Introduction

- 1. MARGARET A. MCKENNA ("Plaintiff" or "Ms. McKenna") brings this class action for damages, injunctive relief, and any other available legal or equitable remedies, resulting from the illegal actions of defendant VIKING CLIENT SERVICES, LLC a/k/a VIKING CLIENT SERVICES, INC. a/k/a VIKING COLLECTION SERVICE, INC. ("Defendant" or "VCS") in negligently and/or intentionally contacting Plaintiff on Plaintiff's cellular telephone, in violation of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. §§ 227 et seq., ("TCPA"), thereby invading Plaintiff's privacy. Plaintiff alleges as follows upon personal knowledge as to herself and her own acts and experiences, and, as to all other matters, upon information and belief, including investigation conducted by her attorneys.
- 2. The TCPA was designed to prevent calls like the ones described within this complaint, and to protect the privacy of citizens like Plaintiff. "Voluminous consumer complaints about abuses of telephone technology for example, computerized calls dispatched to private homes prompted Congress to pass the TCPA." *Mims v. Arrow Fin. Servs., LLC*, 132 S. Ct. 740, 744 (2012).
- 3. In enacting the TCPA, Congress intended to give consumers a choice as to how creditors and telemarketers may call them, and made specific findings that "[t]echnologies that might allow consumers to avoid receiving such calls are not universally available, are costly, are unlikely to be enforced, or place an inordinate burden on the consumer. TCPA, Pub.L. No. 102–243, § 11. Toward this end, Congress found that:

[b]anning such automated or prerecorded telephone calls to the home, except when the receiving party consents to receiving the call or when such calls are necessary in an emergency situation affecting the health and safety of the consumer, is the only effective means of protecting telephone consumers from this nuisance and privacy

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invasion.

Id. at § 12; see also Martin v. Leading Edge Recovery Solutions, LLC, 2012 WL 3292838, at *4 (N.D. Ill. Aug. 10, 2012) (citing Congressional findings on TCPA's purpose).

Congress also specifically found that "the evidence presented to the 4. Congress indicates that automated or prerecorded calls are a nuisance and an invasion of privacy, regardless of the type of call..." Id. at §§ 12-13. See also, Mims, 132 S. Ct. at 744.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 5. This Court has federal question jurisdiction because this case arises out of violation of federal law. 47 U.S.C. §227(b); Mims v. Arrow Fin. Servs., LLC, 132 S. Ct. 740 (2012).
- 6. Venue is proper in the United States District Court for the Southern District of California pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because Defendant is subject to personal jurisdiction in the County of San Diego, State of California, as it conducts business there and the unlawful conduct alleged herein occurred in this jurisdiction.

PARTIES

- 7. Plaintiff is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a citizen and resident of the State of California. Plaintiff is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a "person" as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153 (39).
- 8. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Viking Client Services, LLC is a Minnesota limited liability company operating from 7500 Office Ridge Circle, # 100, Eden Prairie, MN 55344. Defendant is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a "person" as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153 (39).

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- 9. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Viking Client Services, Inc., which is now in "surrender" status, had that address 7500 Office Ridge Circle, # 100, Eden Prairie, MN 55344. Viking Client Services, Inc. is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a "person" as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153 (39).
- 10. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Viking Collection Service, Inc. is a dissolved business that had that address 7500 Office Ridge Circle, # 100, Eden Prairie, MN 55344. Viking Collection Service, Inc. is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a "person" as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153 (39).
- 11. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Viking Client Services, Inc. and Viking Collection Service, Inc. and Viking Client Services, LLC are the same entity operating at times under different names.
- Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Viking Client 12. Services, Inc. was converted to limited liability status on or about April 1, 2016.
- 13. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Cory Kloeckner is the Chief Executive Officer for Defendant.
- 14. Plaintiff alleges that at all times relevant herein Defendant conducted business in the State of California and within this judicial district.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 15. Sometime in or around June 2016, Plaintiff began receiving numerous telephone calls on her cellular telephone ending in "5269" from Defendant where Defendant used an automatic telephone dialing system ("ATDS") as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 227(a)(1), and an "artificial or prerecorded voice" as prohibited by 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A).
- These calls were for purposes of attempting to collect a debt allegedly owed 16. to Citibank, N.A., and were from telephone number 800-488-9241.

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- 17. On or about July 7, 2016, Plaintiff's attorney sent by mail a cease and desist notice addressed to Citibank, N.A. (P.O. Box 6241, Sioux Falls, SD) expressly revoking any alleged prior express consent, with instructions to cease all calls to Plaintiff.
- 18. Citibank, N.A. is the alleged original creditor, who later sold the alleged debt to Icon Equities, LLC, on whose behalf Defendant was attempting to collect the alleged debt by calling Plaintiff's cellular telephone.
- 19. On or about October 25, 2016, and also on or about October 28, 2016, Plaintiff's attorney sent by mail a cease and desist notice addressed to Viking Collection Services (7500 Office Ridge Circle, # 100, Eden Prairie, MN 55344) expressly revoking any alleged prior express consent, with instructions to cease all calls to Plaintiff.
- 20. By requesting that Citibank, N.A. and VCS cease communications with Plaintiff, Plaintiff revoked any consent, should it have ever existed.
- 21. Despite this revocation of any consent, Defendant continued to contact Plaintiff for purposes of seeking to collect an alleged debt, including but not limited to auto-dialing Plaintiff's cellular telephone after July 7, 2016.
- 22. On or about October 4, 2016, Viking Client Services, Inc., of 7500 Office Ridge Circle, Eden Prairie, MN 55344, sent Plaintiff, through her attorney, a dunning letter by mail.
- 23. On at least some of the calls, a prerecorded voice message was left on Plaintiff's voicemail.
- 24. The telephone equipment used by Defendant has the capacity to store or produce telephone numbers to be called, using a random or sequential number generator.
- 25. The telephone equipment used by Defendant also has the capacity to, and does, dial telephone numbers stored as a list or in a database without human intervention.

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- 26. The telephone number Defendant called was assigned to a cellular telephone service for which Plaintiff incurs a charge for incoming calls pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1).
- These telephone calls were unwanted by Plaintiff. 27.
- 28. Through Defendants' aforementioned conduct, Plaintiff suffered an invasion of a legally protected interest in privacy, which is specifically addressed and protected by the TCPA.
- 29. Plaintiff was personally affected by Defendants' aforementioned conduct because Plaintiff was frustrated and distressed that, Defendants interrupted Plaintiff with an unwanted call using an ATDS and or artificial or prerecorded voice.
- 30. Defendants' call forced Plaintiff and other similarly situated class members to live without the utility of their cellular phones by occupying their cellular telephone with one or more unwanted calls, causing a nuisance, lost time and reduced cell phone battery life.
- 31. The telephone calls constitute calls that were not for emergency purposes as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(i).
- 32. Plaintiff did not provide Defendant or its agent prior express consent to receive calls to her cellular telephone, including by means of an ATDS and/or artificial or prerecorded voice message, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227 (b)(1)(A).
- 33. These telephone calls by Defendant, or its agent, violated 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1).

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

- Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of herself and on behalf of all others 34. similarly situated (the "Class").
- 35. Plaintiff represents, and is a member of the Class, consisting of:

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All persons within the United States who received any telephone call/s from Defendant or its agent/s and/or employee/s to said person's cellular telephone made through the use of any automatic telephone dialing system or with an artificial or prerecorded voice within the four years prior to the filling of the Complaint.

- 36. Defendant and its employees or agents are excluded from the Class. Plaintiff does not know the number of members in the Class, but believes the Class members number in the several hundreds, if not substantially more. Thus, this matter should be certified as a Class action to assist in the expeditious litigation of this matter.
- 37. Plaintiff and members of the Class were harmed by the acts of Defendant in at least the following ways: Defendant, either directly or through its agents, illegally contacted Plaintiff and the Class members via their cellular telephones by using an ATDS and/or artificial or prerecorded voice message, thereby causing Plaintiff and the Class members to incur certain cellular telephone charges or reduce cellular telephone time for which Plaintiff and the Class members previously paid, and invading the privacy of said Plaintiff and the Class members. Plaintiff and the Class members were damaged thereby.
- 38. This suit seeks only damages and injunctive relief for recovery of economic injury on behalf of the Class, and it expressly is not intended to request any recovery for personal injury and claims related thereto. Plaintiff reserves the right to expand the Class definition to seek recovery on behalf of additional persons as warranted as facts are learned in further investigation and discovery.
- 39. The joinder of the Class members is impractical and the disposition of their claims in the Class action will provide substantial benefits both to the parties

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- and to the court. The Class can be identified through Defendant's records or Defendant's agents' records.
- There is a well-defined community of interest in the questions of law and 40. fact involved affecting the parties to be represented. The questions of law and fact to the Class predominate over questions which may affect individual Class members, including the following:
 - Whether, within the four years prior to the filing of this Complaint, a) Defendant or its agents made prerecorded calls to the Class (other than a message made for emergency purposes or made with the prior express consent of the called party) using any automatic dialing system to any telephone number assigned to a cellular phone service;
 - Whether Plaintiff and the Class members were damaged thereby, and b) the extent of damages for such violation; and
 - Whether Defendant and its agents should be enjoined from engaging c) in such conduct in the future.
- 41. As a person that received at least one call utilizing an ATDS and/or artificial or prerecorded voice message without Plaintiff's prior express consent, Plaintiff is asserting claims that are typical of the Class. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the Class in that Plaintiff has no interests antagonistic to any member of the Class.
- 42. Plaintiff and the members of the Class have all suffered irreparable harm as a result of the Defendant's unlawful and wrongful conduct. Absent a class action, the Class will continue to face the potential for irreparable harm. In addition, these violations of law will be allowed to proceed without remedy and Defendant will likely continue such illegal conduct. Because of the size of the individual Class member's claims, few, if any, Class members could afford to seek legal redress for the wrongs complained of herein.

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- 43. Plaintiff has retained counsel experienced in handling class action claims and claims involving violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act.
- 44. A class action is a superior method for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy. Class-wide damages are essential to induce Defendant to comply with federal and California law. The interest of Class members in individually controlling the prosecution of separate claims against Defendant is small because the maximum statutory damages in an individual action for violation of privacy are minimal. Management of these claims is likely to present significantly fewer difficulties than those presented in many class claims.
- 45. Defendant has acted on grounds generally applicable to the Class, thereby making appropriate final injunctive relief and corresponding declaratory relief with respect to the Class as a whole.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION NEGLIGENT VIOLATIONS OF THE TELEPHONE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT 47 U.S.C. § 227 Et Seq.

- 46. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Class Action Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 47. The foregoing acts and omissions of Defendant constitute numerous and multiple negligent violations of the TCPA, including but not limited to each and every one of the above-cited provisions of 47 U.S.C. § 227, et seq.
- 48. As a result of Defendant's negligent violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227, et seq., Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to an award of \$500.00 in statutory damages, for each and every violation, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B).
- 49. Plaintiff and the Class are also entitled to and seek injunctive relief prohibiting such conduct in the future.

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SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION KNOWING AND/OR WILLFUL VIOLATIONS OF THE TELEPHONE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT 47 U.S.C. § 227 ET Seq.

- 50. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Class Action Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 51. The foregoing acts and omissions of Defendant constitute numerous and multiple knowing and/or willful violations of the TCPA, including but not limited to each and every one of the above-cited provisions of 47 U.S.C. § 227, et seq.
- 52. As a result of Defendant's knowing and/or willful violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227, et seq., Plaintiff and The Class are entitled to an award of \$1,500.00 in statutory damages, for each and every violation, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B) and 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(C).
- 53. Plaintiff and the Class are also entitled to and seek injunctive relief prohibiting such conduct in the future.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Wherefore, Plaintiff respectfully requests the Court grant Plaintiff and the Class members the following relief against Defendant:

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION FOR NEGLIGENT VIOLATION OF THE TCPA, 47 U.S.C. § 227 ET SEQ.

- As a result of Defendant's negligent violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1), Plaintiff seeks for herself and each Class member \$500.00 in statutory damages, for each and every violation, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B).
- Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(A), injunctive relief prohibiting such conduct in the future.
- Any other relief the Court may deem just and proper.

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SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION FOR KNOWING AND/OR WILLFUL VIOLATIONS OF THE TCPA, 47 U.S.C. § 227 ET SEQ.

- As a result of Defendant's knowing and/or willful violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1), Plaintiff seeks for herself and each Class member \$1,500.00 in statutory damages, for each and every violation, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B).
- Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(A), injunctive relief prohibiting such conduct in the future.
- Any other relief the Court may deem just and proper.

TRIAL BY JURY

54. Pursuant to the seventh amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America, Plaintiff is entitled to, and demands, a trial by jury.

Dated: January 4, 2017 Respectfully submitted,

KAZEROUNI LAW GROUP, APC

By: s/ Abbas Kazerounian ABBAS KAZEROUNIAN, ESQ. AK@KAZLG.COM ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

Additional Plaintiff's Counsel

HYDE & SWIGART

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CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

JS 44 (Rev. 12/12)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

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 MARAGET A. MCKENNA				DEFENDANTS VIKING CLIENT SERVICES, LLC a/k/a VIKING CLIENT SERVICES, INC. a/k/a VIKING COLLECTION SERVICE, INC.					
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff San Diego (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, Abbas Kazerounian, Esc Kazerouni Law Group, Al CA 92626; Phone 800-40	ק. PC, 245 Fischer Ave.,		esa,	Attorneys (If Known)					
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	ICTION (Place an "X" in O	ne Box Only)		TIZENSHIP OF P	RINCIP	AL PARTIES			
□ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	★ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)								DEF
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)		Citiz	en of Another State	2 🗆 2	2 Incorporated and P of Business In A		5	5
			100000000000000000000000000000000000000	en or Subject of a reign Country	3 🗆 3	3 Foreign Nation		□ 6	□ 6
IV. NATURE OF SUIT					1	NI TO VIDEOUS	I omvino		ano.
CONTRACT 110 Insurance 120 Marine 130 Miller Act 140 Negotiable Instrument 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment 151 Medicare Act 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' Suits 190 Other Contract 195 Contract Product Liability 196 Franchise REAL PROPERTY 210 Land Condemnation 220 Foreclosure 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability 290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY 310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel &	PERSONAL INJUR 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability 368 Asbestos Persona Injury Product Liability 368 Asbestos Persona Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPEI 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage 385 Property Damage Product Liability PRISONER PETITIO Habeas Corpus: 463 Alien Detainee 510 Motions to Vacata Sentence 530 General 535 Death Penalty Other: 540 Mandamus & Oth 550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Conditions of Confinement	O 69 O 69 O 77 O 77 O 79 NS O 79	DRFEITURE/PENALTY 25 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 20 Other LABOR 10 Fair Labor Standards Act 20 Labor/Management Relations 40 Railway Labor Act 51 Family and Medical Leave Act 20 Other Labor Litigation 20 Employee Retirement Income Security Act IMMIGRATION 52 Naturalization Application Actions	422 Apr 423 Wi 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28	USC 157 ERTY RIGHTS pyrights ent demark L SECURITY A (1395ff) ck Lung (923) WC/DIWW (405(g)) ID Title XVI	□ 480 Consum □ 490 Cable/S: □ 850 Securitic Exchan, ■ 890 Other St □ 891 Agricult □ 893 Environ □ 895 Freedon Act □ 896 Arbitrat □ 899 Adminis	aims Act apportion t and Banki ree tion er Influer Organiza er Credit at TV es/Comm ge aututory aural Acts mental M n of Infor ion strative P iew or A Decision tionality	t mment ting meed and ations the modities/ Actions s s fatters rmation
	moved from	Remanded from Appellate Court			r District	☐ 6 Multidistr Litigation			
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	ON 47 U.S.C. § 227 6 Brief description of ca	et seq.		Aleman and a second					
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT: CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.				DEMAND \$ CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: Yes No					
VIII. RELATED CASI IF ANY	E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE			DOCK	ET NUMBER			
DATE 01/04/2017		signature of at /s/ Abbas Kaze							
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY RECEIPT # AM	MOUNT	APPLYING IFP		JUDGE		MAG. JUI	DGE		

JS 44 Reverse (Rev. 12/12)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants. Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
 - (b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- (c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. Jurisdiction. The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.

 United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here. United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.

 Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.

 Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases)
- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties. This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerk(s) in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.
- V. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the six boxes.
 - Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.

Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.

Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing

Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date. Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.

Multidistrict Litigation. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.

- VI. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity. Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- VII. Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P. Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction. Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Viking Client Services Pillaged with TPCA Class Action</u>