UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

TALI LASRI, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

-against-

NORTHSTAR LOCATION SERVICES, LLC

Defendant.

CIVIL ACTION

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

AND

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff TALI LASRI (hereinafter, "Plaintiff"), a New York resident, brings this class action complaint by and through her attorneys, The Law Office of Alan J. Sasson, P.C., against Defendant NORTHSTAR LOCATION SERVICES, LLC (hereinafter "Defendant"), individually and on behalf of a class of all others similarly situated, pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, based upon information and belief of Plaintiff's counsel, except for allegations specifically pertaining to Plaintiff, which are based upon Plaintiff's personal knowledge.

INTRODUCTION/PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

- 1. Congress enacted the FDCPA in 1977 in response to the "abundant evidence of the use of abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection practices by many debt collectors." 15 U.S.C. § 1692(a). At that time, Congress was concerned that "abusive debt collection practices contribute to the number of personal bankruptcies, to material instability, to the loss of jobs, and to invasions of individual privacy." *Id.* Congress concluded that "existing laws . . . [we]re inadequate to protect consumers," and that "the effective collection of debts" does not require "misrepresentation or other abusive debt collection practices." 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692(b) & (c).
- 2. Congress explained that the purpose of the Act was not only to eliminate abusive debt collection practices, but also to "insure that those debt collectors who refrain from using

abusive debt collection practices are not competitively disadvantaged." *Id.* § 1692(e). After determining that the existing consumer protection laws were inadequate, *id.* § 1692(b), Congress gave consumers a private cause of action against debt collectors who fail to comply with the Act. *Id.* § 1692k.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 3. The Court has jurisdiction over this class action under 28 U.S.C. § 1331, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 *et seq.* and 28 U.S.C. § 2201. If applicable, the Court also has pendent jurisdiction over the state law claims in this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).
- 4. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2).

NATURE OF THE ACTION

- 5. Plaintiff brings this class action on behalf of a class of New York consumers seeking redress for Defendant's illegal practices, in connection with the collection of a debt allegedly owed by Plaintiff.
- 6. Defendant's actions violated § 1692 *et seq*. of Title 15 of the United States Code, commonly referred to as the Fair Debt Collections Practices Act ("FDCPA") which prohibits debt collectors from engaging in abusive, deceptive and unfair practices.
- 7. Plaintiff is seeking damages, and declaratory and injunctive relief.

PARTIES

- 8. Plaintiff is a natural person and a resident of the State of New York, and is a "Consumer" as defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692(a)(3).
- Defendant is a New York corporation with an address of 4285 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga NY 14225.
- 10. Defendant is a company that uses the mail, telephone, and facsimile and regularly engages in business the principal purpose of which is to attempt to collect debts alleged to be due another.

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

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

- 12. Plaintiff brings claims, pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (hereinafter "FRCP")
 Rule 23, individually and on behalf of the following nationwide consumer class (the "Class"):
 - All New York consumers who were sent collection letters and/or notices from
 Defendant attempting to collect an obligation owed to or allegedly owed to Bank of
 America, N.A. ("hereinafter "BOA"), in which Defendant improperly attempted to
 collect same, in violation of 15 U.S.C. §1692 et seq.
 - The Class period begins one year to the filing of this Action.
- 13. The Class satisfies all the requirements of Rule 23 of the FRCP for maintaining a class action:
 - Upon information and belief, the Class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable because there are hundreds and/or thousands of persons who have received debt collection letters and/or notices from Defendant that violate specific provisions of the FDCPA. Plaintiff is complaining of a standard form letter and/or notice that is sent to hundreds of persons (*See* Exhibit A, except that the undersigned attorney has, in accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 5.2 partially redacted the financial account numbers in an effort to protect Plaintiff's privacy);
 - There are questions of law and fact which are common to the Class and which
 predominate over questions affecting any individual Class member. These common
 questions of law and fact include, without limitation:
 - a. Whether Defendant violated various provisions of the FDCPA;
 - b. Whether Plaintiff and the Class have been injured by Defendant's conduct;
 - c. Whether Plaintiff and the Class have sustained damages and are entitled to restitution as a result of Defendant's wrongdoing and if so, what is the

- proper measure and appropriate statutory formula to be applied in determining such damages and restitution; and
- d. Whether Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to declaratory and/or injunctive relief.
- Plaintiff's claims are typical of the Class, which all arise from the same operative facts and are based on the same legal theories.
- Plaintiff has no interest adverse or antagonistic to the interest of the other members of the Class.
- Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interest of the Class and has retained experienced and competent attorneys to represent the Class.
- A Class Action is superior to other methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of
 the claims herein asserted. Plaintiff anticipates that no unusual difficulties are likely to
 be encountered in the management of this class action.
- A Class Action will permit large numbers of similarly situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum simultaneously and without the duplication of effort and expense that numerous individual actions would engender. Class treatment will also permit the adjudication of relatively small claims by many Class members who could not otherwise afford to seek legal redress for the wrongs complained of herein. Absent a Class Action, class members will continue to suffer losses of statutory protected rights as well as monetary damages. If Defendant's conduct is allowed proceed to without remedy they will continue to reap and retain the proceeds of their ill-gotten gains.

• Defendant has acted on grounds generally applicable to the entire Class, thereby making appropriate final injunctive relief or corresponding declaratory relief with respect to the Class as a whole.

ALLEGATIONS PARTICULAR TO TALI LASRI

- 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. Some time prior to July 8, 2016, an obligation was allegedly incurred by Plaintiff to BOA.
- 16. The aforesaid obligation arose out of a transaction in which money, property, insurance or services, which are the subject of the transaction, are primarily for personal, family or household purposes.
- 17. The alleged BOA obligation is a "debt" as defined by 15 U.S.C.\(\) 1692a(5).
- 18. BOA is a "creditor" as defined by 15 U.S.C.§ 1692a(4).
- 19. Plaintiff is a "consumer" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3) of the FDCPA.
- 20. Defendant is a "debt collector" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6) of the FDCPA.
- 21. At a time known only to Defendant, BOA, directly or through an intermediary, contracted Defendant to collect BOA's debt.
- 22. In its effort to collect on the BOA obligation, Defendant contacted Plaintiff by written correspondence on July 8, 2016. *See* Exhibit A.
- 23. 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).
- 24. The Letter is a "communication" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a (2).
- 25. 15 U.S.C. § 1692f prohibits the collection of any amount (including any interest, fee, charge, or expense incidental to the principal obligation) unless such amount is expressly authorized

by the agreement creating the debt or permitted by law.

- 26. Congress adopted the provisions of section 1692f with the stated intent to prohibit debt collectors from attempting collection of any amount unless such amount is expressly authorized by the agreement creating the debt or permitted by law.
- 27. Defendant's attempt at collecting more than what it initially stated was owed is exactly the type of harm Congress contemplated when enacting Section 1692f.
- 28. As such, Defendant's violations of the FDCPA created the risk of real harm that the Plaintiff would overpay and thereby incur a significant monetary deficit due to Defendant's actions, when in reality; the amount allegedly owed on the debt would preclude such action.
- 29. Defendant's actions as described herein are part of a pattern and practice used to collect debts.
- 30. As set forth in the following Counts Defendant violated the FDCPA.

First Count Violation of 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692f et seq. The Charging of Unlawful Fees

- 31. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs numbered "1" through "30" herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.
- 32. Collection letters such as those sent by defendant are to be evaluated by the objective standard of the hypothetical "least sophisticated consumer."
- 33. Section 1692e(10) states that:

A debt collector may not use any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt.... the following conduct is a violation of this section:

- (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.
- 34. Section 1692f(1) states that:

A debt collector may not use unfair or unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect

any debt. Without limiting the general application of the foregoing, the following conduct is a violation of this section:

- (1) The collection of any amount (including any interest, fee, charge, or expense incidental to the principal obligation) unless such amount is expressly authorized by the agreement creating the debt or permitted by law.
- 35. That Defendant attempts to recover "Total amount of non-interest charges or fees accrued since charge-off" ("post charge-off fees") of \$100.00 is improper.
- 36. That said "post charge-off fees" is a fee charged and collected by Defendant.
- 37. That same is not expressly authorized by any agreement that Plaintiff has with the original creditor.
- 38. That the "post charge-off fees" is not permitted by any applicable law.
- 39. That, as and for an alternative, Defendant retains all or a portion of the "post charge-off fees."
- 40. That Defendant's retention of all or a portion of the "post charge-off fees" is not expressly authorized by any agreement that plaintiff has with the original creditor.
- 41. That Defendant's statement in its collection letter regarding the "post charge-off fees" is an attempt to collect an amount which is not permitted by the FDCPA, § 1692f (1).
- 42. That Defendant's statement in its collection letter regarding the "post charge-off fees" constitutes an unfair and unconscionable means used by Defendant in its attempt to collect a debt, in violation of the FDCPA, including but not limited to § 1692f (1).
- 43. That further, Defendant's statement in its collection letter regarding the "post charge-off fees" also falsely represents the compensation which may be lawfully received by Defendant for the collection of the debt, in violation of the FDCPA, including but not limited to Section 1692e and 1692e(2)(B).
- 44. That Defendant's statement in its collection letter regarding the "post charge-off fees" constitutes a false, deceptive, and misleading representation or means used by Defendant in connection with the collection of a debt, in violation of §§1692e and 1692e(10).

- 45. That further, Defendant's statement in its collection letter regarding the "post charge-off fees" is a threat to take an action that cannot be legally taken, viz., to add a fee that is not authorized by any law or by the agreement between Plaintiff and the original creditor which created the alleged debt, and is therefore a violation of the FDCPA, Section 1692e (5).
- 46. Defendant used false representation and deceptive means to attempt to collect \$100.00 in "post charge-off fees" without evidencing the basis for the added fee in violation of 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692e (2), 1692e (5), 1692e (10), and 1692f (1).
- 47. Plaintiff seeks to end these violations of the FDCPA. Plaintiff and putative class members are entitled to preliminary and permanent injunctive relief, including, declaratory relief, and damages.
- 48. By reason thereof, Defendant is liable to Plaintiff for judgment that Defendant's conduct violated Section 1692f *et seq*. of the FDCPA, actual damages, statutory damages, costs and attorneys' fees.

Second Count Violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692g. Validation of Debts

- 49. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs numbered "1" through "48" herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.
- 50. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e prohibits a debt collector from using any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt.
- 51. While § 1692e specifically prohibits certain practices, the list is non-exhaustive, and does not preclude a claim of falsity or deception based on any non-enumerated practice.
- 52. Collection letters are deceptive if they can be reasonably read to have two or more different meanings, one of which is inaccurate.
- 53. Defendant's July 8, 2016 Letter stated a Current Account "Balance" of \$5,513.58.
- 54. Upon affirmation and belief, the said letter to the Plaintiff was an initial communication from

the Defendant.

- 55. The said letter was sent in an effort to collect on a defaulted consumer debt.
- 56. Such collection letter is open to one of multiple interpretations and would likely be misunderstood by the least sophisticated consumer.
- 57. §1692e requires debt collectors, when informing debtors of their account balance, to disclose whether the balance may increase due to interest and fees. *Id*.
- 58. Defendant's collection letters fail to include the safe harbor language set out in Avila. Id.
- 59. An unsophisticated consumer would be left uncertain by the said letters as to whether the accounts were accruing interest or not.
- 60. The Current Account "Balance" in the case at hand was for an amount that included original principal, fees and contractual interest.
- 61. In this case, the Current Account "Balance" was increasing due to interest and other charges as per the creditor's contract. Nevertheless, the collection notices did not disclose that the amount of the debt stated in the letter "could," "may," or "will" increase over time.
- 62. The said letters failed to correctly state the in full the amount of the debt allegedly owed.
- 63. Though the collection letter to Plaintiff stated a Current Account "Balance," the letter did not state on which date the Current Account "Balance" was calculated, and did not explain that contractual and/or statutory interest and/or legal fees would continue to accrue on the unpaid principal; thus, the Plaintiff's total balance might be greater on the date she makes a payment.
- 64. A reasonable consumer could read the notices and be misled into believing that he or she could pay her debt in full by paying the amount listed on the notice.
- 65. However, since contractual interest is automatically accruing daily, and since there are undisclosed legal fees that will accrue, a consumer who pays the Current Account "Balance"

- stated on the notices will be unaware as to whether or not the debt has been paid in full.
- 66. The debt collector could still seek the automatically accrued contractual interest that accumulated after the notices were 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.
- 67. A letter that states Current Account "Balance," without notice that the amount is already increasing due to automatically accruing contractual interest or other charges, would mislead the unsophisticated consumer into believing that payment of the amount stated will clear his or her account.
- 68. 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 her debts and it would abrogate the Congressional purpose of full and fair disclosure to consumers that is embodied in Section 1692e.
- 69. Pursuant to New York state law, statutory interest starts to accrue on the debt from the date of the breach of contract at the rate of 9% per annum.
- 70. The amount of the contractual or statutory interest, automatically increases each day that the defaulted debt remains unpaid due to the automatically contractual or statutory accrued interest.
- 71. Collection notices that state only a Current Account "Balance" but fail to disclose that the balance might increase due to interest and fees, are "misleading" within the meaning of Section 1692e.
- 72. To the extent that the Creditor or the Defendant intended to waive the automatically accrued and accruing interest, it was required to disclose that in the most conspicuous of terms.
- 73. Defendant was required to include a disclosure that the automatically accrued interest was accruing, or in the alternative, Defendant was required to disclose that the creditor has made

- an intentional decision to waive the automatically accruing interest; yet the Defendant failed to make any such disclosures, violating Section 1692e of the FDCPA.
- 74. Failure to disclose such a waiver of the automatically accruing interest is in of itself deceptive and "misleading" within the meaning of Section 1692e of the FDCPA.
- 75. Defendant knew that balances would increase due to interest, fees and/or disbursements.
- 76. The Second Circuit adopted a safe harbor disclaimer stating "that requiring such disclosure best achieves the Congressional purpose of full and fair disclosure to consumers that is embodied in Section 1692e. It also protects consumers such as the Plaintiff, who may hold the reasonable but mistaken belief that timely payment will satisfy their debts." *Avila v. Riexinger & Assocs., LLC*, 817 F.3d 72, 76 (2d Cir. 2016).
- 77. Because the statement of the Current Account "Balance" included original principal, fees, and contractual and/or statutory interest, without notice that the accruing interest was expressly waived, can mislead the least sophisticated consumer into believing that payment of the amount stated will clear his or her account, the FDCPA requires debt collectors, when they notify consumers of their account balance, to expressly disclose that interest has stopped accruing.
- 78. According to the Second Circuit's finding that the "Balance" must contain a full and fair disclosure, if a credit card account was being charged interest, pursuant to a contract and the interest was intended to be waived, disclosure of such a waiver is necessary or the consumer would not know what the balance is. "[i]n fact, however, if interest is accruing daily, [or was not expressly waived] a consumer who pays the 'current balance' stated on the notice will not know whether the debt has been paid in full. The debt collector could still seek the [accruing or un-waived] 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." Avila at 76.

- 79. The 8th Circuit in *Haney v. Portfolio Recovery Assocs*., No. 15-1932, 2016 U.S. App. LEXIS 17287 (8th Cir. Sep. 21, 2016) clearly explains that merely not including interest in post charge off statements is not an express waiver of interest, and the debt collector or creditor can seek the interest in the future.
- 80. In fact, in this case Plaintiff is still not sure whether there was any intent to waive the interest.

 There was definitely no express waiver and disclosure of waiver is mandatory if interest was originally accruing per the contract or per statute. The consumer could not know what the real balance is.
- 81. The intent to waive a contractual right must be unmistakably manifested and may not be inferred from doubtful or equivocal acts. *Navillus Tile, Inc. v. Turner Const.* Co., 2 A.D.3d 209, 770 N.Y.S.2d 3 (1st Dep't 2003). A waiver of a contract right does not occur by negligence, oversight or thoughtlessness and cannot be inferred from mere silence. *Acumen Re Management Corp. v. General Sec. Nat. Ins. Co.*, 2012 WL 3890128, at *6 (S.D. N.Y. 2012), reconsideration denied, motion to certify appeal granted, 2012 WL 6053936 (S.D. N.Y. 2012).
- 82. The 8th Circuit Court of Appeals found that the fact that the debt was charged off and that the creditor or debt buyer did not charge statutory or prejudgment interest in its statements post charge off does not constitute an express waiver and statutory or prejudgment interest is continuing to accrue and may be charged at a future time.
- 83. According to the Second Circuit in *Avila*, any such a debt would need full and complete disclosure. See *Haney infra* ("Nothing inherent in the process of charging off a debt precludes a claim for statutory interest, and [the states] prejudgment interest statute does not expressly preclude statutory prejudgment interest following a waiver of contractual interest...[The

debtor] received monthly periodic statements from the original creditors prior to charge-off, and at least as to the Wal-Mart account, the charge-off statement itself is attached to the pleadings. [The debtor] received a demand for payment of his accounts when due. We conclude any demand requirement that exists as a precondition to the accrual of statutory prejudgment interest was satisfied by the original creditors' demands upon [the debtor].")

- 84. Failure to disclose such a waiver of the automatically accruing interest is in of itself deceptive and "misleading" within the meaning of Section 1692e. The Defendant knew that the balance would increase due to interest, fees and/or disbursements.
- 85. Since the "Balance" is for an amount that includes original principal, fees, and contractual interest, the collection notice must accurately inform the consumer that interest is accruing daily or that interest has stopped accruing. "Applying these principles, we hold that Plaintiffs have stated a claim that the collection notices at issue here are misleading within the meaning of Section 1692e... a consumer who pays the "current balance" stated on the notice will not know whether the debt has been paid in full." *Avila* at *10-11.
- 86. Although Defendant's collection letter stated a Current Account "Balance" the letter failed to disclose to the Plaintiff that the Defendant may collect the additional accruing interest at a later date. "The Court therefore finds that [the debt collectors] letters to [the debtor] are subject to two different interpretations as to the accumulation of interest, rendering them deceptive under \$ 1692e(10) ... The logic [applies] to stated outstanding debt and the need for consumers to be aware that this debt may be dynamic or static. They are concerned with a consumer's inability to discern whether an amount owed may grow with time, regardless of whether offers to settle are on the table or not. As [plaintiff] states, this information is relevant in a consumer's payment calculus, especially when some debts must be paid at the expense of others. And, of course,

the existence of settlement offers would be entirely irrelevant to these considerations for the many consumers who are unable to take advantage of them...Plaintiff's claim is not that the stated balance was not itemized, but that it was unclear whether it was subject to future interest." *Michalek v. ARS Nat'l Sys.*, No. 3:11-CV-1374, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 142976, at *16-17 (M.D. Pa. Dec. 13, 2011).

- 87. Absent a disclosure by the holder of the debt that the automatic interest is waived, even if the debtors pays the "Balance" the Defendant and or the creditor could still seek the automatic interest that accumulated after the breach of contract, or sell the consumer's debt to a third party, which itself could seek the automatic interest and from the consumer. *Avila*, at *10-11.
- 88. A waiver of interest, even when made explicitly, has not prevented debt collection agencies from continuing to illegally charge the waived interest. At the bare minimum, a debt collection agency must clearly convey, even to the unsophisticated consumer that it intends to waive the automatically accruing interest, or that the debt has stopped accruing interest.
- 89. Upon receiving Defendant's collection letter, the Plaintiff was uncertain whether the Current Account "Balance" was accruing interest as there was no disclosure or admonition indicating otherwise.
- 90. Defendant's letter would cause the unsophisticated consumer uncertainty and force him or her to guess how much money is allegedly owed to the Defendant, how much money would accrue daily on the alleged debt, how much additional money would be owed if the Current Account "Balance" stated in the collection letters was paid, and if or when the Defendant's collection efforts would discontinue if the Current Account "Balance" was remitted to the Defendant.
- 91. Section 1692e of the FDCPA prohibits a debt collector from using any false, or any deceptive or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of a debt, including

- the false representation of the character, amount or legal status of any debt, see, 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(2)(A) and § 1692e(10).
- 92. Upon information and belief, such actions are part of a scheme or business of the Defendant when attempting to collect alleged debts from consumers in the State of New York.
- 93. Upon information and belief, the Defendant's collection letters, such as the said July 8, 2016 collection letter, number in at least the hundreds.
- 94. Defendant, by failing to state that it would add interest to the amount of the debt or by failing to clearly waive interest, made materially false statements, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692e of the FDCPA.
- 95. Defendant's collection letters are in violation of 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692e(2)(A) and 1692e(10) of the FDCPA for the use of any false representation or deceptive means to collect or attempt to collect any debt and for misrepresenting the amount of the debt owed by the Plaintiff.
- 96. Plaintiff suffered injury in fact by being subjected to unfair and abusive practices of Defendant.
- 97. Plaintiff suffered actual harm by being the target of the Defendant's misleading debt collection communications.
- 98. Defendant violated the Plaintiff's right not to be the target of misleading debt collection communications.
- 99. Defendant violated the Plaintiff's right to a truthful and fair debt collection process.
- 100. Defendant used materially false, deceptive, misleading representations and means in its attempted collection of Plaintiff's alleged debt.
- 101. Defendant's communications were designed to cause debtors to suffer a harmful disadvantage in charting a course of action in response to the Defendant's collection efforts.
- 102. The FDCPA ensures that consumers are fully and truthfully apprised of the facts and of

their rights, the act enables them to understand, make informed decisions about, and participate fully and meaningfully in the debt collection process. The purpose of the FDCPA is to provide information that helps consumers to choose intelligently. The Defendant's false representations misled the Plaintiff in a manner that deprived her of her right to enjoy these benefits, these materially misleading statements trigger liability under section 1692e of the Act.

- 103. These deceptive communications additionally violated the FDCPA since they frustrate the consumers' ability to intelligently choose his or her response.
- 104. 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.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendant as follows:

- (a) Declaring that this action is properly maintainable as a Class Action and certifying Plaintiff as Class representative, and Alan J. Sasson, Esq., as Class Counsel;
- (b) Awarding Plaintiff and the Class statutory damages;
- (c) Awarding Plaintiff and the Class actual damages;
- (d) Awarding Plaintiff costs of this Action, including reasonable attorney fees and expenses;
- (e) Awarding pre-judgment interest and post-judgment interest; and
- (f) Awarding Plaintiff and the Class such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

By: __/s/ Alan J. Sasson_ Alan J. Sasson, Esq. Law Office of Alan J. Sasson, P.C. 2687 Coney Island Avenue, 2nd Floor Brooklyn, New York 11235 Phone: (718) 339-0856

Facsimile: (347) 244-7178

Attorney for Plaintiff

DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY

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

/s/ Alan J. Sasson
Alan J. Sasson, Esq.

Dated: Brooklyn, New York

May 2, 2017

JS 44 (Rev. 07/16)

Case 1:17-cv-02610 Document 2-1 VEIRO 05/02/17 Page 1 of 2 PageID #: 18

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

purpose of initiating the civil d	ocket sneet. (SEE INSTRUC	TIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF T	HIS FOI	RM.)					
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDANTS					
TALI LASRI, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated (b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)				NORTHSTAR LOCATION SERVICES, LLC County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.					
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name,	Address, and Telephone Numbe	r)		Attorneys (If Known)					
LAW OFFICE OF ALAN 2nd Floor, Brooklyn, NY	J. SASSON, P.C., 268	37 Coney Island Aven	ue,	·					
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X" in C	One Box Only)		TIZENSHIP OF PI	RINCIPA	AL PARTIES	Place an "X" in and One Box f		
☐ 1 U.S. Government		Not a Party)		PT on of This State		Incorporated or Pri	ncipal Place	PTF	DEF
☐ 2 U.S. Government ☐ 4 Diversity Defendant (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item		ip of Parties in Item III)	Citize	n of Another State	2 🗖 2	Incorporated and P of Business In A	rincipal Place	□ 5	□ 5
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IV. NATURE OF SUIT			EO	DEFITIDE/DENAL TV	DAS	NKDIIDTOV	OTHER	STATE	TEC
CONTRACT ☐ 110 Insurance ☐ 120 Marine ☐ 130 Miller Act ☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument ☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment	PERSONAL INJURY ☐ 310 Airplane ☐ 315 Airplane Product Liability ☐ 320 Assault, Libel &	PERSONAL INJURY 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage Product Liability PRISONER PETITIONS Habeas Corpus: 463 Alien Detainee 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence 535 Death Penalty Other: 540 Mandamus & Other 550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement	Act 720 Labor/Management Relations 740 Railway Labor Act 751 Family and Medical Leave Act 790 Other Labor Litigation		BANKRUPTCY □ 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 □ 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) □ 400 State Reapportionment □ 410 Antitrust □ 430 Banks and Banking □ 450 Commerce □ 460 Deportation □ 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations ▼ 480 Consumer Credit □ 490 Cable/Sat TV □ 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange □ 890 Other Statutory Actions □ 891 Agricultural Acts □ 893 Environmental Matters □ 895 Freedom of Information Act □ 896 Arbitration □ 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision □ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes		
	moved from 3 ate Court Cite the U.S. Civil Sta 15 USC 1692 Brief description of ca	Appellate Court atute under which you are fause:	Reop	(specify)	r District	☐ 6 Multidistr Litigation Transfer iversity):		Multid Litigat Direct	ion -
VII. REQUESTED IN	Defendant violate	ed the FDCPA IS A CLASS ACTION	DI	EMAND \$	(CHECK YES only	if demanded in	compl	aint:
COMPLAINT:	UNDER RULE 2			•		URY DEMAND:		□ N	
VIII. RELATED CASE	E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE			DOCKI	ET NUMBER			
DATE 05/02/2017		signature of attoi		OF RECORD					
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY									
RECEIPT # A	MOUNT	APPLYING IFP		JUDGE		MAG. JUI	OGE		

CERTIFICATION OF ARBITRATION ELIGIBILITY

Local Arbitration Rule 83.10 provides that with certain exceptions, actions seeking money damages only in an amount not in excess of \$150,000, exclusive of interest and costs, are eligible for compulsory arbitration. The amount of damages is presumed to be below the threshold amount unless a certification to the contrary is filed.

I, ALAN J	sasson ole for co	, counsel for PLAINTIFF, do hereby certify that the above captioned civil action is ompulsory arbitration for the following reason(s):		
	X	monetary damages sought are in excess of \$150,000, exclusive of interest and costs,		
		the complaint seeks injunctive relief,		
	X	Questions of law rather than questions of fact predominate. <u>DISCLOSURE STATEMENT - FEDERAL RULES CIVIL PROCEDURE 7.1</u>		
NONE		Identify any parent corporation and any publicly held corporation that owns 10% or more or its stocks:		
		RELATED CASE STATEMENT (Section VIII on the Front of this Form)		
provides because same jud case: (A)	that "A ci the cases a lge and ma) involves	s that are arguably related pursuant to Division of Business Rule 50.3.1 in Section VIII on the front of this form. Rule 50.3.1 (a) ivil case is "related" to another civil case for purposes of this guideline when, because of the similarity of facts and legal issues or arise from the same transactions or events, a substantial saving of judicial resources is likely to result from assigning both cases to the agistrate judge." Rule 50.3.1 (b) provides that "A civil case shall not be deemed "related" to another civil case merely because the civil identical legal issues, or (B) involves the same parties." Rule 50.3.1 (c) further provides that "Presumptively, and subject to the power mine otherwise pursuant to paragraph (d), civil cases shall not be deemed to be "related" unless both cases are still pending before the		
		NY-E DIVISION OF BUSINESS RULE 50.1(d)(2)		
1.)	Is the ci County:	vil action being filed in the Eastern District removed from a New York State Court located in Nassau or Suffolk		
2.)		nswered "no" above: he events or omissions giving rise to the claim or claims, or a substantial part thereof, occur in Nassau or Suffolk		
	b) Did t District	he events or omissions giving rise to the claim or claims, or a substantial part thereof, occur in the Eastern		
Suffolk	County, olk Count	o question 2 (b) is "No," does the defendant (or a majority of the defendants, if there is more than one) reside in Nassau or or, in an interpleader action, does the claimant (or a majority of the claimants, if there is more than one) reside in Nassau by? ote: A corporation shall be considered a resident of the County in which it has the most significant contacts).		
BAR ADMISSION				
I am cui	rrently ad	Imitted in the Eastern District of New York and currently a member in good standing of the bar of this court. Yes No		
Are you	currently	y the subject of any disciplinary action (s) in this or any other state or federal court? Yes (If yes, please explain) No		

I certify the accuracy of all information provided above.

Signature: /s/ Alan J. Sasson

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Eastern District of New York

Eastern Dist	fict of New Tork
TALI LASRI, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated)))
Plaintiff(s))
V.	Civil Action No.
NORTHSTAR LOCATION SERVICES, LLC) Civil rection ivo.
NORTHSTAR LOCATION SERVICES, LLC)
)
)
Defendant(s))
Defendani(s))
SUMMONS II	N A CIVIL ACTION
To: (Defendant's name and address) NORTHSTAR LOCATION 4285 GENESEE STREET CHEEKTOWAGA, NEW Y	
are the United States or a United States agency, or an offi P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an ar	
If you fail to respond, judgment by default will b You also must file your answer or motion with the court.	e entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.
	DOUGLAS C. PALMER CLERK OF COURT
Dotor	
Date:	Signature of Cloub on Donuty Cloub
	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 re	This summons for (no ceived by me on (date)	ame of individual and title, if an	ıy)					
wasic	•	ed the summons on the ind	ividual at (place)					
	recisonany serve	a the summons on the ma	on (date)	; or				
	☐ I left the summon		ence or usual place of abode with (name)					
	on (date), a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there, and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or							
		nons on (name of individual)	on behalf of (, who is				
	designated by law to	accept service of process	on behalf of (name of organization) on (date)	; or				
	☐ I returned the sum	nmons unexecuted because	2	; or				
	☐ Other (<i>specify</i>):							
	My fees are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$	0.00				
	I declare under penal	lty of perjury that this info	ormation is true.					
Date:		· _						
			Server's signature					
		_	Printed name and title					
		_	Server's address					
			Server s adaress					

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

4285 Genesee Street 4285 Genesee Street Cheekswalga, Nov-0264 949 ocument 1-3 Filed 05/02/17 Page 1 of 1-866-610-2731

NORTHSTAR

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

July 8, 2016

Current Creditor: Bank of America, N.A.

Account #: *********7425

Balance: \$5,513.58 Amount Remitted: \$ __

201600000521452-BL1

1 MB *A-01-M6U-AM-03202-18 րիկիկժեց հինկնակերկը նկիներիին ինկինին ինկան TALI C LASRI



իդիդիկորիկինիկներիներիներինեներինեներիի NORTHSTAR LOCATION SERVICES, LLC ATTN: FINANCIAL SERVICES DEPT. 4285 GENESEE ST CHEEKTOWAGA NY 14225-1943

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

Current Creditor	Account #	Balance	Amount Remitted
Bank of America, N.A.	*********7425	\$5,513.58	

The above account has been referred to our office by Bank of America. Your account is listed as delinquent with a total amount due of \$5,513.58.

Original Creditor: Bank of America, N.A.

The total amount of the debt due as of charge-off: \$5,513.58

The total amount of payments and credits made on the debt since the charge-off: \$100.00

The total amount of interest accrued since charge-off: \$.00

The total amount of non-interest charges or fees accrued since charge-off: \$100.00

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

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

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

- Check-by-phone at 1-866-610-2731
- Web Pay at www.gotonls.com

MoneyGram ExpressPayment

- Pay in person at our office
- Enclose your payment in the envelope

You may contact David Evtimovski toll free at 1-866-610-2731 to make your payment.

NOTICE: SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Payment website: https://www.gotonls.com

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Suit Claims Northstar's Letters Point Consumers in the Wrong Direction</u>