y the subject of any disciplinary action (s) in this or any other state or federal court?  Yes (If yes, please explain) No   |
|   |   |  |
|   |   |  |

I certify the accuracy of all information provided above.

Signature: /s/ Daniel Cohen

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

| Eastern Distri   | ict of New York   |
|--|---|
| NELSON ESPINAL, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated  Plaintiff  V. CLIENT SERVICES, INC.  Defendant | ) ) Civil Action No. ) )  |
| SUMMONS IN   | A CIVIL ACTION  |
| To: (Defendant's name and address)  CLIENT SERVICES, INC. C/O CORPORATION SER 80 STATE STREET ALBANY, NEW YORK 122     |   |
| are the United States or a United States agency, or an offic   |   |
| If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be You also must file your answer or motion with the court.           | e entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. |
|  | CLERK OF COURT  |
| Date:  | Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk                              |
|  |   |

AO 440 (Rev. 12/09) 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 individual a     | t (place)                               |            |             |
|        |                        |                                     | on (date)                               | ; or       |             |
|        | ☐ I left the summons   | at the individual's residence or us | sual place of abode with (name)         |            |             |
|        |                        | , a person o                        | f suitable age and discretion who resid | les there, |             |
|        | on (date)              | , and mailed a copy to the          | he individual's last known address; or  |            |             |
|        | ☐ I served the summo   | ons on (name of individual)         |   | , w        | ho is       |
|        | designated by law to   | accept service of process on behal  | f of (name of organization)             |            |             |
|        | -                      |                                     | on (date)                               | ; or       |             |
|        | ☐ I returned the sum   | nons unexecuted because             |   |            | ; or        |
|        | ☐ Other (specify):     |                                     |   |            |             |
|        |                        |                                     |   |            |             |
|        |                        |                                     |   |            |             |
|        | My fees are \$         | for travel and \$                   | for services, for a total of \$         | 0.00       |             |
|        | I daalara undar nanalt | y of perjury that this information  | ic teno                                 |            |             |
|        | i deciare under penan  | y or perjury that this information  | is true.                                |            |             |
| Dotos  |                        |                                     |   |            |             |
| Date:  |                        | <del></del>                         | Server's signature                      |            |             |
|        |                        |                                     |   |            |             |
|        |                        |                                     | Printed name and title                  |            |             |
|        |                        |                                     |   |            |             |
|        |                        |                                     |   |            |             |
|        |                        |                                     | Server's address                        |            | <del></del> |

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:



3451 Harry S Truman Blvd. Saint Charles, MO 63301-4047

RE: CHASE BANK USA, N.A. ACCOUNT NUMBER: XXXXXXXXXXXX4826

BALANCE DUE: \$3,682.87

REFERENCE NUMBER: 23218184

Office Hours (Central Time)
Monday-Thursday: 8am-8pm
Friday: 7am-5pm
Saturday: 7am-11am
Sunday: Closed

PHONE: 877-288-9903

DATE: 4/19/2017

### SETTLEMENT OFFER

We are offering you a settlement amount of \$1,835.00, to settle this CHASE BANK USA, N.A. account for less than the balance due.\* This offer is valid until 5/9/2017. If payment in full of the settlement amount is not received in our office by this date, this offer will be withdrawn and will be deemed null and void. We are not obligated to renew this offer. If you are unable to pay the settlement amount in full by this due date, please contact our office for alternative payment options which may be available to you.

We look forward to working with you in resolving this matter.

Jerry Petersen

\*If we settle this debt with you for less than the full outstanding balance, Chase may offer you less favorable terms in the future for some Chase products or services, or may deny your application.

THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

FOR IMPORTANT RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES WHICH MIGHT APPLY TO YOUR STATE OF RESIDENCE, PLEASE SEE BELOW OR REVERSE SIDE (IF FAXED THEN FOLLOWING PAGE).

| / |  |
|---|--|
|   |  |
|   |  |
|   |  |

Send your payment in the enclosed envelope using the remittance coupon below.



Online: www.csiconsumercenter.com



Pay-by-Phone: 1-877-552-5905



If you are unable to pay the above settlement offer in full, contact our office at 877-288-9903 for payment options, which may be available to you.

Do not send correspondence to this address.

PO Box 1586 Saint Peters, MO 63376 REFERENCE NUMBER
AMOUNT ENCLOSED

8184

Checks Payable To: Client Services, Inc.

REMIT TO:





### **CALIFORNIA**

The state Rosenthal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and the federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act require that, except under unusual circumstances, collectors may not contact you before 8:00 a.m. or after 9:00 p.m. They may not harass you by using threats of violence or arrest or by using obscene language. Collectors may not use false or misleading statements or call you at work if they know or have reason to know that you may not receive personal calls at work. For the most part, collectors may not tell another person, other than your attorney or spouse, about your debt. Collectors may contact another person to confirm your location or enforce a judgment. For more information about debt collection activities, you may contact the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-FTC-HELP or www.ftc.gov. Non profit credit counseling services may be available in the area.

### **COLORADO**

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE COLORADO FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, SEE WWW.COAG.GOV/CAR. A consumer has the right to request in writing that a debt collector or collection agency cease further communication with the consumer. A written request to cease communication will not prohibit the debt collector or collection agency from taking any other action authorized by law to collect the debt. The address and telephone number for Client Services, Inc.'s local Colorado office is: The Executive Building, Attn: Stokes & Wolf, P.C. as agent for Client Services, Inc., 1776 S. Jackson St., Suite 900 Denver, CO 80210 (TEL: (303) 753-0945).

#### KANSAS

An investigative consumer report, which includes information as to your character, general reputation, personal characteristics and mode of living, has been requested. You have the right to request additional information, which includes the nature and scope of the investigation.

### **MASSACHUSETTS**

NOTICE OF IMPORTANT RIGHTS: You have the right to make a written or oral request that telephone calls regarding your debt not be made to you at your place of employment. Any such oral request will be valid for only ten days unless you provide written confirmation of the request postmarked or delivered within seven days of such request. You may terminate this request by writing to the debt collector.

### **MINNESOTA**

This collection agency is licensed by the Minnesota Department of Commerce.

### **NEW YORK**

In accordance with the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq., debt collectors are prohibited from engaging in abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection efforts, including but not limited to: the use or threat of violence, the use of obscene or profane language, and 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: supplemental security income (SSI), social security, public assistance (welfare), spousal support including maintenance (alimony) or child support, unemployment benefits, disability benefits, workers' compensation benefits, public or private pensions, veterans' benefits, federal student loans, federal student grants, federal work study funds, and ninety percent of your wages or salary earned in the last sixty days.

### **NEW YORK CITY**

New York City Department of Consumer Affairs License Number: 1306512

### **NORTH CAROLINA**

North Carolina Permit Number: 100705

### **TENNESSEE**

This collection agency is licensed by the Collection Service Board of the Department of Commerce and Insurance.

# **ClassAction.org**

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: Man Files Suit Against Client Services Over Allegedly False Debt Payment Benefits