## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

ELLIOT FRANCO, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

-against-

NORTHSTAR LOCATION SERVICES, LLC

Defendant.

Civil Action Number:

CIVIL ACTION
CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
AND

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL** 

Plaintiff ELLIOT FRANCO (hereinafter, "Plaintiff"), a New York resident, brings this class action complaint by and through her attorneys, The Law Office of Alan J. Sasson, P.C., against Defendant NORTHSTAR LOCATION SERVICES, LLC (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 material 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 illegal practices, in connection with the collection of a debt allegedly owed by Plaintiff.
- 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).
- Defendant is a New York corporation with an address of 4285 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga NY 14225.
- 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 nationwide consumer class (the "Class"):
  - All New York consumers who were sent collection letters and/or notices from
    Defendant attempting to collect an obligation owed to or allegedly owed to
    Barclays Bank Delaware, in which Defendant improperly attempted to collect same,
    in violation of 15 U.S.C. §1692 et seq.
  - The Class period begins one year to the filing of this 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 proceed to 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 ELLIOT FRANCO**

- 14. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs numbered "1" through "13" herein with the same force and effect as if the same were 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 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 an unpaid debt allegedly owing to Barclays Bank Delaware.
- 17. On or around October 5, 2016, Defendant sent Plaintiff a collection letter. See Exhibit A.
- 18. On or around November 21, 2016, Defendant sent Plaintiff another letter. See Exhibit A, page 2.
- 19. The letters were sent or caused to be sent by persons employed by Defendant as a "debt collector" as defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(6).
- 20. The letters are a "communication" as defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(2).
- 21. 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.
- 22. Defendant's communication states in pertinent part: "This settlement may have tax consequences."
- 23. This is effectively a misleading representation in connection with the collection of said debt because Defendant failed to accurately state the applicable IRS code.

- 24. Congress adopted the provisions of section 1692e with the stated intent to prohibit debt collectors from making any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt.
- 25. Defendant's violations of the FDCPA created the risk of real harm that the Plaintiff would perceive Defendant's statement as a threat to report potentially forgiven debt even though there the pertinent law may be wholly inapplicable to Plaintiff's debt.
- 26. Defendant's actions as described herein are part of a pattern and practice used to collect debts.
- 27. As set forth in the following Counts, Defendant's communication violated the FDCPA.

# First Count Violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692e. Failure to Adequately Communicate the Amount of the Debt

- 28. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs numbered "1" through "27" herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.
- 29. 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.
- 30. 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.
- 31. Collection notices are deceptive if they can be reasonably read to have two or more different meanings, one of which is inaccurate.
- 32. The question of whether a collection letter is deceptive is determined from the perspective of the "least sophisticated consumer."
- 33. The Letter provides a "Balance" implying that the debt is dynamic.
- 34. Section 1692e requires debt collectors, when they notify consumers of their account balance, to disclose whether the balance may increase due to interest and fees. *Avila v. Riexinger &*

Associates, LLC, 817 F.3d 72, 76 (2d Cir. 2016).

- 35. The letter fails to disclose whether the balance may increase due to interest, charges or fees.
- 36. The letter can be read to have two or more meanings, one of which is inaccurate.
- 37. The letter can reasonably be read to mean that the balance due on the account is static.
- 38. The letter can also reasonably be read to mean that the balance due on the credit card account may increase due to interest, charges or fees.
- 39. Plaintiff's ability to know how she could satisfy the debt was frustrated.
- 40. Defendant violated § 1692e by its failure to disclose whether Plaintiff's balance may increase due to interest and fees.
- 41. Because the letter can be reasonably read to have two or more different meanings, one of which is inaccurate, as described above, it is deceptive within the meaning of 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.
- 42. Because the letter is reasonably susceptible to an inaccurate reading, as described above, it is deceptive within the meaning of 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.
- 43. Defendant violated § 1692e by using a false, deceptive and misleading representation in its attempt to collect a debt.
- 44. Defendant could have taken the steps necessary to bring its actions within compliance with the FDCPA, but neglected to do so and failed to adequately review its actions to ensure compliance with the law.
- 45. By reason thereof, Defendant is liable to Plaintiff for judgment that Defendant's conduct violated Section 1692(e) of the FDCPA, statutory damages, costs and attorneys' fees.

# Second Count Violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692e False or Misleading Representations as to Plaintiff's Rights

- 46. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs numbered "1" through "45" herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.
- 47. 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.
- 48. 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.
- 49. For purposes of 15 U.S.C. § 1692e, the failure to clearly provide the consumer with complete and accurate information notifying them of their rights and obligations is unfair and deceptive to the least sophisticated consumer.
- 50. Under 26 C.F.R. §1.6050P-1(d)(2) and (3), only the discharge of principal need be reported:
  - (2) Interest. The discharge of an amount of indebtedness that is interest **is not required to be reported** under this section.
  - (3) Non-principal amounts in lending transactions. In the case of a lending transaction, the discharge of an amount other than stated principal **is not required to be reported** under this section. For this purpose, a lending transaction is any transaction in which a lender loans money to, or makes advances on behalf of, a borrower (including revolving credits and lines of credit).
- 51. It is thus entirely conceivable to forgive amounts of a debt and yet not report the balances forgiven to the Internal Revenue Service.
- 52. A collection notice is deceptive when it reasonably can be read to have two or more different meanings, one of which is inaccurate.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Pipiles v. Credit Bureau of Lockport, Inc., 886 F.2d 22, 25 (2d Cir. 1989). (Because the collection notice was reasonably susceptible to an inaccurate reading, it was deceptive within the meaning of the Act.); Clomon v. Jackson, 988 F.2d 1314, 1319 (2d Cir. 1993). (Collection notices are deceptive if they are open to more than one reasonable interpretation, at least one of which is inaccurate.); Russell v. Equifax A.R.S., 74 F.3d 30, 34 (2d Cir. N.Y. 1996). (A collection notice is deceptive when it can be

- 53. The question of whether a collection letter is deceptive is determined from the perspective of the "least sophisticated consumer."
- 54. The language in the letter that states "This settlement may have tax consequences" could reasonably be understood by the least sophisticated consumer to mean that IRS regulations require that it report *all* forgiveness of debt.
- 55. The least sophisticated consumer would understand this statement to mean that the creditor is required by IRS regulations to report forgiveness of debt.
- 56. Although Defendant had no duty to disclose any potential tax ramifications,<sup>2</sup> when FIA chooses to give tax disclosures, it must do so in a way that it will not mislead the least sophisticated consumer as to his or her tax consequences.
- 57. Current case law has made clear, that if debt collectors are providing tax advice with regards to the reporting of forgiveness of debt, they cannot provide vague, incomplete and misleading disclosures that leave out the essential element that the reporting of forgiveness of a debt happens **only if** the principal forgiven exceeds \$600, and that reporting of forgiveness of a debt would not happen even if the amount is greater than \$600, if the \$600 or greater amount forgiven contained interest forgiveness, so long as the principal was less than \$600.
- 58. The statement "This settlement may have tax consequences" is ambiguous, yet the vagueness and uncertainty does not erase the fundamental mischief and deception that the statement intends to cause to the consumer.
- 59. A consumer reading this statement will be led to believe that if a settlement erases any amount of the debt, then the creditor is required to report the forgiveness of debt to the IRS,

reasonably read to have two or more different meanings, one of which is inaccurate. The fact that the notice's terminology was vague or uncertain will not prevent it from being held deceptive under § 1692e(10) of the Act.)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See. Altman v. J.C. Christensen & Assocs., 786 F.3d 191, 194, 2015 U.S. App. LEXIS 7980, \*7 (2d Cir. N.Y. 2015). "[T]he FDCPA does not require a debt collector to make any affirmative disclosures of potential tax consequences when collecting a debt.")

- per the IRS regulations (creating by fear of the IRS another incentive for the consumer to pay the debt without erasing any amount through settlement).
- 60. However, this statement is inherently deceptive and misleading, by giving erroneous and incomplete tax information, because in actual fact and according to IRS regulations, the creditor "will not" be required to report to the IRS report forgiveness of debt less than \$600, nor would the creditor be required to report an amount greater than \$600 in forgiveness if the amount contained interest.
- 61. If the creditor legitimately wishes to give tax advice in a sincere manner, one that does not mislead the consumer, then that creditor should specify and make clear to the least sophisticated consumer that only certain amounts require reporting, and that this applies only to principle and not to interest forgiveness.
- 62. The creditor should also specify what amount is principle and what part of it is interest owed. Any tax advice that does not specify the tax consequences as it applies to the consumer's circumstances is nothing more than a ploy to elicit a more substantial payment from the consumer than the consumer would have paid, had he or she understood the tax reporting consequences.
- 63. The use of the words "This settlement may have tax consequences" is an attempt by the debt collector to make the debtor think that the IRS regulations require the reporting of all forgiveness of debt above a certain amount. The least sophisticated consumer would reasonably read the letter to mean that the creditor will report all forgiveness of debt above a certain amount as is required by IRS regulations.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Russell v. Equifax A.R.S., 74 F.3d 30, 35, 1996 U.S. App. LEXIS 1042, \*13 (2d Cir. N.Y. 1996). (That a notice's terminology is vague or uncertain will not prevent it from being held deceptive under 1692e.)

- 64. In a recent decision, this court found in the case of *Kaff v. Nationwide Credit, Inc.*, 1:13- cv-05413, No. 32 (E.D.N.Y. Mar. 31, 2015) (Towns, J.) that a statement regarding the requirement to file a 1099: "was not strictly true under all circumstances because **it failed to apprise debtors** that possible exceptions could apply to the creditor's mandatory reporting requirement, such as the exceptions **for interest and other non-principal debts.**" *Kaff v. Nationwide Credit, Inc.*, 1:13-cv-05413, No. 32 (E.D.N.Y. Mar. 31, 2015) (Towns, J.) (emphasis added); see also *Good v. Nationwide Credit, Inc.*, No. 14-4295, 2014 BL 302150 (E.D. Pa. Oct. 24, 2014). (finding that the statement "American Express is required to file a form 1099C with the Internal Revenue Service for any cancelled debt of \$600 or more. Please consult your tax advisor concerning any tax questions" is not true and does not accurately reflect the relevant law the court also found that the statement's invocation of the IRS was deceptive and materially misleading in violation of the FDCPA).
- 65. Defendant tends to give erroneous and/or incomplete tax advice to consumers.
- 66. Such a statement in a collection letter suggests to the least sophisticated consumer that failure to pay will get the consumer into trouble with the IRS.<sup>4</sup>
- 67. The statement in said October 5, 2016 letter is false and misleading, in violation of 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692e(2), and 1692e(10).
- 68. Defendant could have taken the steps necessary to bring its actions within compliance of the FDCPA, but neglected to do so and failed to adequately review its actions to ensure conformance to the law.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Kaff v. Nationwide Credit, Inc., 1:13-cv-05413, No. 32 (E.D.N.Y. Mar. 31, 2015) (Towns, J.); Wagner v. Client Services, Inc., No. 08-5546, 2009 WL 839073, 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 26604 (E.D.Pa., March 26, 2009); Sledge v. Sands, 182 F.R.D. 255 (N.D.III. 1998).

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendant as follows:

- (a) Declaring that this action is properly maintainable as a Class Action and certifying Plaintiff as Class representative, and Alan J. Sasson, Esq., 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 attorney 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/ Alan J. Sasson
Alan J. Sasson, Esq.
Law Office of Alan J. Sasson, P.C.
2687 Coney Island Avenue, 2nd Floor
Brooklyn, New York 11235
Phone: (718) 339-0856

Facsimile: (347) 244-7178 *Attorney 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/ Alan J. Sasson
Alan J. Sasson, Esq.

Dated: Brooklyn, New York December 13, 2016 JS 44 (Rev. 07/16)

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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 d	ocket sneet. (SEE INSTRUC	TIONS ON NEXT PAGE O	F THIS FC	ORM.)					
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFENDANTS						
ELLIOT FRANCO, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situ			ated, NORTHSTAR LOCATION SERVICES, LLC						
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Kings (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)					
LAW OFFICE OF ALAN 2nd Floor, Brooklyn, NY	J. SASSON, P.C., 268	37 Coney Island Av	enue,						
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X" in O	ne Box Only)	III. CI	TIZENSHIP OF P  (For Diversity Cases Only)	RINCIPA	L PARTIES	(Place an "X" in and One Box f	-	-
☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff		Not a Party)	Citiz	en of This State		Incorporated or Pri of Business In T	incipal Place	PTF	DEF
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizensh.)	ip of Parties in Item III)	Citiz	en of Another State	2 🗖 2	Incorporated and P of Business In A		<b>5</b>	□ 5
				en or Subject of a preign Country	3 🗖 3	Foreign Nation		□ 6	□ 6
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□ 110 Insurance □ 120 Marine □ 130 Miller Act □ 140 Negotiable Instrument □ 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment □ 151 Medicare Act □ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) □ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits □ 160 Stockholders' Suits □ 190 Other Contract □ 195 Contract Product Liability □ 196 Franchise    REAL PROPERTY □ 210 Land Condemnation □ 220 Foreclosure □ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment □ 240 Torts to Land □ 245 Tort Product Liability □ 290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY  310 Airplane  315 Airplane Product Liability  320 Assault, Libel &	PERSONAL INJUR  PERSONAL INJUR  365 Personal Injury - Product Liability Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability Product Liability PERSONAL PROPER  370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage Product Liability PRISONER PETITIO! Habeas Corpus: 463 Alien Detainee 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence 530 General 535 Death Penalty Other: 540 Mandamus & Oth 550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement	XTY	25 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 00 Other  LABOR 10 Fair Labor Standards Act 20 Labor/Management Relations 40 Railway Labor Act 51 Family and Medical Leave Act 00 Other Labor Litigation 91 Employee Retirement Income Security Act  IMMIGRATION 52 Naturalization Application 55 Other Immigration Actions	422 Appe   423 With 28 U   FROPEI   820 Copy   830 Pater   840 Trade   861 HIA   862 Black   863 DIW   864 SSID   865 RSI (	al 28 USC 158 drawal SC 157  RTY RIGHTS rights at emark  SECURITY (1395ff) at Lung (923) C/DIWW (405(g)) Title XVI 405(g))  AL TAX SUITS s (U.S. Plaintiff efendant)	375 False C   376 Qui Ta 3729(a   400 State R   410 Antitud   430 Banks   450 Comm   460 Deport   470 Racket   Corrup   480 Consur   490 Cable/:   850 Securit   Excha   891 Agricud   891 Agricud   893 Enviro   895 Freedo   Act   896 Arbitra   899 Admin   Act/Re   Agency   950 Constit	OTHER STATUTES  □ 375 False Claims Act □ 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) □ 400 State Reapportionment □ 410 Antitrust □ 430 Banks and Banking □ 450 Commerce □ 460 Deportation □ 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations  ▼ 480 Consumer Credit □ 490 Cable/Sat TV □ 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange □ 890 Other Statutory Actions □ 891 Agricultural Acts □ 893 Environmental Matters □ 895 Freedom of Information Act □ 896 Arbitration □ 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision □ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes	
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VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	Brief description of ca								
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:		IS A CLASS ACTION		EMAND \$		HECK YES only URY DEMAND:		n complai	
VIII. RELATED CASS	E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE			DOCKE	T NUMBER			
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#### Case 1:16-cv-06880 Document 1-1 Filed 12/13/16 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, ALAN J	. SASSON	, counsel for PLAINTIFF, do hereby certify that the above captioned civil action is ompulsory arbitration for the following reason(s):			
mengn					
	monetary damages sought are in excess of \$150,000, exclusive of interest and costs,				
		the complaint seeks injunctive relief,  Ougetions of law rather than questions of			
	the matter is otherwise ineligible for the following reason fact predominate <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 because same jud case: (A)	that "A c the cases a lge and ma ) 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.)	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					
Suffolk	County, 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 ty?lote: A corporation shall be considered a resident of the County in which it has the most significant contacts).			
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	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/ Alan J. Sasson

### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Eastern District of New York

Eustern District	torrow fork			
ELLIOT FRANCO, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated,	) ) )			
Pl. sindiff(s)	)			
Plaintiff(s)	) Chail Andrew Ma			
V.	Civil Action No.			
NORTHSTAR LOCATION SERVICES, LLC				
Defendante)				
Defendant(s)	)			
SUMMONS IN A	A CIVIL ACTION			
To: (D. (a. day) - non-aday) NORTHSTAR LOCATION SI	ERVICES, LLC			
To: (Defendant's name and address) NOKTHSTAK EOCATION SI 4285 GENESEE STREET				
CHEEKTOWAGA, NEW YO	RK 14225			
A lawsuit has been filed against you.				
are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an answ the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion	ver to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of			
whose name and address are: LAW OFFICE OF ALAN J. S	ASSON P.C.			
2687 CONEY ISLAND AVEN				
2ND FLOOR				
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11	1235			
If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be ex You also must file your answer or motion with the court.	ntered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.			
	DOUGLAS C. DALAED			
	DOUGLAS C. PALMER			
	CLERK OF COURT			
Date:				
	Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk			

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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 (nam	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					
	on (date) ; or ☐ I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with (name)						
		, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there,					
	on (date)	, and mailed a copy t	to the individual's last known address; or				
	☐ I served the summons on (name of individual)						
	designated by law to a	accept service of process on be	ehalf of (name of organization)				
			on (date)	; or			
	☐ I returned the sumn	I returned the summons unexecuted because					
	☐ Other (specify):						
	My fees are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$	0.00			
	I declare under penalty	of perjury that this information	on is true.				
Date:							
			Server's signature				
			Printed name and title				
			Server's address				

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

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4285 Genesee Street Cheektowaga, NY 14225-1943

#### NORTHSTAR LOCATION SERVICES, LLC

1-855-211-4583 Hours Mon-Thurs 8AM-10PM ET, Fri 8AM-8PM ET, Sat 8AM-12PM ET

October 5, 2016

Creditor: BARCLAYS BANK DELAWARE

Account #: \*\*\*\*\*\*7047 Balance: \$3,755.09

Amount Remitted: \$\_\_\_\_\_

201600000661489-LT1

ELLIOTT FRANCO



To ensure proper credit, return this portion with your payment.

Creditor	Account #	Balance	Amount Remitted
BARCLAYS BANK DELAWARE	*******7047	\$3,755.09	

The above account has been referred to our office by BARCLAYS BANK DELAWARE / HAWAIIAN AIRLINES WORLD ELITE MASTERCARD. Your account is listed as delinquent with a total amount due of \$3,755.09.

Original Creditor: Barclays Bank Delaware

Total Charge-Off Balance: \$3,755.09

Total Amount of Payments Since Charge-Off: \$.00

Total Interest Since Charge-Off: \$.00

Total Fees Accrued Since Charge-Off: \$.00

This communication is from a debt collector and is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Unless you notify this office within 30 days after receiving this notice that you dispute the validity of this debt, or any portion thereof, this office will assume this debt is valid. If you notify this office in writing within 30 days from receiving this notice that you dispute the validity of this debt, or any portion thereof, this office will obtain verification of the debt or obtain a copy of a judgment and mail you a copy of such judgment or verification. If you request in writing within 30 days after receiving this notice, this office will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor.

To make paying your account more convenient we offer the following payment options:

- Check-by-phone at 1-855-211-4583
- MoneyGram ExpressPayment
- Debit Card

- Web Pay at <u>www.gotonls.com</u>
- Pay in person at our office
- Enclose your payment in the envelope

You may contact David Evtimovski toll free at 1-855-211-4583 to make your payment.

NOTICE: SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION

4285 Gonosoo Stroot Chooktowaga, NY 14225 1943 NORTHSTAR LOCATION SERVICES, LLC 1-855-211-4583

Hours Mon-Thurs 8AM-10PM ET, Fri 8AM-8PM ET, Sat 8AM-12PM ET

November 21, 2016

**Creditor: BARCLAYS BANK DELAWARE** 

Account #: \*\*\*\*\*\*\*7047

Balance: \$3,755.09 Amount Remitted: \$

201600000661489-BB5

To ensure proper credit, return this portion with your payment.

Creditor		Account #	Balance	Amount Remitted
	BARCLAYS BANK DELAWARE	7047	\$3,755.09	

Northstar Location Services, LLC, an authorized representative for BARCLAYS BANK DELAWARE / HAWAIIAN AIRLINES WORLD ELITE MASTERCARD, would like to work with you in an effort to resolve the balance on the above account.

We would like to discuss a settlement option, to pay less than the full balance due, with you. Please contact our office toll free at 1-855-211-4583 to make arrangements.

This settlement may have tax consequences. If you are uncertain of the tax consequences, consult a tax advisor.

Once your account is settled for less than the full balance, Barclays Bank Delaware will send notification to the credit reporting agencies to reflect the settlement. Please allow Barclays Bank Delaware at least 30 days for the change to be updated on your credit bureau.

This letter is contingent on the clearance of all payments made towards the settlement. If any payments made as part of the settlement fail to clear, this offer will be null and void.

This communication is from a debt collector and is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

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Debit Card

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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: Northstar Location Services Pinged with FDCPA Class Action