	Case 2:18-cv-02606-KJM-EFB Docume	ent 1 Filed 09/21/18 Page 1 of 14
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	JONATHAN A. STIEGLITZ, ESQ. (SBN 278028) jonathan.a.stieglitz@gmail.com THE LAW OFFICES OF JONATHAN A. STIEGLITZ 11845 W. Olympic Blvd., Suite 800 Los Angeles, California 90064 Telephone: (323) 979-2063 Facsimile: (323) 488-6748 Attorney for Plaintiff UNITED STATE	ES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
9 10		nento Division
10		Case No.:
12	Latrice Fraley, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT for violations of the Fair Debt Collection
13	Plaintiff,	Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq.
14	-against-	DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL
15 16	Enhanced Recovery Company, LLC d/b/a ERC and John Does 1-25,	
17	Defendants.	
18		
19	Plaintiff Latrice Fraley ("Plainti	iff" or "Fraley"), a California resident, brings
20	this Class Action Complaint by and the	rough her attorneys, The Law Offices of
21	Jonathan A. Stieglitz, against Defendar	nt Enhanced Recovery Company, LLC d/b/a
22		on behalf of a class of all others similarly
23 24		
24 25	situated, pursuant to Rule 23 of the Fee	deral Rules of Civil Procedure, based upon
25 26	information and belief of Plaintiff's co	unsel, except for allegations specifically
27	pertaining to Plaintiff, which are based	upon Plaintiff's personal knowledge.
28		

INTRODUCTION / PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

2	1. Congress enacted the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (hereinafter
3 4	"FDCPA" or "Act" in 1977 in response to the "abundant evidence of the
5	use of abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection practices by many debt
6	collectors." 15 U.S.C. §1692(a). At that time, Congress was concerned that
7	
8	"abusive debt collection practices contribute to the number of personal
9	bankruptcies, to material instability, to the loss of jobs, and to invasions of
10 11	individual privacy." Id. Congress concluded that "existing laws [we]re
12	inadequate to protect consumers," and that "the effective collection of
13	debts" does not require "misrepresentation or other abusive debt collection
14	practices "15 USC $\$1602(h)$ $\$$ (a)
15	practices." 15 U.S.C. §1692(b) & (c).
16	2. Congress explained that the purpose of the Act was not only to eliminate
17	abusive debt collection practices, but also to "insure that those debt
18 19	collectors who refrain from using abusive debt collection practices are not
20	competitively disadvantaged." Id. §1692(e). After determining that the
21	existing consumer protection laws were inadequate, <i>Id.</i> §1692(b), Congress
22	
23	gave consumers a private cause of action against debt collectors who fail to
24	comply with the Act. Id. §1692k.
25	JURISDICTION AND VENUE
26	
27	
28	
	- 2 -

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1	3. The Court has jurisdiction over this class action pursuant to 28 U.S.C.
2	§ 1331 and 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq. The Court has pendent jurisdiction
3	over the state law claims in this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).
4 5	
6	4. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2), as
7	this is where a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the
8	claim occurred.
9	NATURE OF THE ACTION
10 11	5. Plaintiff brings this class action on behalf of a class of California
11	consumers under 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq., commonly known as the Fair
13	Debt Collections Practices Act ("FDCPA"); and
14	6. Plaintiff is seeking damages and declaratory relief.
15	PARTIES
16 17	
18	7. Plaintiff is a resident of the State of California, County of Sacramento,
19	residing at 4940 Mack Road, Apt. 464, Sacramento, CA 95823.
20	8. Defendant Enhanced Recovery Company, LLC is a "debt collector" as the
21	phrase is defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692(a)(6) and used in the FDCPA, with
22	an address at 8014 Bayberry Road, Jacksonville, FL 32256-7412.
23	9. Upon information and belief, Defendant is a company that uses the mail,
24 25	
23 26	telephone, and facsimile and regularly engages in business the principal
27	purpose of which is to attempt to collect debts alleged to be due another.
28	2
	- 3 -

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1	10.John Does 1-25, are fictitious names of individuals and businesses alleged
2	for the purpose of substituting names of Defendants whose identities will be
3 4	disclosed in discovery and should be made parties to this action.
5	CLASS ALLEGATIONS
6	
7	11. Plaintiff brings this claim on behalf of the following case, pursuant to Fed.
8	R. Civ. P. 23(a) and 23(b)(3).
9	12. The class consists of:
10	a. all individuals with addresses in the State of California;
11 12	b. to whom Enhanced Recovery Company, LLC sent an initial
13	collection letter attempting to collect a debt;
14	c. regarding collection of a Capital One, N.A. debt;
15	e. regarding concerton of a Capital One, N.A. debt,
16	d. that failed to accurately set forth all the initial communication
17	requirements set forth in 15 U.S.C. §1692g
18 19	e. by falsely and misleadingly stating that the identity of the current
20	creditor on the account was Kohl's Department Stores, Inc.;
21	f. which letter was sent on or after a date one (1) year prior to the
22	filing of this action and on or before a date twenty-one (21) days after
23	
24 25	the filing of this action.
25 26	13. The identities of all class members are readily ascertainable from the
20 27	records of Defendants and those companies and entities on whose behalf
28	they attempt to collect and/or have purchased debts. - 4 -

1	14. Excluded from the Plaintiff Class are the Defendants and all officer,
2	
3	members, partners, managers, directors and employees of the Defendants
4	and their respective immediate families, and legal counsel for all parties to
5	this action, and all members of their immediate families.
6	15. There are questions of law and fact common to the Plaintiff Class, which
7	common issues predominate over any issues involving only individual class
8 9	
9 10	members. The principal issue is whether the Defendant's written
10	communications to consumers, in the forms attached as Exhibit "A",
12	violates 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692f and 1692g.
13	16. The Plaintiff's claims are typical of the class members, as all are based
14	upon the same facts and legal theories. The Plaintiff will fairly and
15	
16	adequately protect the interests of the Plaintiff Class defined in this
17	Complaint. The Plaintiff has retained counsel with experience in handling
18 19	consumer lawsuits, complex legal issues and class actions, and neither the
20	Plaintiff nor her attorneys have any interests, which might cause them not
21	to vigorously pursue this action.
22	
23	17. This action has been brought, and may properly be maintained, as a class
24	action pursuant to the provisions of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil
25	Procedure because there is a well-defined community interest in the
26	litigation:
27	in guion.
28	- 5 -

a. <u>Numerosity:</u> The Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that the Plaintiff Class defined above is so numerous that joinder of all members would be impractical.

b. <u>Common Questions Predominate</u>: Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Plaintiff Class and those questions predominate over any questions or issues involving only individual class members. The principal issue is whether the Defendant's written communications to consumers, in the form attached as Exhibit "A" violate 15 U.S.C. §1692e, §1692f and §1692g.

c. <u>Typicality:</u> The Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the class members. The Plaintiff and all members of the Plaintiff class have claims arising out of the Defendant's common uniform course of conduct complained of herein.

d. <u>Adequacy:</u> The Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class members insofar as Plaintiff has no interests that are adverse to the absent class members. The Plaintiff is committed to vigorously litigating this matter. Plaintiff has also retained counsel experienced in handling consumer lawsuits, complex legal issues and class actions. Neither the Plaintiff nor her counsel have any interests which might cause them not to vigorously pursue the instant class action lawsuit.

- 6 -

1	e. Superiority: A class action is superior to the other available means
2	for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy because individual
3 4	joinder of all members would be impracticable. Class action treatment will
5	permit a large number of similarly situated persons to prosecute their
6	
7	common claims in a single forum efficiently and without unnecessary
8	duplication of effort and expense that individual actions would engender.
9	18. Certification of a class under Rule 23(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil
10 11	Procedure is also appropriate in that the questions of law and fact common
11	to members of the Plaintiff Class predominate over any questions affecting
13	an individual member, and a class action is superior to other available
14	methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy.
15	
16	19. Depending on the outcome of further investigation and discovery, Plaintiff
17	may, at the time of class certification motion, seek to certify a class(es) only
18 19	as to particular issues pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(c)(4).
20	FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS
21	20.Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this
22	Complaint as though fully stated herein with the same force and effect as if
23	
24 25	the same were set forth at length herein.
25 26	21. Some time prior to September 25, 2017, an obligation was allegedly
26 27	incurred to Capital One, N.A.
27	
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1	22. The Capital One, N.A. obligation arose out of a transaction involving the
2	issuance of a Kohl's Credit Card which Plaintiff used to make purchases
3	
4	which were primarily for personal, family or household purposes.
5	23. The alleged Capital One, N.A. obligation is a "debt" as defined by 15
6 7	U.S.C. 1692a(5).
8	24.Capital One, N.A. is a "creditor" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(4).
9	25.Capital One, N.A. contracted the Defendant to collect the alleged debt.
10 11	26. Defendant collects and attempts to collect debts incurred or alleged to have
11	been incurred for personal, family or household purposes on behalf of
13	creditors using the United States Postal Services, telephone and internet.
14	Violation I – September 25, 2017 Collection Letter
15 16	27.On or about September 25, 2017, Defendant sent Plaintiff an initial
17	collection letter (the "Letter") regarding the alleged debt owed to Capital
18	One, N.A. See a true and correct copy of the September 25, 2017 Letter
19 20	attached hereto as Exhibit A.
21	28. The Letter did not contain all the proper initial communication
22	requirements set forth in 15 U.S.C. §1692g (the "G-Notice").
23	
24	29. Specifically, this Letter deceptively and incorrectly states who the current
25	creditor is to whom the Alleged Debt is owed.
26 27	30. The letter labels "Kohl's Department Stores, Inc." as the current creditor.
28	
	- 8 -

1	31. However, Kohl's Department Stores, Inc. is not an issuer of credit and
2	cannot be the current creditor to whom the debt is owed.
3	32. It is deceptive to not clearly state who the current creditor is on any letter
4	
5	sent to the consumer. Mere illusions are not enough; but the letter must
6 7	specifically and clearly state who the current creditor is as is required by
8	§1692g.
9	33.Kohl's Department Stores, Inc. is not the proper name of any creditor.
10	34.Defendant has failed to provide the consumer with a proper initial
11	
12	communication letter.
13	35. Defendant has provided false information as to the true identity of the
14 15	current creditor.
16	36.As a result of Defendant's deceptive, misleading and unfair debt collection
17	practices, Plaintiff has been damaged.
18	practices, r faintiff has even damaged.
19	COUNT I
20	VIOLATIONS OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT
21	15 U.S.C. § 1692e et seq.
22	37.Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this
23	Complaint as though fully state herein with the same force and effect as if
24	the same were set forth at length herein.
25	ane sume were set fortal at lengul herein.
26	
27	
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1	38.Defendant's debt collection efforts attempted and/or directed towards the
2	Plaintiff violated various provisions of the FDCPA, including but not
3	
4	limited to 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.
5	39. Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692e, a debt collector may not use any false,
6 7	deceptive or misleading representation or means in connection with the
8	collection of any debt.
9	40.Defendant violated said section by:
10	a. Making a false representation of the character, amount or legal
11	
12	status of the debt in violation of §1692e(2)(A); and
13	b. Making a false and misleading representation in violation of
14 15	§1692e(10).
16	41. By reason thereof, Defendant is liable to Plaintiff for judgment that
17	Defendant's conduct violated Section 1692e et seq. of the FDCPA, actual
18 19	damages, statutory damages, costs and attorneys' fees.
19 20	COUNT II
20 21	VIOLATIONS OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES
22	ACT 15 U.S.C. § 1692f <i>et seq</i> .
23	42.Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this
24	
25	Complaint as though fully state herein with the same force and effect as if
26	the same were set forth at length herein.
27	
28	
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1	43. Defendant's debt collection efforts attempted and/or directed towards the
2	Plaintiff violated various provisions of the FDCPA, including but not
3	
4	limited to 15 U.S.C. § 1692f.
5	44.Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692f, a debt collector may not use any unfair or
6 7	unconscionable means in connection with the collection of any debt.
8	45.Defendant violated this section by unfairly and falsely advising the
9	consumer as to the incorrect current creditor of the debt.
10	46. By reason thereof, Defendant is liable to Plaintiff for judgment that
11 12	Defendant's conduct violated Section 1692f et seq. of the FDCP, actual
13	damages, statutory damages, costs and attorneys' fees.
14	
15	<u>COUNT III</u> VIOLATIONS OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES
16	ACT
17	
	15 U.S.C. § 1692g et seq.
18 10	47.Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this
18 19 20	
19	47.Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this
19 20	47.Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully state herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.
19 20 21	47.Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully state herein with the same force and effect as if
19 20 21 22	47.Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully state herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.
 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 	 47.Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully state herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein. 48.Defendant's debt collection efforts attempted and/or directed towards the
 19 20 21 22 23 24 	 47.Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully state herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein. 48.Defendant's debt collection efforts attempted and/or directed towards the Plaintiff violated various provisions of the FDCPA, including but not
 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 	 47.Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully state herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein. 48.Defendant's debt collection efforts attempted and/or directed towards the Plaintiff violated various provisions of the FDCPA, including but not limited to 15 U.S.C. § 1692g.

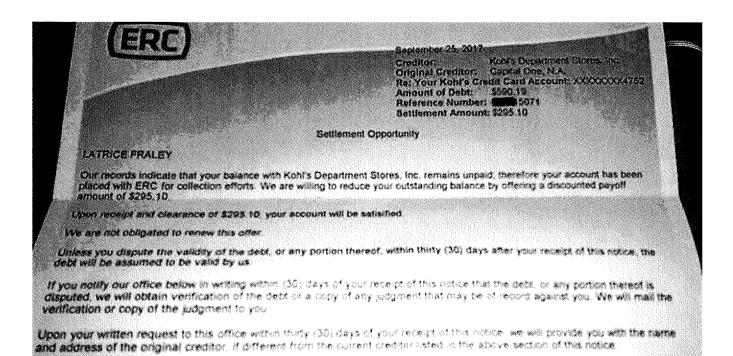
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1	the consumer with a written validation notice which must include the
2	following information:
3	
4	(1) the amount of the debt;
5	(2) the name of the creditor to whom the debt is owed;
6 7	(3) a statement that unless the consumer, within thirty days after receipt of
8	the notice, disputes the validity of the debt, or any portion thereof, the debt
9	will be assumed to be valid by the debt collector;
10	(4) a statement that if the consumer notifies the debt collector in writing
11 12	within the thirty-day period that the debt, or any portion thereof, is disputed,
12	
14	the debt collector will obtain verification of the debt or a copy of the
15	judgment against the consumer and a copy of such verification or judgment
16	will be mailed to the consumer by the debt collector; and
17	(5) a statement that, upon the consumer's written request within the thirty-
18 19	day period, the debt collector will provide the consumer with the name and
20	address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor. 15
21	U.S.C. § 1692g(a).
22	This is known as the "G Notice."
23 24	50.Defendant violated this section by falsely misrepresenting the requirement
25	of $\$1692g(a)(2)$ that the debt collector must notify the consumer of the
26	
27	name of the creditor to whom the debt is currently owed.
28	- 12 -

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1	51.Plaintiff sustained an informational injury as she was wrongfully
2	misinformed of the identity of her current creditor for whom Defendant was
3	attempting to collect the debt.
4	
5 6	52. This harmed Plaintiff as she was unable to ascertain to whom the alleged
7	debt was owed and thus could not determine whether she even owed the
8	alleged debt.
9	53.By reason thereof, Defendant is liable to Plaintiff for judgment that
10	Defendant's conduct violated Section 1692g of the FDCPA, actual
11	damages, statutory damages, costs and attorneys' fees.
12 13	
13 14	DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY
15	54. Pursuant to Rule 38 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff
16	hereby requests a trial by jury on all issues so triable.
17	
18	PRAYER FOR RELIEF
19 20	WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Latrice Fraley, individually and on behalf of all others
20	similarly situated demands judgment from Defendant Enhanced Recovery
22	
23	Company, LLC as follows:
24	1. Declaring that this action is properly maintainable as a Class Action
25	and certifying Plaintiff as Class representative, and Jonathan A. Stieglitz, Esq. as
26	Class Counsel;
27 28	2. Awarding Plaintiff and the Class statutory damages; - 13 -

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1	3. Awarding Plaintiff and the Class actual damages;						
2	4. Awarding Plaintiff costs of this Action, including reasonable						
3							
4	attorneys' fees and expenses;						
5	5. Awarding pre-judgment interest and post-judgment interest; and						
6 7	6. Awarding Plaintiff and the Class such other and further relief as this						
8	Court may deem just and proper.						
9							
10	Dated: September 21, 2018	Respectfully Submitted,					
11	r.	THE LAW OFFICES OF					
12		IONATHAN A. STIEGLITZ					
13	By:	/s/ Jonathan A Stieglitz					
14		Jonathan A Stieglitz					
15							
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EXHIBIT A



JS 44 (Rev. 08/16) CIVIL COVER SHEET Case 2:18-cv-02606-KJM-EFB Document 1-2 Filed 09/21/18 Page 1 of 2 The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS Latrice Fraley, individual	y and on behalf of all o	others similarly situate	ed DEFENDANTS	DEFENDANTS Enhanced Recovery Company, LLC d/b/a ERC and John Does 1-25				
(b) County of Residence o	f First Listed Plaintiff <u>S</u> CEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CA	Sacramento (SES)	NOTE: IN LAND CO	County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)				
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, A Jonathan A. Stieglitz, Esc 11845 W. Olympic Blvd, 323-979-2063 jonathan.	q. Law Offices of Jona Ste 800, Los Angeles,	than A. Stieglitz CA 90064	Attorneys (If Known)					
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an "X" in O	the Box Only)	I. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintify					
□ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff Ø 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)		Not a Party)	(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 □ 1 □ 1 State □ 4 □					
2 U.S. Government Defendant Image: A Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)		ip of Parties in Item III)	Citizen of Another State					
			Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	3 🗖 3 Foreign Nation				
IV. NATURE OF SUIT		ly) DRTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	Click here for: Nature of Sui BANKRUPTCY	t Code Descriptions. 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 	PERSONAL INJURY 310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel & Slander 330 Federal Employers' Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product Liability	 PERSONAL INJURY 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY 	 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 690 Other LABOR 	 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS 820 Copyrights 830 Patent 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY 861 HIA (1395ff) 	 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 			
 of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' Suits 190 Other Contract 195 Contract Product Liability 196 Franchise 	 350 Motor Vehicle 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice 	 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage 385 Property Damage Product Liability 	 Act 720 Labor/Management Relations 740 Railway Labor Act 751 Family and Medical Leave Act 790 Other Labor Litigation 	 863 Black Lung (923) 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) 864 SSID Title XVI 865 RSI (405(g)) 	 490 Cable/Sat TV 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange 890 Other Statutory Actions 891 Agricultural Acts 893 Environmental Matters 895 Freedom of Information 			
REAL PROPERTY 210 Land Condemnation 220 Foreclosure 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability 290 All Other Real Property	CIVIL RIGHTS 440 Other Civil Rights 441 Voting 442 Employment 443 Housing/ Accommodations 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other 448 Education	PRISONER PETITIONS Habeas Corpus: 463 Alien Detainee 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence 530 General 530 General 535 Death Penalty Other: 540 Mandamus & Other 555 Prison Condition 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement	 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act IMMIGRATION 462 Naturalization Application 465 Other Immigration Actions 	 FEDERAL TAX SUITS [□] 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) [□] 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609 	Act 896 Arbitration 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes			
V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only) X1 Original Proceeding 2 Removed from State Court 3 Remanded from Appellate Court 4 Reinstated or Reopened 5 Transferred from Another District (specify) 6 Multidistrict 8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File								
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	DN 15 U.S.C. Sect. 1 Brief description of ca	692 et seq. Fair Debt nuse:	iling (Do not cite jurisdictional stat t Collection Practices Act coercive collection letter t					
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:		IS A CLASS ACTION	DEMAND \$		if demanded in complaint:			
VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER								
DATE 09/21/2018		SIGNATURE OF ATTO Jonathan A. Stie						
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY RECEIPT # AM	10UNT	APPLYING IFP	JUDGE	MAG. JUI	DGE			
Print	Save As				Reset			

Case 2:18-cv-02606-KJM-EFB Document 1-2 Filed 09/21/18 Page 2 of 2 INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- **I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- (b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- (c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".

II. Jurisdiction. The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below. United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here. United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box. Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.

Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; **NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.**)

- **III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties.** This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- **IV.** Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: <u>Nature of Suit Code Descriptions</u>.
- V. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.

Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.

Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.

Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.

Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date. Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.

Multidistrict Litigation – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407.

Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7.** Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statue.

- VI. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity. Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- VII. Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P. Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction. Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: Lawsuit: Enhanced Recovery Company Failed to Identify Creditor in Collection Letter