#### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

ILYA KHAIMOV, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

-against-

GC SERVICES LIMITED PARTNERSHIP,

Defendant.

# **CIVIL ACTION**

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff ILYA KHAIMOV (hereinafter, "Plaintiff"), a New York resident, brings this class action complaint by and through his attorneys, Daniel Cohen, PLLC, against Defendants GC SERVICES LIMITED PARTNERSHIP (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**

- 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

- Plaintiff brings this class action on behalf of a class of New York consumers seeking redress for Defendant's actions of using an unfair and unconscionable means to collect a debt.
- 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 ("<u>FDCPA</u>") which prohibits debt collectors from engaging in abusive, deceptive and unfair practices.
- 7. Plaintiff is seeking damages, and declaratory and injunctive relief.

# **PARTIES**

- 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).
- 9. Defendant is a collection agency with its principal office located in Houston, Texas.
- 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 consumer class (the "Class"):
  - All New York consumers who received a collection letter from Defendant attempting to collect an obligation owed to or allegedly owed to Citibank, N.A., that contains the alleged violation arising from Defendant's violation of 15 U.S.C. §1692e, *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

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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 to proceed 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 ILYA KHAIMOV

- 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 on an unpaid account allegedly owed to Citibank, N.A..
- 17. On or around February 7, 2017, Defendant sent Plaintiff a collection letter (hereinafter, the "Letter"). See Exhibit A.
- 18. The Letter was sent or caused to be sent by persons employed by Defendant as a "debt collector" as defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(6).
- 19. The Letter is a "communication" as defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(2).
- 20. The Letter was an initial communication between Plaintiff and Defendant.
- 21. The Letter states in pertinent part:

"As of the date of this letter, you owe \$11,051.57. Because of interest, late charges, and other charges that may vary from day to day, the amount due on the day you pay may be greater. Hence, if you pay the amount shown above, an adjustment may be necessary after we receive your check."

22. As set forth in the following Counts Defendant violated the FDCPA.

#### <u>First Count</u> 15 U.S.C. §1692g Failure to Adequately and Honestly Convey the Amount of the Debt

- 23. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs numbered "1" through "22" herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.
- 24. 15 U.S.C. § 1692g provides that within five days after the initial communication with a consumer in connection with the collection of any debt, a debt collector shall, unless the information is contained in the initial communication or the consumer has paid the debt, send the consumer a written notice containing certain enumerated information.
- 25. 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1) requires the written notice provide "the amount of the debt."
- 26. The written notice, to comply with 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1), must convey the amount of the debt clearly and accurately from the perspective of the least sophisticated consumer.
- 27. The written notice, to comply with 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1), must state whether interest, late fees and/or other fees are accruing.
- 28. The written notice, to comply with 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1), must allow the least sophisticated consumer to determine the minimum amount he or she owes at the time of the notice.
- 29. The written notice, to comply with 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1), must allow the least sophisticated consumer to determine what he or she will need to pay to resolve the debt at any given moment in the future.
- 30. The written notice, to comply with 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1), must contain an explanation, understandable by the least sophisticated consumer, of any fees or interest that may cause the balance to increase at any time in the future.
- 31. The failure to include the foregoing information renders an otherwise accurate statement of the "amount of the debt" violative of 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1).

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- 32. The Letter failed to inform Plaintiff whether the amount listed is the actual amount of the debt due.
- 33. The Letter failed to inform Plaintiff whether the amount listed already includes "interest."
- 34. The Letter failed to inform Plaintiff whether the amount listed already includes "other charges."
- 35. The Letter failed to advise Plaintiff what portion of the amount listed is principal.
- 36. The Letter failed to inform Plaintiff whether the amount listed will increase.
- 37. The Letter failed to inform Plaintiff what "other charges" might apply.
- 38. The Letter failed to inform Plaintiff if "other charges" are applied, when such "other charges" will be applied.
- 39. The Letter failed to inform Plaintiff if "other charges" are applied, what the amount of those "other charges" will be.
- 40. The Letter failed to inform Plaintiff of the nature of the "other charges."
- 41. The Letter failed to inform Plaintiff if there is "interest," what the amount of the accrued interest will be.
- 42. The Letter failed to inform Plaintiff if there is "interest," when such interest will be applied.
- 43. The Letter failed to inform Plaintiff if there is "interest," what the interest rate is.
- 44. The Letter failed to inform Plaintiff if there is "interest," the amount of money the amount listed will increase per day.
- 45. The Letter failed to inform Plaintiff if there is "interest," the amount of money the amount listed will increase per week.
- 46. The Letter failed to inform Plaintiff if there is "interest," the amount of money the amount listed will increase per month.

- 47. The Letter failed to inform Plaintiff if there is "interest," the amount of money the amount listed will increase per any measurable period.
- 48. The Letter, because of the aforementioned failures, would render the least sophisticated consumer unable to determine the amount of his or her debt.
- 49. The least sophisticated consumer could reasonably believe that the debt could be satisfied by remitting the listed amount as of the date of the letter, at any time after receipt of the letter.
- 50. The least sophisticated consumer could reasonably believe that the amount listed was accurate only on the date of the Letter.
- 51. If interest is continuing to accrue, the least sophisticated consumer would not know the amount of the debt because the letter fails to indicate the applicable interest rate.
- 52. If interest is continuing to accrue, the least sophisticated consumer would not know the amount of the debt because the letter fails to indicate what the amount of the accrued interest will be.
- 53. If interest is continuing to accrue, the least sophisticated consumer would not know the amount of the debt because the letter fails to indicate when such interest will be applied.
- 54. If interest is continuing to accrue, the least sophisticated consumer would not know the amount of the debt because the letter fails to indicate the amount of money the amount listed will increase at any measurable period.
- 55. If "other charges" are continuing to accrue, the least sophisticated consumer would not know the amount of the debt because the letter fails to indicate the nature of the "other charges."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Carlin v. Davidson Fink LLP, 852 F.3d 207 (2d Cir. 2017), Balke v. All. One Receivables Mgmt., No. 16-cv-5624(ADS)(AKT), 2017 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 94021, at \*14 (E.D.N.Y. June 19, 2017) ("[T]he Collection Letter in this case refers with vagueness to "accrued interest or other charges," without providing any information regarding the rate of interest; the nature of the "other charges"; how any such charges would be calculated; and what portion of the balance due, if any, reflects already-accrued interest and other charges. By failing to provide even the most basic level of specificity in this regard, the Court "cannot say whether those amounts are properly part of the amount of the debt," for purposes of section 1692g.Carlin, 852 F.3d at 216. Further, as set forth in *Carlin*, without any clarifying details, the Collection Letter states only that these unspecified assessments may be added to the balance due, which the Court finds to be insufficient to "accurately inform[] the [Plaintiff] that the amount of the debt stated

- 56. The letter failed to advise Plaintiff that if Plaintiff pays the amount listed, an adjustment may be necessary after Defendant receives payment.
- 57. The letter failed to advise Plaintiff that if Plaintiff pays the amount listed, Defendant will inform Plaintiff of the balance difference before depositing payment.
- 58. The Defendant's failures are purposeful.
- 59. In order to induce payments from consumers that would not otherwise be made if the consumer knew the true amount due, Defendant does not inform the consumer what "other charges" might apply.
- 60. In order to induce payments from consumers that would not otherwise be made if the consumer knew the true amount due, Defendant does not inform the consumer when such "other charges" will be applied.
- 61. Defendant failed to clearly and unambiguously state the amount of the debt, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1).
- 62. The Letter would likely make the least sophisticated consumer uncertain as to the amount of the debt, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1).
- 63. The Letter would likely make the least sophisticated consumer confused as to the amount of the debt, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1).
- 64. Defendant's conduct violated 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692g(a)(1) and 1692e.
- 65. Plaintiff suffered injury in fact by being subjected to unfair and abusive practices of the Defendant.
- 66. Plaintiff suffered actual harm by being the target of the Defendant's misleading debt collection communications.

in the letter will increase over time.") consumer knew the true amount due, Defendant does not inform the consumer whether the amount listed will increase.

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- 67. Defendant violated the Plaintiff's right not to be the target of misleading debt collection communications.
- 68. Defendant violated the Plaintiff's right to a truthful and fair debt collection process.
- 69. Defendant used materially false, deceptive, misleading representations and means in its attempted collection of Plaintiff's alleged debt.
- 70. 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.
- 71. 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.
- 72. These deceptive communications additionally violated the FDCPA since they frustrate the consumer's ability to intelligently choose his or her response.
- 73. 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.

# <u>Second Count</u> 15 U.S.C. §1692g(a)(3) <u>Suggesting a Dispute Must be Made in Writing</u>

74. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs numbered "1" through "73" herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.
75. 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(3) requires the notice to include a statement that unless the consumer, within

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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.

- 76. There is no requirement that the consumer dispute the debt in writing.
- 77. It is a violation of FDCPA to require disputes be made in writing.
- 78. It is a violation of the FDCPA to include language in the Letter that overshadows the required 15U.S.C. § 1692g(3) statement.
- 79. It is a violation of the FDCPA to include language in the Letter that contradicts the required 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(3) statement.
- 80. It is a violation of the FDCPA to include language in the Letter that, when examined from the perspective of the least sophisticated consumer, overshadows the required § 1692g(a)(3) statement.
- 81. It is a violation of the FDCPA to include language in the Letter that, when examined from the perspective of the least sophisticated consumer, contradicts the required § 1692g(a)(3) statement.
- 82. It is a violation of the FDCPA to include language in the Letter that, when examined from the perspective of the least sophisticated consumer, leads the least sophisticated consumer to believe that her dispute must be in writing.
- 83. Defendant's Letter states "CORRESPONDENCE AND PAYMENT MAILING ADDRESS:" and proceeds to provide a mailing address for which to mail same.
- 84. The least sophisticated consumer, reading the Letter as a whole, would be likely to understand that, because a dispute is a correspondence, all disputes must be communicated in writing, thereby invalidating the right to make a dispute orally.
- 85. Disputes need not be in writing. *Hooks v. Forman, Holt, Eliades & Ravin, LLC*, 717 F.3d 282 (2d Cir. 2013).

- 86. The language concerning written disputes overshadows the required 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(3) statement.
- 87. The language concerning written disputes contradicts the required 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(3) statement.
- 88. The language concerning written disputes, when examined from the perspective of the least sophisticated consumer, overshadows the required § 1692g(a)(3) statement.
- 89. The language concerning written disputes, when examined from the perspective of the least sophisticated consumer, contradicts the required § 1692g(a)(3) statement.
- 90. The language concerning written disputes, when examined from the perspective of the least sophisticated consumer, leads the least sophisticated consumer to believe that her dispute must be in writing.
- 91. Defendant has violated § 1692g as the above-referenced language overshadows the information required to be provided by that Section. See *Balke v. All. One Receivables Mgt., Inc.*, 16-CV-5624(ADS)(AKT), 2017 WL 2634653, at \*8 (E.D.N.Y. June 19, 2017).

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendants as follows:

- (a) Declaring that this action is properly maintainable as a Class Action and certifying Plaintiff as Class representative and Daniel Cohen, PLLC, 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 attorneys' fees and expenses;
- (e) Awarding pre-judgment interest and post-judgment interest; and

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(f) Awarding Plaintiff and the Class such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

By: <u>/s/ Daniel Cohen</u> Daniel Cohen, Esq. Daniel Cohen, PLLC 300 Cadman Plaza W, 12<sup>th</sup> floor Brooklyn, New York 11201 Phone: (646) 645-8482 Fax: (347) 665-1545 Email: Dan@dccohen.com Attorneys 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/ Daniel Cohen Daniel Cohen, Esq.

Dated: Brooklyn, New York February 9, 2018

# JS 44 (Rev. 11/27/17 Case 1:18-cv-00899 Document 20 VER SHEET Page 1 of 2 PageID #: 14

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			
ILYA KHAIMOV, on bel	nalf of himself and all o	thers similarly situat	d GC SERVICES LIMITED PARTNERSHIP			
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Queens (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, A DANIEL COHEN PLLC, 3 (646) 645-8482			Attorneys (If Known) 11201,			
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an "X" in O	ne Box Only)	III. CITIZENSHIP OF P	RINCIPAL PARTIES	0 00	
□ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	3 Federal Question (U.S. Government)	Not a Party)		<b>IF DEF</b> 1 □ 1 Incorporated <i>or</i> Pri of Business In T		
2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizensh)	ip of Parties in Item III)		of Business In Another State		
			Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	3 🗖 3 Foreign Nation		
IV. NATURE OF SUIT		aly) DRTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	Click here for: Nature of BANKRUPTCY	of Suit Code Descriptions. OTHER STATUTES	
<ul> <li>CONTRACT</li> <li>110 Insurance</li> <li>120 Marine</li> <li>130 Miller Act</li> <li>140 Negotiable Instrument</li> <li>150 Recovery of Overpayment &amp; Enforcement of Judgment</li> <li>151 Medicare Act</li> <li>152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans)</li> <li>153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits</li> <li>160 Stockholders' Suits</li> <li>190 Other Contract</li> <li>195 Contract Product Liability</li> <li>196 Franchise</li> </ul> <b>REAL PROPERTY</b> <ul> <li>210 Land Condemnation</li> <li>220 Foreclosure</li> <li>230 Rent Lease &amp; Ejectment</li> <li>245 Tort Product Liability</li> <li>290 All Other Real Property</li> </ul>	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 355 Motor Vehicle 970duct 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 448 Education	PERSONAL INJUR BERSONAL INJUR BERSONAL INJUR Product Liability BERSONAL Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability BERSONAL PROPEF 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage Product Liability PERSONAL PROPEF 370 Other Fraud 380 Other Personal Property Damage Product Liability PRISONER PETITION 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	Y       □       625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881         □       690 Other         □       690 Other         □       710 Fair Labor Standards Act         □       710 Fair Labor Standards         □       710 Fair Labor Standards         □       710 Fair Labor Act         □       720 Labor/Management Relations         □       740 Railway Labor Act         □       751 Family and Medical Leave Act         NS       □         □       790 Other Labor Litigation         □       791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act         •       IMMIGRATION         □       462 Naturalization Application	<ul> <li>422 Appeal 28 USC 158</li> <li>423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157</li> <li>PROPERTY RIGHTS</li> <li>820 Copyrights</li> <li>830 Patent</li> <li>835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application</li> <li>840 Trademark</li> <li>SOCIAL SECURITY</li> <li>861 HIA (1395ff)</li> <li>862 Black Lung (923)</li> <li>863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))</li> <li>864 SSID Title XVI</li> <li>865 RSI (405(g))</li> <li>FEDERAL TAX SUITS</li> <li>870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant)</li> <li>871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>375 False Claims Act</li> <li>375 False Claims Act</li> <li>376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a))</li> <li>400 State Reapportionment</li> <li>410 Antitrust</li> <li>430 Banks and Banking</li> <li>450 Commerce</li> <li>460 Deportation</li> <li>470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations</li> <li><b>X</b> 480 Consumer Credit</li> <li>490 Cable/Sat TV</li> <li>850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange</li> <li>890 Other Statutory Actions</li> <li>891 Agricultural Acts</li> <li>895 Freedom of Information Act</li> <li>896 Arbitration</li> <li>950 Constitutionality of State Statutes</li> </ul>	
		Remanded from Appellate Court		er District Litigation		
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	<b>DN</b> 15 USC 1692 Brief description of ca Defendant violate	use: ed the FDCPA	(specify), re filing ( <i>Do not cite jurisdictional stat</i>		Direct File	
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	UNDER RULE 2	IS A <b>CLASS ACTION</b> 3, F.R.Cv.P.	N DEMAND \$	CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND:	if demanded in complaint: X Yes □No	
VIII. RELATED CASH IF ANY	<b>E(S)</b> (See instructions):	JUDGE		DOCKET NUMBER		
DATE 2/9/2018 FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		SIGNATURE OF AT /s/ Daniel Cohe	FORNEY OF RECORD			
	40UNT	APPLYING IFP	JUDGE	MAG. JUD	GE	

# Case 1:18-cv-00899 Document 1-1 Filed 02/09/18 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.

monetary damages sought are in excess of \$150,000, exclusive of interest and costs,

I, <u>DANIEL COHEN</u>, counsel for <u>PLAINTIFF</u>, do hereby certify that the above captioned civil action is ineligible for compulsory arbitration for the following reason(s):

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the complaint seeks injunctive relief,

the matter is otherwise ineligible for the following reason

Question of law rather than questions of fact predominates

# 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)**

Please list all 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) provides that "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 because the cases arise from the same transactions or events, a substantial saving of judicial resources is likely to result from assigning both cases to the same judge and 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 case: (A) involves identical legal issues, or (B) involves the same parties." Rule 50.3.1 (c) further provides that "Presumptively, and subject to the power of a judge to determine otherwise pursuant to paragraph (d), civil cases shall not be deemed to be "related" unless both cases are still pending before the court."

#### NY-E DIVISION OF BUSINESS RULE 50.1(d)(2)

1.)	Is the civil action County?		iled in the Yes	e Easte	ern District removed fro No	om a New	York State Court located in Nassau or Suffolk
2.)	If you answered ' a) Did the events County?	or omi		ving ris	e to the claim or claim No	s, or a sul	bstantial part thereof, occur in Nassau or Suffolk
	b) Did the events District?		ssions giv Yes	ving ris	e to the claim or claim No	s, or a sul	bstantial part thereof, occur in the Eastern
	c) If this is a Fair I received: Queens			actice /	Act case, specify the Cou	inty in whic	ch the offending communication was
	County, or, in an inte	erpleade Yes	r action, d	oes the No	claimant (or a majority c	of the claima	nts, if there is more than one) reside in Nassau or ants, if there is more than one) reside in Nassau or a the most significant contacts).
	BAR ADMISSION						
	I am currently adm	itted in tl	he Easterr	n Distric	ct of New York and currer	ntly a meml	ber in good standing of the bar of this court.
		$\checkmark$	Y	/es			No
	Are you currently	the sul	oject of a	ny disc	ciplinary action (s) in th	is or any o	other state or federal court?
			١	⁄es	(If yes, please explain	V	No
	I certify the accur	acy of a	all informa	ation p	rovided above.		
	Signature:	/s/ Dan	iel Cohe	n			

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

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Eastern District of New York

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ILYA KHAIMOV, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated

Plaintiff(s)

v.

Civil Action No.

GC SERVICES LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

Defendant(s)

#### SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address) GC SERVICES LIMITED PARTNERSHIP CT CORPORATION 111 EIGHTH AVENUE, 13TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10011

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

DANIEL COHEN PLLC 300 CADMAN PLAZA WEST, 12 FL BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11201

If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

> 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 individu	ual at (place)	
	1 V		on (date)	; or
	□ I left the summons	at the individual's residence	or usual place of abode with (name)	
		, a pe	erson of suitable age and discretion who res	ides there,
			to the individual's last known address; or	
	$\Box$ I served the summa	ons on (name of individual)		, who is
	designated by law to a	accept service of process on	behalf of (name of organization)	
			on (date)	; or
	$\Box$ I returned the summ	nons unexecuted because		· or
	<b>Other</b> ( <i>specify</i> ):			
	My fees are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$	0.00
	I declare under penalty	of perjury that this informa	tion is true.	
Date:				
			Server's signature	
			Printed name and title	

Server's address

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

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CDGCSV70 057 PO Box 930824 Wixom MI 48393-0824 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

February 7, 2017

GC Services Limited Partnership



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Please call: 866-806-5193 Calls may be monitored or recorded



CORRESPONDENCE AND PAYMENT MAILING ADDRESS:

# 

Rego Park NY 11374-2208

#### PO BOX 3855 HOUSTON TX 77253

	4	
YOU OWE: Citibank, N.A.	GC NUMBER:	10265
CLIENT ACCOUNT NUMBER: ENDING 5589	MINIMUM PAYMENT DUE:	<b>\$1,881.23</b>

\*\*\*PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN UPPER PORTION OF STATEMENT WITH PAYMENT\*\*\*

February 7, 2017

File Number **ENDING 5589** Client Account Number: **ENDING 5589** New Balance: \$11,051.57

#### **RE: CITI MASTERCARD**

Dear ILYA KHAIMOV,

We are writing to let you know that your account with Citibank, N.A., with a new balance of \$11,051.57, has been referred to us.

This letter shows your minimum payment amount currently due. If you are making a payment, please send us your payment using the enclosed envelope, and, if paying by check, make your check payable to "Citibank, N.A.".

We are here to work with you to find a mutually agreeable solution. We invite you to contact us so that we can discuss your particular financial circumstances, as well as opportunities our client may have available for you. Please contact us at 866-806-5193 to discuss payment options that may be available to you on your account.

We look forward to helping you resolve your account. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Douglas Kemp Account Representative

If you would prefer, you can make a payment on your account using a debit card by going to our website at iwant2.solvemydebt.com or calling us at 844-694-2082. Use the following number to identify yourself when prompted: 703017037010265

\* As of the date of this letter, you owe \$11,051.57. Because of interest, late charges, and other charges that may vary from day to day, the amount owed on the day you pay may be greater. Hence, if you pay the amount shown above, an adjustment may be necessary after we receive your payment, in which event we will inform you.

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.

**NOTICE:** SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR IMPORTANT CONSUMER INFORMATION

GC Services Limited Partnership – 6330 Gulfton, Houston, TX 77081 0185-01 CITIB-CDP1 703017037010265 35172343

IMPORTANT: BE CE	RTAIN YOUR ACCOUNT IS CORRECT.
HOME PHONE	•
NEW ADDRESS	: 

#### GC Services Limited Partnership

#### CONSUMER INFORMATION:

Unless you, within thirty (30) days after your receipt of this letter, dispute the validity of the debt, or any portion thereof, we will assume the debt to be valid. If you notify us in writing within the above described thirty (30) day period that the debt, or any portion thereof, is disputed, we will obtain verification of the debt or a copy of a judgment against you and a copy of such verification or judgment will be mailed to you. Additionally, upon your written request within the above described thirty (30) day period, we will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if it is different than the current creditor.

The request for you to pay the balance owed in this letter does not reduce your rights to dispute this debt, or any portion thereof, and/or to request verification within the thirty (30) day period as set forth above.

#### NYC Residents: NYC Department of Consumer Affairs' specific license # varies as to city/state

location of sender: Elgin - 2032602; Houston - 2032594; Jacksonville - 2032579; San Antonio - 2032610; Columbus - 2032587; Huntington - 2032616; Knoxville - 2032597; San Diego - 2032615; Copperas Cove - 2032601; Irwindale - 2032591; Oklahoma - 2032603; St. Louis - 2032598; Phoenix - 2032606; Tucson - 2032592 **New York Residents:** As a debt collector, GC Services is prohibited under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq., from engaging in abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection efforts, including, but not limited to the use or threat of violence; use of obscene or profane language; and making repeated phone calls with the intent to annoy, abuse or harass while attempting to collect a debt.

If a creditor or debt collector receives a money judgment against you in court, state and federal laws may prevent the following types of income from being taken to pay the debt:

- Supplemental security income, (SSI); 1.
- 2.
- Social security; Public assistance (welfare); 3.
- 4. Spousal support, maintenance (alimony) or child support;
- Unemployment benefits; 5.
- 6. Disability benefits;

- Workers' compensation benefits; 7.
- Public or private pensions; Veterans' benefits; 8.
- 9.
- Federal student loans, federal student grants; and federal work study funds; and 10.
- Ninety percent of your wages or salary 11. earned in the last sixty days.

# **ClassAction.org**

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>GC Services Limited Partnership Named in Debt Collection Case in NY</u>