UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

ADRIAN JOHNSON, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated;

Plaintiff,

CIVIL ACTION NO.

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

-V.-

SIMM ASSOCIATES, INC., OLIPHANT FINANCIAL, LLC and JOHN DOES 1-25,

Defendant(s).

Plaintiff Adrian Johnson (hereinafter, "Plaintiff" or "Johnson") brings this Class Action Complaint by and through her attorneys, Garibian Law Offices, P.C., against Defendant Simm Associates, Inc. (hereinafter "Defendant Simm") and Defendant Oliphant Financial, LLC (hereinafter "Defendant Oliphant") 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** 

1. Congress enacted the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act ("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

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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 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et. seq. 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) as this is where a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred.
- 5. Venue is also proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391(b)(1) as Defendants are residents of the state of Delaware.

#### **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

- 6. Plaintiff brings this class action on behalf of a class of Nebraska consumers under §1692 et seq. of Title 15 of the United States Code, the FDCPA, and
  - 7. Plaintiff is seeking damages and declaratory relief.

#### **PARTIES**

- 8. Plaintiff is a resident of the State of Nebraska, with her principle residence located at 1320 Warren Street, Apt. 9, Bellevue, NE 68005.
- 9. Defendant Simm is a "debt collector" as the phrase is defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692(a)(6) and used in the FDCPA with an address at 800 Pencader Drive, Newark, DE 19702.
- 10. Defendant Oliphant is a "debt collector" as the phrase is defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692(a)(6) and used in the FDCPA with an address at 2711 Centerville Rd, Ste 400, Wilmington, DE 19808.
- 11. Upon information and belief, Defendant Simm 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.
- 12. Upon information and belief, Defendant Oliphant 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.
- 13. John Does 1-25, are fictitious names of individuals and businesses alleged for the purpose of substituting names of Defendants whose identities will be disclosed in discovery and should be made parties to this action.

#### **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

- 14. Plaintiff brings this claim on behalf of the following case, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a) and 23(b)(3).
  - 15. The Class consists of:
    - a. all individuals with addresses in the State of Nebraska;
    - to whom Defendant Simm sent an initial collection letter attempting to collect a consumer debt;
    - c. presumably on behalf of Defendant Oliphant;
    - d. that failed to properly identify the name of the current creditor to whom the debt was allegedly owed;
    - e. which letter was sent on or after a date one (1) year prior to the filing of this action and on or before a date twenty-one (21) days after the filing of this action.
- 16. The identities of all class members are readily ascertainable from the records of Defendants and those companies and entities on whose behalf they attempt to collect and/or have purchased debts.
- 17. Excluded from the Plaintiff Class are the Defendants and all officer, members, partners, managers, directors and employees of the Defendants and their respective immediate families, and legal counsel for all parties to this action, and all members of their immediate families.
- 18. There are questions of law and fact common to the Plaintiff Class members, which common issues predominate over any issues involving only individual class members. The principal issue is whether the Defendants' written communications to consumers, in the forms attached as Exhibits A, violate 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e and 1692g.

- 19. The Plaintiff's claims are typical of the class members, as all are based upon the same facts and legal theories. The Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Plaintiff 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.
- 20. 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 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 predominance over any questions or issues involving only individual class members. The principal issue is \whether the Defendants' written communications to consumers, in the forms attached as Exhibit A violate 15 U.S.C. § 1692e and §1692g.
  - c. <u>Typicality:</u> The Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the class members.

    The Plaintiffs and all members of the Plaintiff Class have claims arising out of the Defendants' 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 has any interests which might cause them not to vigorously pursue the instant class action lawsuit.

- e. <u>Superiority:</u> 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.
- 21. 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 Classes 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.
- 22. Depending on the outcome of further investigation and discovery, Plaintiffs may, at the time of class certification motion, seek to certify a class(es) only as to particular issues pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(c)(4).

#### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

- 23. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs numbered above herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.
- 24. Some time prior to May 17, 2017, an obligation was allegedly incurred to Celtic Bank.

- 25. The Celtic Bank obligation arose out of transactions in which money, property, insurance or services were the subject of the transactions. Specifically, Plaintiff used the funds received from Celtic Bank to purchase primarily personal, family or household items.
  - 26. The alleged Celtic Bank obligation is a "debt" as defined by 15 U.S.C.\( \) 1692a(5).
  - 27. Celtic Bank is a "creditor" as defined by 15 U.S.C.\( \) 1692a(4).
- 28. Defendant Oliphant Financial, LLC, a debt collector and the subsequent owner of the Celtic Bank debt, contracted the Defendant Simm Associates, Inc. to collect the alleged debt.
- 29. Defendants collect and attempt 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.

#### *Violation I – May 17, 2017 Collection Letter*

- 30. On or about May 17, 2017, Defendant Simm Associates, Inc. sent the Plaintiff an initial contact notice (the "Letter"). **See Letter at Exhibit A.**
- 31. When a debt collector solicits payment from a consumer, it must, within five days of an initial communication
  - (1) the amount of the debt;
  - (2) the name of the creditor to whom the debt is owed;
  - (3) a statement that unless the consumer, within thirty days after receipt of the notice, disputes the validity of the debt, or any portion thereof, the debt will be assumed to be valid by the debt collector;
  - (4) a statement that if the consumer notifies the debt collector in writing within the thirtyday period that the debt, or any portion thereof, is disputed, the debt collector will obtain

verification of the debt or a copy of the judgment against the consumer and a copy of such verification or judgment will be mailed to the consumer by the debt collector; and (5) a statement that, upon the consumer's written request within the thirty-day period, the debt collector will provide the consumer with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor. 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a).

- 32. The FDCPA further provides that "if the consumer notifies the debt collector in writing within the thirty day period . . . that the debt, or any portion thereof, is disputed . . . the debt collector shall cease collection . . . until the debt collector obtains verification of the debt . . . and a copy of such verification is mailed to the consumer by the debt collector." 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(b).
- 33. Although a collection letter may track the statutory language, "the collector nevertheless violates the Act if it conveys that information in a confusing or contradictory fashion so as to cloud the required message with uncertainty." Russell v. EQUIFAX A.R.S., 74 F.3d 30, 35 (2d Cir. 1996) ("It is not enough for a debt collection agency to simply include the proper debt validation notice in a mailing to a consumer-- Congress intended that such notice be clearly conveyed."). Put differently, a notice containing "language that 'overshadows or contradicts' other language informing a consumer of her rights . . . violates the Act." Russell, 74 F.3d at 34.
- 34. Defendants' Letter fails to contain all the requirements as set forth in 15 U.S.C. \$1692g. Specifically, this Letter deceptively fails to identify who the current creditor is to whom the alleged debt is owed.
- 35. The Letter lists Oliphant Financial, LLC as "Our Client" but nowhere does the Letter clearly identify who the current creditor is as is required by the FDCPA.

- 36. It is deceptive to not clearly state who the creditor is in any collection letter sent to a consumer.
- 37. The FDCPA requires that the letter must specifically and clearly state who the creditor is.
- 38. Defendants have failed to provide the consumer with a proper, initial communication letter by failing to clearly identify the current creditor of the debt.
- 39. Plaintiff incurred an informational injury as Defendants failed to advise her of the identity of her current creditor.
- 40. As a result of Defendants' deceptive, misleading and unfair debt collection practices, Plaintiff has been damaged.

# COUNT I VIOLATIONS OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT 15 U.S.C. §1692e et seq.

- 41. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs above herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.
- 42. 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. § 1692e.
- 43. Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692e, a debt collector may not use any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt.
  - 44. Defendant violated §1692e:
    - a. By making a false and misleading representation in violation of §1692e(10).
- 45. By reason thereof, Defendants are liable to Plaintiff for judgment that Defendants' conduct violated Section 1692e et seq. of the FDCPA, actual damages, statutory damages, costs and attorneys' fees.

## COUNT II VIOLATIONS OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT 15 U.S.C. §1692g et seq.

- 46. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs above herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.
- 47. Defendants' 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.
  - 48. Pursuant to 15 USC §1692g, a debt collector:

Within five days after the initial communication with a consumer in connection with the collection of any debt, a debt collector shall, unless the following information is contained in the initial communication or the consumer has paid the debt, send the consumer a written notice containing –

- i. The amount of the debt;
- ii. The name of the creditor to whom the debt is owed;
- iii. A statement that unless the consumer, within thirty days after receipt of the notice, disputes the validity of the debt, or any portion thereof, the debt will be assumed to be valid by the debt-collector;
- iv. A statement that the consumer notifies the debt collector in writing within thirty-day period that the debt, or any portion thereof, is disputed, the debt collector will obtain verification of the debt or a copy of a judgment against the consumer and a copy of such verification or judgment will be mailed to the consumer by the debt collector; and

- v. A statement that, upon the consumer's written request within the thirty-day period, the debt collector will provide the consumer with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor.
- 49. Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692g, a debt collector must clearly notify the consumer of the name of the creditor to whom the debt is owed. §1692g(a)(2).
- 50. This notice must be properly conveyed so that the consumer is clearly advised to to whom the alleged debt is owed.
- 51. Defendants violated this section by unfairly failing to advise Plaintiff as to the identity of the current creditor who was attempting to collect a debt from her.
- 52. By reason thereof, Defendants are liable to Plaintiff for judgment that Defendants' conduct violated Section 1692g et seq. of the FDCPA, actual damages, statutory damages, costs and attorneys' fees.

#### **DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY**

53. Pursuant to Rule 38 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff hereby requests a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Adrian Johnson, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, demands judgment from Defendant Simm Associates, Inc. and Defendant Oliphant Financial, LLC, as follows:

- 1. Declaring that this action is properly maintainable as a Class Action and certifying Plaintiff as Class representative, and Antranig Garibian, Esq. as Class Counsel;
  - 2. Awarding Plaintiff and the Class statutory damages;
  - 3. Awarding Plaintiff and the Class actual damages;

- 4. Awarding Plaintiff costs of this Action, including reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses;
  - 5. Awarding pre-judgment interest and post-judgment interest; and
- 6. Awarding Plaintiff and the Class such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: May 8, 2018 Respectfully Submitted,

#### GARIBIAN LAW OFFICES, P.C.

/s/ Antranig Garibian
Antranig Garibian, Esq.
DE Bar No. 4962
1010 N. Bancroft Pkwy, Suite 22
Wilmington, DE 19805
Ph: 302-722-6885

ag@garibianlaw.com

Counsel for Plaintiff Adrian Johnson

# EXHIBIT A

Department # 119823 PO Box 1259 Oaks PA 19456

#### SIMM ASSOCIATES, INC.

000 PENCADER DRIVE NEWARK DE 19702 (302) 263 2600(655) 427-8739



#### **PAY ONLINE**

www.simmassociates.com/Payments-on-your-account/

SIMM Account No

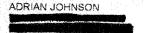
Balance: \$872.56

Client: OLIPHANT FINANCIAL, LLC

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: 178868 . 180





SIMM ASSOCIATES, INC. P.O. BOX 7526 NEWARK DE 19714-7526

**Detach Upper Portion And Return With Payment** 

May 17 2017

CLIENT: OLIPHANT FINANCIAL, LLC ORIGINAL CREDITOR: Celtic Bank BALANCE: \$872.56 ACCOUNT #: 6261 SIMM # 3738

Dear Adrian Johnson.

Your account has been forwarded to this office for collections. This is a formal demand upon you for your payment of this debt, however our client, OLIPHANT FINANCIAL, LLC, has authorized us to accept a discounted payoff of your current outstanding balance.

We are presenting you with three options that will enable you to avoid further collection activity:

Option I: Pay ONE PAYMENT of \$610.80 that must be received in this office on 05/25/2017

Option 2: Pay TWO PAYMENTS of \$349.03 each that must be received in this office. Please contact our office at (855) 427-8739 or via email at <a href="mailto:CustomerService@simmassociates.com">CustomerService@simmassociates.com</a> to select due dates or if you need more details specific to this offer.

Option 3: A monthly payment plan suited for your unique financial situation is available upon request.

We have no obligation to renew this offer

By resolving this matter, you will make continued collection efforts unnecessary. Our demand for payment does not affect your right to dispute this debt.

This is an attempt to collect a debt by a debt collector. 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 the 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 of this office 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.

Sincerely, Jeffrey S. Simendinger SIMM Associates (855) 427-8739 PLEASE: To ensure proper credit remit payment directly to our office only.
Remit to: SIMM Associates, Inc.
P.O. Box 7526 Newark, DE 19714-7526
Payments can be made via credit card or bankdraft at:
www.simmassociates.com/payments-on-your-account/

\*\*PLEASE SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION\*\*
Opt-Out Notice (see back for details)

### JS 44 (Rev. 11/15) Case 1:18-cv-00696-UNA Document 12 Filed 05/08/18 Page 1 of 2 PageID #: 15

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

purpose of initiating the civil do	ocket sheet. (SEE INSTRUC	TIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF	F THIS FO	RM.)	, 1	
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS Adrian Johnson, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situa				DEFENDANTS Simm Associates, Inc., Oliphant Financial, LLC and John Does 1-25		
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Out of state  (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)  (c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant New Castle  (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)  NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.  Attorneys (If Known)		
Antranig Garibian, Garibi 1010 N. Bancroft Pkwy, S P: (302) 722-6885 E: aç	an Law Offices Ste 22, Wilmington, Dl			Tationary (g Interns)		
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an "X" in C	ne Box Only)	III. CI	TIZENSHIP OF P	RINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintif
☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)			(For Diversity Cases Only)  PTF DEF  and One Box for Defendant)  PTF DEF  itizen of This State  1 1		
2 U.S. Government Defendant	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		Citizen of Another State			
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CONTRACT		DRTS	FC	ORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
110 Insurance 120 Marine 130 Marine 130 Miller Act 140 Negotiable Instrument 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	PERSONAL INJURY  310 Airplane  315 Airplane Product Liability  320 Assault, Libel & Slander  330 Federal Employers' Liability  340 Marine  345 Marine Product Liability  350 Motor Vehicle Product Liability  360 Other Personal Injury  362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	PERSONAL INJURY  365 Personal Injury - Product Liability Product Liability 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 1385 Property Damage Product Liability	1 69 TY 71 72 72	5 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 0 Other  LABOR 0 Fair Labor Standards Act 0 Labor/Management Relations 0 Railway Labor Act 1 Family and Medical Leave Act 0 Other Labor Litigation	□ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 □ 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157  PROPERTY RIGHTS □ 820 Copyrights □ 840 Trademark  SOCIAL SECURITY □ 861 HIA (1395ff) □ 862 Black Lung (923) □ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) □ 864 SSID Title XVI □ 865 RSI (405(g))	□ 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
REAL PROPERTY	CIVIL RIGHTS	PRISONER PETITION		1 Employee Retirement	FEDERAL TAX SUITS	Act
<ul> <li>210 Land Condemnation</li> <li>220 Foreclosure</li> <li>230 Rent Lease &amp; Ejectment</li> <li>240 Torts to Land</li> <li>245 Tort Product Liability</li> <li>290 All Other Real Property</li> </ul>	□ 440 Other Civil Rights □ 441 Voting □ 442 Employment □ 443 Housing/ Accommodations □ 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment □ 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other □ 448 Education	Habeas Corpus:  463 Alien Detainee 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence 530 General 535 Death Penalty Other: 540 Mandamus & Othe 550 Civil Rights 550 Fison Condition 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement	□ 46	Income Security Act  IMMIGRATION 2 Naturalization Application 5 Other Immigration Actions	□ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) □ 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<ul> <li>896 Arbitration</li> <li>899 Administrative Procedure         Act/Review or Appeal of             Agency Decision     </li> <li>950 Constitutionality of             State Statutes</li> </ul>
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VI. CAUSE OF ACTION	ON Fair Debt Collect	ion Practices ACt - 1	1692ē	Do not cite jurisdictional state	utes unless diversity):	
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:  Z CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.				DEMAND \$ CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:  JURY DEMAND: Yes		
VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY    See instructions): JUDGE						
DATE 05/08/2018	SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD /s/Antranig Garibian					
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	to to the					D.G.F.
RECEIPT # AN	MOUNT	APPLYING IFP		JUDGE	MAG. JU	DGE

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#### 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 the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerk(s) in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.
- **V. Origin.** Place an "X" in one of the six 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. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.
- 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: <u>Lawsuit: Simm Associates</u>, <u>Oliphant Financial Collection Notices Failed to Identify Current Creditor</u>