UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

NATELA IOBIDZE on behalf of herself and all other similarly situated consumers

Plaintiff,

-against-

SELIP & STYLIANOU, LLP

Defendant.

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

Introduction

1. Plaintiff, Natela Iobidze, brings this action against Selip & Stylianou, LLP for violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et *seq.* ("FDCPA"). The FDCPA prohibits debt collectors from engaging in abusive, deceptive and unfair collection practices while attempting to collect on debts.

Parties

- 2. Plaintiff is a citizen of the State of New York who previously resided within this District.
- 3. Plaintiff is a consumer as that term is defined by Section 1692(a)(3) of the FDCPA, in that the alleged debt that Defendant sought to collect from Plaintiff a consumer debt.
- Upon information and belief, Defendant's principal place of business is located in Woodbury, New York.
- 5. Defendant is regularly engaged, for profit, in the collection of debts allegedly owed by consumers.

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

Jurisdiction and Venue

- This Court has federal question jurisdiction under 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d) and 28 U.S.C. § 1331.
- 8. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), as the acts and transactions that give rise to this action occurred, in substantial part, in this district.

Allegations Particular to Natela Iobidze

- 9. Upon information and belief, on a date better known by Defendant, Defendant began to attempt to collect an alleged consumer debt from the Plaintiff.
- 10. On or about February 8, 2017, Defendant sent the Plaintiff a collection letter.
- 11. The said letter was an effort to collect on a consumer debt.
- 12. The February 8, 2017 letter was received by the Plaintiff on or around five days later.
- 13. The said February 8, 2017 letter failed to correctly state the in full the amount of the debt allegedly owed.
- 14. Though the February 8, 2017 letter listed a "Balance Due" and demanded payment in full, the letter did not state on which date the "Balance Due" was calculated, and did not explain that interest would continue to accrue on the unpaid principal; thus, the Plaintiff's total balance might be greater on the date she makes a payment.
- 15. A reasonable consumer could read the notice and be misled into believing that he or she could pay her debt in full by paying the amount listed on the notice.
- 16. In fact, however, since interest is accruing daily, or since there are undisclosed late fees, a consumer who pays the "Balance Due" stated on the notice will not know whether the

debt has been paid in full.

- 17. The debt collector could still seek the interest and fees that accumulated after the notice was sent but before the balance was paid, or sell the consumer's debt to a third party, which itself could seek the interest and fees from the consumer.
- 18. As interest was accruing daily, as was seen from a subsequent letter the Defendant sent to the Plaintiff, dated January 30, 2018, regarding the same account, wherein the balance had increased by \$175.78, a consumer who pays the "Balance Due" stated on either of the said collection letters will not know whether the debt has been paid in full.
- 19. The January 30, 2018 letter itself was in violation in the same manner that the February 8, 2017 letter was in violation.
- 20. The statement of a "Balance Due," without notice that the amount is already increasing due to accruing interest or other charges, would mislead the least sophisticated consumer into believing that payment of the amount stated will clear his or her account.
- 21. The FDCPA requires debt collectors, when notifying consumers of their account balance, to disclose that the balance may increase due to interest and fees; failure to include such disclosures would harm consumers such as the Plaintiff who may hold the reasonable but mistaken belief, that timely payment will satisfy their debts and it would abrogate the Congressional purpose of full and fair disclosure to consumers that is embodied in Section 1692e.
- 22. Collection notices that state only the "Balance Due," but do not disclose that the balance might increase due to interest and fees, are "misleading" within the meaning of Section 1692e.
- 23. Although the said letters stated a "Balance Due" and demanded payment in full, the letter

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also failed to disclose to the Plaintiff that the Defendant would attempt to collect the additional accruing interest at a later date.

- 24. Upon receiving the February 8, 2017 letter, the Plaintiff was uncertain whether the "Balance Due" was accruing interest as there was no disclosure or admonition indicating otherwise.
- 25. A debtor who pays the "Balance Due" stated in either of the collection letters will be left unsure as to whether or not the debt has been paid in full, as the Defendant could still attempt to collect on any interest and fees that accumulated after one of the letters were sent but before the balance was paid.
- 26. The letters would cause the unsophisticated consumer uncertainty and force her to guess how much money she allegedly owed to the Defendant, how much money would accrue daily on her alleged debt, how much additional money she would owe if she paid the amount demanded in either letter, and if or when the Defendant's collection efforts would actually discontinue if she remitted "Balance Due" that the Defendant demanded.
- 27. Section 1692e of the FDCPA prohibits a debt collector from using any false, or any deceptive or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of a debt, including the false representation of the character, amount or legal status of any debt, see, 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(2)(A) and § 1692e(10).
- 28. Upon information and belief, such actions are part of a scheme or business of the Defendant when attempting to collect alleged debts from consumers in the State of New York.
- 29. Upon information and belief, the Defendant's collection letters, such as the said collection letters, number in at least the hundreds.

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- 30. The Defendant, by failing to state that it would add interest to the amount of the debt, made materially false statements, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692e of the FDCPA.
- 31. Defendant's letters are in violation of 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692e(2)(A) and 1692e(10) of the FDCPA for the use of any false representation or deceptive means to collect or attempt to collect any debt and for misrepresenting the amount of the debt owed by the Plaintiff.
- Plaintiff suffered injury in fact by being subjected to unfair and abusive practices of the Defendant.
- 33. Plaintiff suffered actual harm by being the target of the Defendant's misleading debt collection communications.
- 34. Defendant violated the Plaintiff's right not to be the target of misleading debt collection communications.
- 35. Defendant violated the Plaintiff's right to a truthful and fair debt collection process.
- 36. Defendant used materially false, deceptive, misleading representations and means in its attempted collection of Plaintiff's alleged debt.
- 37. Defendant's communications were designed to cause the debtor to suffer a harmful disadvantage in charting a course of action in response to Defendant's collection efforts.
- 38. The FDCPA ensures that consumers are fully and truthfully apprised of the facts and of their rights, the act enables them to understand, make informed decisions about, and participate fully and meaningfully in the debt collection process. The purpose of the FDCPA is to provide information that helps consumers to choose intelligently. The Defendant's false representations misled the Plaintiff in a manner that deprived her of her right to enjoy these benefits, these materially misleading statements trigger liability under

section 1692e of the Act.

- 39. These deceptive communications additionally violated the FDCPA since they frustrate the consumer's ability to intelligently choose his or her response.
- 40. Plaintiff seeks to end these violations of the FDCPA. Plaintiff has suffered damages including but not limited to, fear, stress, mental anguish, emotional stress and acute embarrassment. Plaintiff and putative class members are entitled to preliminary and permanent injunctive relief, including, declaratory relief, and damages.

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

- 41. This action is brought as a class action. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of herself and on behalf of all other persons similarly situated pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.
- 42. The identities of all class members are readily ascertainable from the records of Selip & Stylianou, LLP and those business and governmental entities on whose behalf it attempts to collect debts.
- 43. Excluded from the Plaintiff's Class is the Defendant and all officers, members, partners, managers, directors, and employees of Selip & Stylianou, LLP, and all of their respective immediate families, and legal counsel for all parties to this action and all members of their immediate families.
- 44. There are questions of law and fact common to the Plaintiff's Class, which common issues predominate over any issues involving only individual class members. The principal issues are whether the Defendant's communications with the Plaintiff, such as the above stated claims, violate provisions of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.

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- 45. The Plaintiff's claims are typical of the class members, as all are based upon the same facts and legal theories.
- 46. The Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Plaintiff's Class defined in this complaint. The Plaintiff has retained counsel with experience in handling consumer lawsuits, complex legal issues, and class actions, and neither the Plaintiff nor her attorneys have any interests, which might cause them not to vigorously pursue this action.
- 47. This action has been brought, and may properly be maintained, as a class action pursuant to the provisions of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure because there is a well-defined community interest in the litigation:
 - (a) <u>Numerosity:</u> The Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that the Plaintiff's 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's Class and those questions predominate over any questions or issues involving only individual class members. The principal issues are whether the Defendant's communications with the Plaintiff, such as the above stated claims, violate provisions of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.
 - (c) <u>Typicality:</u> The Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the class members. Plaintiff and all members of the Plaintiff's Class defined in this complaint have claims arising out of the Defendant's common uniform course of conduct complained of herein.

- (d) Adequacy: 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.
- (e) Superiority: A class action is superior to the other available means for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy because individual joinder of all members would be impracticable. Class action treatment will permit a large number of similarly situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum efficiently and without unnecessary duplication of effort and expense that individual actions would engender. Certification of a class under Rule 23(b)(l)(A) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure is appropriate because adjudications with respect to individual members create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications which could establish incompatible standards of conduct for Defendant who, on information and belief, collects debts throughout the United States of America.
- 48. Certification of a class under Rule 23(b)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure is also appropriate in that a determination that the above stated claims, violate provisions of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, and is tantamount to declaratory relief and any monetary relief under the FDCPA would be merely incidental to that determination.

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- 49. Certification of a class under Rule 23(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure is also appropriate in that the questions of law and fact common to members of the Plaintiff's Class predominate over any questions affecting an individual member, and a class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy.
- 50. Further, Defendant has acted, or failed to act, on grounds generally applicable to the Rule(b)(l)(A) and (b)(2) Class, thereby making appropriate final injunctive relief with respect to the Class as a whole.
- 51. Depending on the outcome of further investigation and discovery, Plaintiff may, at the time of class certification motion, seek to certify one or more classes only as to particular issues pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(c)(4).

CAUSE OF ACTION

Violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act brought by Plaintiff on behalf of herself and the members of a class, as against the Defendant.

- 52. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates, and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs numbered one (1) through fifty-one (51) herein with the same force and effect is if the same were set forth at length herein.
- 53. This cause of action is brought on behalf of Plaintiff and the members of a class.
- 54. The class involves all individuals whom Defendant's records reflect resided in the State of New York and who were sent a collection letter in substantially the same form letter as the letters sent to the Plaintiff on or about February 8, 2017 and January 30, 2018; and (a) the collection letters were sent to a consumer seeking payment of a personal debt; and (b) the collection letters was not returned by the postal service as undelivered; and (c) the Plaintiff asserts that the letters contained violations of 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692e(2)(A)

and 1692e(10) of the FDCPA for the use of any false representation or deceptive means to collect or attempt to collect any debt and for misrepresenting the amount of the debt owed by the Plaintiff.

Violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act

- 55. The Defendant's actions as set forth above in the within complaint violates the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.
- 56. Because the Defendant violated the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, the Plaintiff and the members of the class are entitled to damages in accordance with the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, respectfully requests preliminary and permanent injunctive relief, and that this Court enter judgment in Plaintiff's favor and against the Defendant and award damages as follows:

- (a) Statutory damages provided under the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. § 1692(k);
- (b) Attorney fees, litigation expenses and costs incurred in bringing this action; and
- (c) Any other relief that this Court deems appropriate and just under the circumstances.

Dated: Brooklyn, New York February 12, 2018

> /s/ Igor Litvak Igor B. Litvak, Esq. NJ Bar ID # 906792012 Maxim & Maximov 1701 Avenue P Brooklyn, New York 11229 E-mail: m@maximovlaw.com Office: (718) 395-3459 Fax: (718) 408-9570

Plaintiff requests trial by jury on all issues so triable.

/s/__Igor Litvak____ Igor B. Litvak, Esq.

SELIP & STYLIANOU, LLP

Mitchell Selip, P.C.* Harry Stylianou, P.C.*° Richard S. Eichenbaum, P.C.^# David A. Cohen, P.C.+ Mitchell G. Slamowitz, P.C.+

Service of legal documents not accepted by fax or email

NATELA IOBIDZE

Attorneys at Law 199 Crossways Park Drive P.O. Box 363 Woodbury, NY 11797-0363

Phone (866) 848-8975 Fax (516) 908-7993 10 Forest Avenue, Suite 300 Paramus, NJ 07652 Alicia S. Bursky-Stillman + Managing Attorney Carol Van Houten+ Bryan Houde+ David Szalyga+ Amelia Kunis+ Fotini Karamouzis+ Sestino Barone+ Jesse A. Bender* Mary D. Milone+ Laura D. Yacht+

February 08, 2017

* Admitted NY & NJ # Admitted FL + Admitted NY ^ Admitted NJ ° Admitted PA

Re: Creditor: SYNCHRONY BANK Product Type: PayPal Smart Connect Account No: XXXX-XXXX-0386 S&S File No: Balance Due: \$3,938.88

Dear NATELA IOBIDZE:

Please be advised that the above referenced creditor has referred this account to our law office for collection. Kindly contact this office to discuss the various payment options available or visit our website at www.seliplaw.com to make payments online. If you would like to mail a payment to this office, payments should be made payable to SYNCHRONY BANK.

VALIDATION NOTICE

Unless you dispute the validity of this debt or any portion thereof within 30 days after receipt of this notice, the above debt will be assumed to be valid by this office. Should you notify this office in writing within 30 days after receipt of this notice that the debt or any portion thereof is disputed, we will obtain and mail to you verification of the debt or a copy of the judgment, if any. Upon your written request within 30 days after receipt of this notice, we will provide you the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor.

We are committed to working with you in order to find the best possible resolution of this matter. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Richard Eichenbaum, Esq.

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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Please be advised that your payment of \$200.00 due by January 26, 2018 has not yet been received by us. Pursuant to the terms of the repayment agreement, kindly forward your payment of \$200.00 made payable to SYNCHRONY BANK to us as agreed. You may also call us or visit our website at **www.seliplaw.com** to make payments.

If you already mailed the payment, please disregard this notice. Thank you for your cooperation. Sincerely,

Accounting Department

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



JS 44 (Rev. 06/17) Case 2:18-cv-01992 Decument COVER SHEET Page 1 of 2 PageID: 13

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. *(SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)*

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDANTS			
NATELA IOBIDZE				SELIP & STYLIANOU, LLP			
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff BERGEN (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.			
				THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.			
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)				Attorneys (If Known)			
IGOR B. LITVAK, ESQ. 1701 AVENUE P BROOKLYN, NEW YORI	PHONE / FA						
II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)				TIZENSHIP OF P (For Diversity Cases Only)	RINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)	
1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	✗ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)			en of This State		PTF DEF incipal Place	
□ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)			Citizen of Another State			
				en or Subject of a reign Country	3 3 Foreign Nation		
	E OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)					of Suit Code Descriptions.	
CONTRACT 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 &	PRTS PERSONAL INJURY □ 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability □ 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability □ 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPER □ 370 Other Fraud □ 371 Truth in Lending □ 380 Other Personal Property Damage □ 385 Property Damage Product Liability PRISONER PETITION Habeas Corpus: □ 463 Alien Detainee □ 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence □ 530 General □ 535 Death Penalty Other: □ 540 Mandamus & Othe □ 550 Civil Rights □ 555 Prison Condition □ 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of	TY - 69 - 69 TY - 71 - 72 - 74 - 75 - 75 - 75	DRFEITURE/PENALTY DRFEITURE/PENALTY Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 O Other USC 881 O Other USC 881 O Tair Labor Standards Act O Labor/Management Relations O Railway Labor Act I Family and Medical Leave Act O Other Labor Litigation D Employee Retirement Income Security Act IMMIGRATION 2 Naturalization Application 5 Other Immigration Actions	BANKRUPTCY □ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 □ 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS □ 820 Copyrights □ 830 Patent □ 830 Patent □ 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application □ 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY □ 861 HIA (1395ff) □ 862 Black Lung (923) □ 864 SSID Title XVI □ 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS □ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) □ 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	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 X 480 Consumer Credit 490 Cable/Sat TV 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange 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	
	moved from 🗖 3	Confinement	J 4 Rein Reoj		r District Litigation	- Litigation -	
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	DN 15 U.S.C. SECT Brief description of ca	ION 1692 FÁIR D nuse:	EBTC	(specify) Do not cite jurisdictional stat DLLECTION PRACT	utes unless diversity): ICES ACT (FDCPA)	Direct File	
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	UNDER RULE 2	IS A CLASS ACTION 3, F.R.Cv.P.	D	EMAND \$	CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND:	if demanded in complaint:	
VIII. RELATED CASI IF ANY	ASE(S) (See instructions): JUDGE			DOCKET NUMBER			
DATE 02/12/2018 FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD /S/ IGOR B. LITVAK, ESQ.						
	MOUNT	APPLYING IFP		JUDGE	MAG. JUE	DGE	

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. Endered question. (2) This particular of the Question of the Question of the United States are agreed and the Constitution of the United States are agreed and the Constitution of the United States are agreed and the Constitution of the United States are agreed and the Constitution of the United States are agreed and the Constitution of the United States are agreed and the Constitution of the United States are agreed and the Constitution of the United States are agreed and the Constitution of the United States are agreed and the Constitution of the United States are agreed and the Constitution of the United States are agreed and the Constitution of the United States are agreed and the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the United States are agreed and the Constitution of the United States are agreed and the Constitution of the United States are agreed and the Constitution of the United States are agreed and the Constitution of the United States are agreed and the Constitution of the United States are agreed and the Constitution of the United States are agreed and the Constitution of the United States are agreed and the Constitution of the United States are agreed and the Constitution of the United States are agreed and the Constitution of the United States are agreed and the Constitution of the United States are agreed and the Constitution of the United States are agreed and the Constitution of the United States are agreed and the Constitution of the

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.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

NATELA IOBIDZE on behalf of herself and all other similarly situated consumers

Plaintiff,

-against-

SELIP & STYLIANOU, LLP

Defendant.

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

TO: SELIP & STYLIANOU, LLP 199 CROSSWAYS PARK DRIVE WOODBURY, NEW YORK 11797

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to file with the Clerk of this Court and serve upon PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY:

IGOR B. LITVAK, ESQ. MAXIM & MAXIMOV LLP 1701 AVENUE P BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11229

an answer to the complaint which is herewith served upon you, with **21** days after service of this summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

CLERK

DATE

BY DEPUTY CLERK

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Selip & Stylianou Accused of Misrepresenting Amount of NJ Woman's Debt</u>