UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

JOSH KATZ

on behalf of himself and all other similarly situated consumers

Plaintiff,

-against-

TRANSWORLD SYSTEMS, INC.

Defendant.

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

Introduction

1. Plaintiff Josh Katz seeks redress for the illegal practices of Transworld Systems, Inc. concerning the collection of debts, in violation of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et *seq.* ("FDCPA").

Parties

- 2. Plaintiff is a citizen of the State of New York who resides within this District.
- 3. Plaintiff is a consumer as that term is defined by 1692(a)(3) of the FDCPA, in that the alleged debt that Defendant sought to collect from Plaintiff is a defaulted consumer debt.
- 4. The Plaintiff obtained a Pacer account in order to view the progress of his bankruptcy proceedings.
- Upon information and belief, Defendant's principal place of business is located in Melville, New York.
- 6. Defendant is regularly engaged, for profit, in the collection of debts allegedly owed by consumers.

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

Jurisdiction and Venue

- 8. This Court has federal question jurisdiction under 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d) and 28 U.S.C. § 1331.
- 9. 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 Josh Katz

- 10. Upon information and belief, on a date better known by Defendant, Defendant began to attempt to collect an alleged consumer debt from the Plaintiff.
- 11. On or about January 27, 2016, Defendant sent the Plaintiff a collection letter seeking to collect a balance allegedly incurred for personal purposes.
- 12. As stated above, the Plaintiff had obtained the said Pacer account in order to view the progress of his bankruptcy proceedings.
- 13. According to the Pacer website, (https://www.pacer.gov/documents/pacer_policy.pdf)

 "Accounts that are referred to a private collection agency will be assessed substantial collection fees in addition to the outstanding debt owed to the PACER Service Center"
- 14. Hence the balance will increase due to collection fees.
- 15. The said letter was deceptive and misleading as it merely identified the "Current Balance Due," yet failed to disclose that the balance may increase due to interest and fees.
- 16. The Plaintiff was left uncertain as to whether the "Current Balance Due" was accruing interest as there was no disclosure that indicated otherwise.

- 17. 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.
- 18. In fact, however, since interest is accruing daily, or since there are undisclosed late fees, a consumer who pays the "Current Balance Due" stated on the notice will not know whether the debt has been paid in full.
- 19. 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.
- 20. The statement of an "Current 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 "Current 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. The Plaintiff and the least sophisticated consumer would be led to believe that the "Current Balance Due" is static and that his or her payment of the amount due would

satisfy the debt irrespective of when payment was remitted.

- 24. Yet in reality, interest was accruing daily as represented from an additional letter sent to the Plaintiff on October 3, 2016, regarding the same account, by a different collection agency, (see attached exhibit) which indicated an increased amount; i.e., the Defendant has tried to collect an additional amount from the Plaintiff.
- 25. A consumer who pays the "Current Balance Due" stated on the collection letter 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 the letter was sent but before the balance was paid.
- 26. The Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(2)(A) for misrepresenting the amount of the debt owed by the Plaintiff.
- 27. A debt collector, when notifying a consumer of his or her account balance, must disclose that the balance may increase due to interest and fees.
- 28. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e provides:

A debt collector may not use any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt. Without limiting the general application of the foregoing, the following conduct is a violation of this section:

- (2) The false representation of --
- (A) the character, amount, or legal status of any debt; or
- (10) the use of any false representation or deceptive means to collect or attempt to collect any debt or to obtain information concerning a consumer.
- 29. The said letter is a standardized form letter.
- 30. Upon information and belief, the Defendant's collection letters, such as the said collection letter, number in the hundreds.

- 31. Defendant's January 27, 2016 letter is 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.
- 32. 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 the 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 him of his 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. As an actual and proximate result of the acts and omissions of Transworld Systems, Inc., Plaintiff has suffered including but not limited to, fear, stress, mental anguish, emotional stress and acute embarrassment for which he should be compensated in an amount to be established by a jury at trial.

AS AND FOR A FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

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

- 41. Plaintiff re-states, re-alleges, and incorporates herein by reference, paragraphs one (1) through forty (40) as if set forth fully in this cause of action.
- 42. This cause of action is brought on behalf of Plaintiff and the members of a class.
- A3. The class consists of all persons 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 letter sent to the Plaintiff on or about January 27, 2016; and (a) the collection letter was sent to a consumer seeking payment of a personal debt purportedly owed to PACERSERVICE CENTER-U.S. COURTS; and (b) the collection letter was not returned by the postal service as undelivered; (c) and the Plaintiff asserts that the letter 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.
- 44. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23, a class action is appropriate and preferable in this case because:

- A. Based on the fact that a form collection letter is at the heart of this litigation, the class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable.
- B. There are questions of law and fact common to the class and these questions predominate over any questions affecting only individual class members. The principal question presented by this claim is whether the Defendant violated the FDCPA.
- C. The only individual issue is the identification of the consumers who received such collection letters (*i.e.* the class members), a matter capable of ministerial determination from the records of Defendant.
- D. The claims of the Plaintiff are typical of those of the class members. All are based on the same facts and legal theories.
- E. The Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent the class members' interests. The Plaintiff has retained counsel experienced in bringing class actions and collection-abuse claims. The Plaintiff's interests are consistent with those of the members of the class.
- 45. A class action is superior for the fair and efficient adjudication of the class members' claims. Congress specifically envisions class actions as a principal means of enforcing the FDCPA. 15 U.S.C. § 1692(k). The members of the class are generally unsophisticated individuals, whose rights will not be vindicated in the absence of a class action. Prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the classes would create the risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications resulting in the establishment of inconsistent or varying standards for the parties and would not be in the interest of judicial economy.

- 46. If the facts are discovered to be appropriate, the Plaintiff will seek to certify a class pursuant to Rule 23(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.
- 47. Collection attempts, such as those made by the Defendant are to be evaluated by the objective standard of the hypothetical "least sophisticated consumer."

Violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act

- 48. The Defendant's actions as set forth above in the within complaint violates the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.
- 49. 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 his 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: Woodmere, New York November 21, 2016

> /s/ Adam J. Fishbein_ Adam J. Fishbein, P.C. (AF-9508) Attorney At Law **Attorney for the Plaintiff** 735 Central Avenue

Woodmere, New York 11598 Telephone: (516) 668-6945

Email: fishbeinadamj@gmail.com

Plaintiff requests trial by jury on all issues so triable.

/s/ Adam J. Fishbein Adam J. Fishbein (AF-9508)

DUBLIN, OH 43017 969.5511.GOVA

Calls to or from this company may be monitored or recorded for quality assurance.

JOSH KATZ 580 CROWN ST APT 209 BROOKLYN NY 11213-5355 انتظاميا المامانيا الماماني الماماني الماماني الماماني الماماني الماماني الماماني الماماني الماماني

TRANSWORLD SYSTEMS INC PO BOX Case 1:16-cv-06571 Document 1 Filed 11/28/16 RUP age 1.0 of 01/10 Page 1D #: 10

HORSHAM, PA 19044 800-234-3550

Date: January 27, 2016 Our Account #: 50

Creditor: PACER SERVICE CENTER-U.S. COURTS

Creditor's Account #: 52 Current Balance Due: \$1442.53

This Balance is a Sum of Balances from 1 Account(s).

The above has been placed with us for collection by PACER SERVICE CENTER-U.S. COURTS.

Make your check or money order payable to TRANSWORLD SYSTEMS INC. and mail it in the enclosed envelope.

Unless you notify this office within 30 days after receiving this notice that you dispute the validity of the 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, 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 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.

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

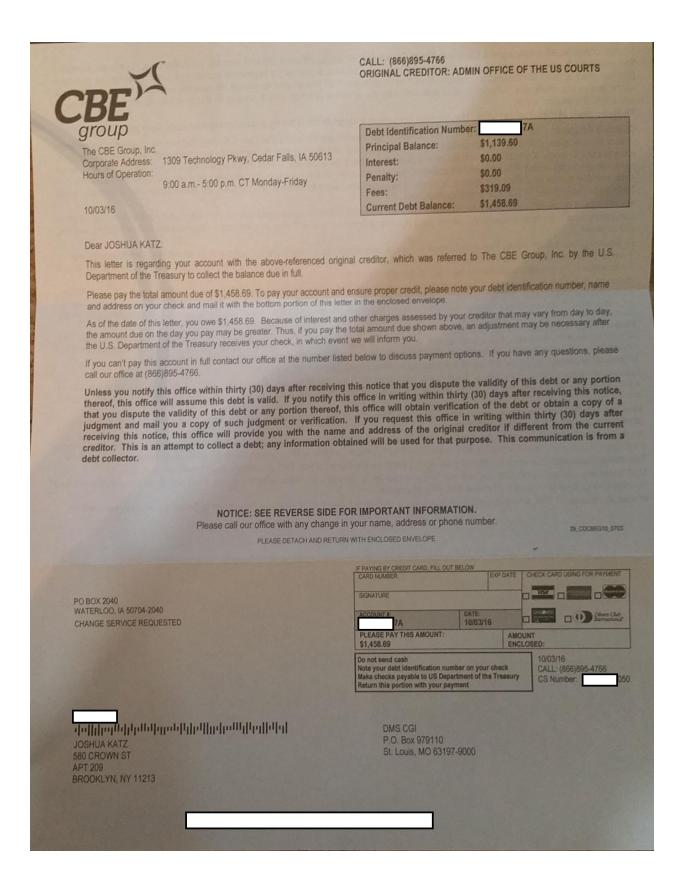
Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:00am to 9:00pm, Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm, Saturday 8:00am to 12:00pm (ET).

Contact Jamie Allen at TRANSWORLD SYSTEMS INC. This collection agency is licensed by the Department of Consumer Affairs of the City of New York; License # 2012412-DCA.

If you have an income tax refund, perhaps you can use the proceeds to pay this account.

PLEASE RETURN THIS PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT (MAKE SURE ADDRESS SHOWS THROUGH WINDOW)

Cradi	editor's Account #: 52 reput aw tank	Our Account # Current Balance I		
Credi	tor's Account #: 52 1881 8W 1811	Josh Katz	\$1442.53	
		Payment Amount		
	Check here if your address has changed and print our new address in the space provided below.	\$		
2		Make Payment To:		
1		TRANSWORLD SYSTEMS IN	C.	
		PO BOX 15110		
		WILMINGTON, DE 198505110		
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Eastern District of New York		
JOSH KATZ)))	
Plaintiff(s) V. TRANSWORLD SYSTEMS, INC.	- ')) Civil Action No.))	
Defendant(s)	_)	
SUMMON	S IN A CIVIL ACTION	
To: (Defendant's name and address) TRANSWORLD SYS CT CORPORATION S 111 EIGHTH AVENU NEW YORK, NEW YORK	SYSTEM E	
	s on you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you	
P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff a		
If you fail to respond, judgment by default wi You also must file your answer or motion with the co	ill be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.	
	CLERK OF COURT	
Date:	Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk	

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action (Page 2)

Civil Action No.

PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))

was ra	This summons for (no ceived by me on (date)	ame of individual and title, if a	ny)	
was re	cerved by the on (aate)		·	
	☐ I personally serve	ed the summons on the inc	lividual at (place)	
			on (date)	; or
	☐ I left the summon	s at the individual's reside	ence or usual place of abode with (name)	
			, a person of suitable age and discretion who res	sides there,
	on (date)	, and mailed a	copy to the individual's last known address; or	
	☐ I served the sumn	nons on (name of individual)		, who is
	designated by law to	accept service of process	s on behalf of (name of organization)	
			on (date)	; or
	☐ I returned the sum	nmons unexecuted becaus	e	; or
	☐ Other (<i>specify</i>):			
	My fees are \$	for travel and S	\$ for services, for a total of \$	0.00
	I declare under penal	Ity of perjury that this info	ormation is true.	
Date:		_		
			Server's signature	
		_	Printed name and title	
		_	Server's address	

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

Print Save As... Reset

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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 purpose of initiating the civil de I. (a) PLAINTIFFS	ocket sheet. (SEE INSTRUC	TIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF TI	DEFENDANTS		the Clerk of Court for the	
.,						
JOSH KATZ			TRANSWORLD SYSTEMS, INC.			
(b) County of Residence of	_	ings	County of Residence	_	TEXAS	
(E.	XCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CA	ASES)	NOTE: IN LAND CO	(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES O ONDEMNATION CASES, USE T	*	
				OF LAND INVOLVED.		
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Adam J. Fishbein 735 Central Avenue Woodmere NY 11598	Address, and Telephone Numbe		Attorneys (If Known)			
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	ICTION (Place an "X" in C	One Box Only)		RINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plainti	
☐ 1 U.S. Government	★ 3 Federal Question ■ 3 Federal Question ★ 3 Federal Question ★ 3 Federal Question ★ 4 Federal Question ★ 5 Federal Ques		(For Diversity Cases Only)	TF DEF	and One Box for Defendant) PTF DEF	
Plaintiff	(U.S. Government	Not a Party)	Citizen of This State	1		
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizensh	ip of Parties in Item III)	Citizen of Another State	2		
			Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	3	□ 6 □ 6	
IV. NATURE OF SUIT		nly) ORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
□ 110 Insurance □ 120 Marine □ 130 Miller Act □ 140 Negotiable Instrument □ 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment □ 151 Medicare Act □ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) □ 153 Recovery of Overpayment 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 & 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 CIVIL RIGHTS 440 Other Civil Rights 441 Voting 442 Employment 443 Housing/ Accommodations 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other 315 Airplane 310 Airplane 320 Assault 331 Airplane 342 Airplane 343 Housing/ Accommodations 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other 3448 Education	PERSONAL INJURY 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability BERSONAL PROPERTY 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage 385 Property Damage 385 Property Damage 70 Additional Product Liability PRISONER PETITIONS Habeas Corpus: 463 Alien Detainee 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence 530 General 535 Death Penalty Other: 540 Mandamus & Other 550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement	☐ 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 ☐ 690 Other LABOR	□ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 □ 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS □ 820 Copyrights □ 830 Patent □ 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY □ 861 HIA (1395ff) □ 862 Black Lung (923) □ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) □ 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 □ 400 State Reapportionment □ 410 Antitrust □ 430 Banks and Banking □ 450 Commerce □ 460 Deportation □ 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations 3 480 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	
	moved from 3 tte Court Cite the U.S. Civil Sta 15 USC 1692 FA Brief description of ca	Appellate Court atute under which you are fi IR DEBT COLLECTIO	(specify, ling (Do not cite jurisdictional state N PRACTICES ACT	r District Litigation		
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:		IS A CLASS ACTION	DEMAND \$	CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND:	if demanded in complaint: Yes No	
VIII. RELATED CASI IF ANY	E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE		DOCKET NUMBER		
DATE 11/28/2014		SIGNATURE OF ATTOR				
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		131 AUAIII J. FISHDI	OII I			
RECEIPT # AM	MOUNT	APPLYING IFP	JUDGE	MAG. JUI	DGE	

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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, Adam J. Fishlineligible for	counsel for Plaintiff, do hereby certify that the above captioned civil action is or compulsory arbitration for the following reason(s):
	monetary damages sought are in excess of \$150,000, exclusive of interest and costs,
	the complaint seeks injunctive relief,
X	the matter is otherwise ineligible for the following reason Class Action
	DISCLOSURE STATEMENT - FEDERAL RULES CIVIL PROCEDURE 7.1
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 that obecause the casame judge and case: (A) invo	cases 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) 'A civil case is "related" to another civil case for purposes of this guideline when, because of the similarity of facts and legal issues or uses arise from the same transactions or events, a substantial saving of judicial resources is likely to result from assigning both cases to the ad magistrate judge." Rule 50.3.1 (b) provides that "A civil case shall not be deemed "related" to another civil case merely because the civil lives identical legal issues, or (B) involves the same parties." Rule 50.3.1 (c) further provides that "Presumptively, and subject to the power letermine 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)
	ne civil action being filed in the Eastern District removed from a New York State Court located in Nassau or Suffolk inty: No
a) I	ou answered "no" above: Did the events or omissions giving rise to the claim or claims, or a substantial part thereof, occur in Nassau or Suffolk anty? No
	Did the events of omissions giving rise to the claim or claims, or a substantial part thereof, occur in the Eastern trict? Yes
	(Note: A corporation shall be considered a resident of the County in which it has the most significant contacts).
	BAR ADMISSION
I am current	y admitted in the Eastern District of New York and currently a member in good standing of the bar of this court. Yes No
Are you curr	ently 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/ Adam J. Fishbein

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: FDCPA Class Action Filed Against Transworld Systems