С	ase 3:18-cv-02213-BEN-BLM Document 1 F	iled 09/24/18 PageID.1 Page 1 of 12
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11	UNITED STATES	DISTRICT COURT
12	SOUTHERN DISTRI	CT OF CALIFORNIA
13		
14	STEPHEN MITCHELL, Individually and On Behalf of All	Case No:
15	Others Similarly Situated,	CLASS ACTION
16 17	Plaintiff,	COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES
17		AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF FOR
19	VS.	UNLAWFUL RECORDING OF CELLULAR COMMUNICATIONS
20		UNDER CALIFORNIA PENAL CODE SECTION 632.7
21	AVVO, INC.,	CODE SECTION 052.7
22	Defendant.	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
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	Case No.: CLASS ACTION	Mitchell v. Avvo, Inc.

Kazerouni Law Group, APC ^{Costa Mesa, California}

INTRODUCTION

- Stephen Mitchell ("Plaintiff"), individually and on behalf of all others similarly 1. 2 situated persons in California, brings this action for damages and injunctive relief 3 against Avvo, Inc. (hereinafter, referred to as "Defendant" or "Avvo"), and its 4 present, former, or future direct and indirect parent companies, subsidiaries, 5 affiliates, agents, related entities for unauthorized recordings of conversations 6 with Plaintiff and other persons without any notification or warning in violation 7 of the California Invasion of Privacy Act, Cal. Pen. Code § 630, et seq. ("CIPA"). 8 2. The California State Legislature passed CIPA in 1967 to protect the right of 9 privacy of the people of California, replacing prior laws that permitted the 10 recording of telephone conversations with the consent of one party to the 11 conversation. 12
- 13 3. California Penal Code § 632.7 was added to CIPA in 1992 due to specific privacy
 14 concerns over the increased use of cellular and cordless telephones.
- 15
 4. Section 632.7 prohibits intentionally recording all communications involving cellular and cordless telephones, not just confidential communications.
- Plaintiff makes these allegations on information and belief, with the exception of
 those allegations that pertain to Plaintiff, or to Plaintiff's counsel, which Plaintiff
 alleges on his personal knowledge.
- 20
 6. Unless otherwise stated, all the conduct engaged in by Defendant took place in
 21
 California.
- All violations by Defendant were knowing, willful, and intentional, and
 Defendant did not maintain procedures reasonably adapted to avoid any such
 violation.
- 8. Unless otherwise indicated, the use of Defendant's name in this Complaint
 includes all agents, employees, officers, members, directors, heirs, successors,
 assigns, principals, trustees, sureties, subrogees, representatives, and insurers of
 the named Defendant.

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CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

PARTIES

9. Plaintiff is, and at all times mentioned herein was, an individual citizen and resident of the State of California, County of San Diego, in this judicial district.

- Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Avvo is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a Washington corporation with its principal place of business in the state of Washington.
- Plaintiff alleges that at all times relevant herein Defendant conducted business in the State of California, in the County of San Diego, within this judicial district. Defendant is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a "person", as defined by Cal. Pen. Code § 632(b).

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 12. Jurisdiction is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2) because Plaintiff, a citizen of California, seeks \$5,000 in damages for each violation of the CIPA against Defendant, a citizen of Washington, which, when aggregated among a proposed class numbering in the several thousands, exceeds the \$5,000,000 threshold for federal court jurisdiction. Therefore, the elements of the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 ("CAFA") are met, and this Court has jurisdiction.
- 18 13. Venue is proper in the United States District Court for the Southern District of California pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b) because Defendant, at all times herein mentioned, was doing business in the County of San Diego, State of California.
 Further, venue is proper in this district because Plaintiff has resided in this district at all times herein mentioned such that a substantial part of the events giving rise to the claim occurred in this district.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

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14. On or about August 16, 2018, at approximately 10:54 AM, Avvo called Plaintiff's office line seeking to advertise Avvo's services. Plaintiff's assistant informed
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his cellular telephone ending in "4620". Defendant called from the telephone number 206-775-8034.

- Subsequently, when Plaintiff answered a telephone call on his cellular telephone, 3 15. Avvo's representative who self-identified as "Chuck" began soliciting Plaintiff's 4 business by offering products or services that Avvo could make available to 5 Plaintiff. 6
 - This cellular telephone conversation lasting approximately four minutes. 16.
 - 17. At no time during this call to Plaintiff did Defendant's representative disclose that the call was being audio recorded.

18. Plaintiff did not consent to the call being recorded without his knowledge.

- 19. Upon good information and belief, Defendant records all of its telephone calls, including the call from Defendant to Plaintiff mentioned above.
- Plaintiff was personally affected by Defendant's aforementioned conduct because 20. upon subsequently learning information relating to Defendant's practice of secret call recording, Plaintiff was shocked and upset that Defendant audio recorded one or more cellular telephone conversations with Plaintiff without Plaintiff's knowledge or consent.
- California Penal Code § 632.7(a) is very clear in its prohibition against such 21. 18 unauthorized tape recording without the consent of the other party to the 19 conversation: "Every person who, without the consent of all parties to a 20 communication, intercepts or receives and intentionally records, or assists in the 21 interception or reception and intentional recordation of, a communication 22 transmitted between two cellular radio telephones, a cellular radio telephone and 23 a landline telephone, two cordless telephones, a cordless telephone and a landline 24 telephone, or a cordless telephone and a cellular radio telephone [violates this 25 section]". California Penal Code § 637.2 permits Plaintiff to bring this action for 26 any violation of California Penal Code § 632.7(a) and provides for statutory 27 damages of \$5,000.00 for each violation.

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Kazerouni Law Group, APC Costa Mesa, California

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Mitchell v. Avvo, Inc.

- 22. Defendant, or its agents, audio recorded a cellular telephone conversation of Plaintiff in violation of California's statutory and common law against such unlawful intrusions into a person's private affairs, including the California Constitution's prohibition in Article 1, Section 1.
- 23. This suit seeks only damages and injunctive relief for recovery of economic injury and it expressly is not intended to request any recovery for personal injury and claims related thereto.
- 24. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendant intentionally audio recorded a communication transmitted between a cellular telephone of Plaintiff and a landline telephone of Defendant without Plaintiff's consent as prohibited by California Penal Code § 632.7(a).
- 25. Defendant violated Plaintiff's constitutionally protected privacy rights by failing to advise or otherwise provide notice at the beginning of the recorded conversations with Plaintiff that the call would be recorded and Defendant did not try to obtain the Plaintiff's consent before such recording.
- 16 26. Defendant, and its employees and agents, surreptitiously recorded the call made
 by Defendant to Plaintiff. At no time before the call or at the outset of the call
 was Plaintiff warned, told, advised or otherwise given any indication by
 Defendant, its employees or agents, that the call would be recorded.
- 20
 27. As a result thereof, Plaintiff has been damaged as set forth in the Prayer for Relief
 21
 21
 21
- 22 28. Plaintiff seeks statutory damages and injunctive relief under California Penal
 23 Code § 637.2.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

- 25
 29. Plaintiff brings this lawsuit as a class action on behalf of himself and Class
 26 Members of the proposed Class pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure
 27 23(a) and (b)(3) and/or (b)(2). This action satisfies the numerosity, commonality,
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 typicality, adequacy, predominance, and superiority requirements of those provisions. 30. Plaintiff proposes the following Class consisting of and defined as follow: All persons in California whose cellular telephone conversations were recorded without their consent by Defendant and/or its employees and/or it agent/s within the one year prior to the filing of the Complaint. 31. Excluded from the Class are: (1) Defendant, any entity or division in which Defendant has a controlling interest, and its legal representatives, officers, directors, assigns, and successors; (2) the judges to whom this case is assigned and the Judge's staff; and (3) those persons who have suffered personal injuries as a result of the facts alleged herein. 32. Plaintiff reserves the right to redefine the Class and to add subclasses as appropriate based on discovery and specific theories of liability 33. Numerosity: The Class members are so numerous that joinder of all members would be unfeasible and impractical. The membership of the entire Class is
 30. Plaintiff proposes the following Class consisting of and defined as follow: All persons in California whose cellular telephone conversations were recorded without their consent by Defendant and/or its employees and/or it agent/s within the one year prior to the filing of the Complaint. 31. Excluded from the Class are: (1) Defendant, any entity or division in which Defendant has a controlling interest, and its legal representatives, officers, directors, assigns, and successors; (2) the judges to whom this case is assigned and the Judge's staff; and (3) those persons who have suffered personal injuries as a result of the facts alleged herein. 32. Plaintiff reserves the right to redefine the Class and to add subclasses as appropriate based on discovery and specific theories of liability 33. Numerosity: The Class members are so numerous that joinder of all members
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 9 Defendant has a controlling interest, and its legal representatives, officers, directors, assigns, and successors; (2) the judges to whom this case is assigned and the Judge's staff; and (3) those persons who have suffered personal injuries as a result of the facts alleged herein. 13 32. Plaintiff reserves the right to redefine the Class and to add subclasses as appropriate based on discovery and specific theories of liability 15 33. Numerosity: The Class members are so numerous that joinder of all members
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15 33. <u>Numerosity</u> : The Class members are so numerous that joinder of all members
16 would be unfeasible and impractical. The membership of the entire Class is
17 currently unknown to Plaintiff at this time; however, given that, on information
and belief, Defendant called several thousands of persons in California and
19 recorded those calls during the class period, the Class are so numerous that joinder
20 of all members is impracticable. The disposition of their claims in a class action
21 will provide substantial benefits to the parties and the Court.
22 34. <u>Commonality:</u> There are common questions of law and fact as to Class members
23 that predominate over questions affecting only individual members, including, but
24 not limited to:
• Whether, within the statutory period Defendant recorded any calls with the
26 Class members;
• Whether Defendant had, and continues to have, a policy during the relevant
28 period of audio recording telephone calls made to the Class members;
Case No.: 5 of 11 Mitchell v. Avvo, Inc. CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

- Whether Defendant advises persons at the outset of its calls that the call is being or may be recorded;
- Whether Defendant's policy or practice of audio recording telephone communications with Class members without their knowledge or consent constitutes an invasion of privacy and a violation of Cal. Penal Code § 632.7;
- Whether Plaintiff and the Class members were damaged thereby, and the extent of damages for such violation; and
- Whether Defendant should be enjoined from engaging in such conduct in the future.

35. <u>Typicality</u> Plaintiff's conversation was unlawfully recorded without a warning of such recording, and thus, his injuries are also typical to Class members.

- 36. Plaintiff and Class Members were harmed by the acts of Defendant in at least the following ways: Defendant, either directly or through its agents, illegally recorded the Plaintiff and Class members' cellular telephone conversations with Defendant, and Defendant invading the privacy of said Plaintiff and Class. Plaintiff and Class members were damaged thereby.
- Adequacy: Plaintiff is qualified to, and will, fairly and adequately protect the 37. 17 interests of each Class member with whom he is similarly situated, as 18 demonstrated herein. Plaintiff's attorneys, the proposed class counsel, are versed 19 in the rules governing class action discovery, certification, and settlement. In 20 addition, the proposed class counsel is experienced in handling claims involving 21 consumer actions and violations of the California Penal Code, section 632.7. 22 Plaintiff has incurred, and throughout the duration of this action, will continue to 23 incur costs and attorneys' fees that have been, are, and will be, necessarily 24 expended for the prosecution of this action for the substantial benefit of each Class 25 Member. 26
- 27 38. <u>Predominance</u>: Questions of law or fact common to the Class members
 28 predominate over any questions affecting only individual members of the Class.
 <u>Case No.:</u> <u>6 of 11</u> <u>Mitchell v. Avvo, Inc.</u>

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The elements of the legal claims brought by Plaintiff and Class members are capable of proof at trial through evidence that is common to the Class rather than individual to its members.

- 39. <u>Superiority</u>: A class action is a superior method for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy because:
 - a. Class-wide damages are essential to induce Defendant to comply with California law.
 - b. Because of the relatively small size of the individual Class members' claims, it is likely that only a few Class Members could afford to seek legal redress for Defendant's misconduct.
 - c. Management of these claims is likely to present significantly fewer difficulties than those presented in many class claims.
 - d. Absent a class action, most Class members would likely find the cost of litigating their claims prohibitively high and would therefore have no effective remedy at law.
 - e. Class action treatment is manageable because it will permit a large number of similarly situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum simultaneously, efficiently, and without the unnecessary duplication of effort and expense that numerous individual actions would endanger.
 - f. Absent a class action, Class members will continue to incur damages, and Defendant's misconduct will continue without remedy.

40. Plaintiff and the Class members have all suffered and will continue to suffer harm
and damages as a result of Defendant's unlawful and wrongful conduct. A class
action is also superior to other available methods because as individual Class
members have no way of discovering that Defendant secretly audio recorded their
telephone conversations without Class members' knowledge or consent.

28 41. The Class may also be certified because:

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	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT	

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• The prosecution of separate actions by individual Class members would create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudication with respect to individual Class members, which would establish incompatible standards of conduct for Defendant;

• The prosecution of separate actions by individual Class members would create a risk of adjudications with respect to them that would, as a practical matter, be dispositive of the interests of other Class Members not parties to the adjudications, or substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their interests; and

• Defendant has acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the Class, thereby making appropriate final and injunctive relief with respect to the members of the Class as a whole.

42. This suit seeks only damages and injunctive relief for recovery of economic injury on behalf of Class members and it expressly is not intended to request any recovery for personal injury and claims related thereto.

Plaintiff reserves the right to expand Class definitions to seek recovery on behalf
 of additional persons as warranted as facts are learned in further investigation and
 discovery.

44. The joinder of Class members is impractical and the disposition of their claims in
the Class action will provide substantial benefits both to the parties and to the
Court. The Class members can be identified through Defendant's records and/or
through public records and public notice.

CAUSE OF ACTION

ILLEGAL RECORDING OF CELLULAR TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS Under California Penal Code § 632.7

27 45. Plaintiff repeats, re-alleges, and incorporates by reference, all other paragraphs.

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 46. At all relevant times hereto, Defendant had and followed a policy and practice of

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 CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

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using a telecommunications system that enabled it to surreptitiously record cellular telephone communications between Defendant and Plaintiff and Class members.

- 47. At all relevant times hereto, Defendant intentionally and surreptitiously recorded cellular telephone calls concerning confidential matters between Defendant and Plaintiff and Class Members.
- At all relevant times hereto, Defendant had and followed a policy and practice of 48. not advising or warning Plaintiff and Class members that their cellular telephone communications with Defendant would be recorded.
- Defendant failed to obtain consent of Plaintiff and Class members prior to 49. 10 recording any of their cellular telephone conversations.
 - This conduct by Defendant violated section 632.7(a) of the California Penal Code. 50.
- Plaintiff and Class members are entitled to recovery actual and statutory damages 13 51. in the amount of \$5,000.00 per violation of Cal. Pen. Code § 632.7. 14
- Plaintiff's counsel is also entitled to attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Cal. 52. 15 16 Code Civ. Proc. § 1021.5.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff and the Class Members pray that judgment be entered against Defendant as follows:

- Certify the Class as requested herein;
- Appoint Plaintiff to serve as the Class Representative for the Class;
- Appoint Plaintiff's attorneys as Class Counsel in this matter for the Class.

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Case No.:

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

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Mitchell v. Avvo, Inc.

1	In addition, Plaintiff and the Class Membe	ers pray for further judgment as follows					
2	against Defendant:						
3	ILLEGAL TELEPHONE RECORDING OF CELL	ULAR TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS					
4	Under California Pen						
5							
6	• Injunctive relief to prevent the further occu	rrence of such illegal acts pursuant to					
7	California Penal Code § 637.2(b);						
8	Special, general, and compensatory damages;						
9	• As a result of Defendant's violation of California Penal Code, sections 630, et						
10	seq., Plaintiff seeks statutory damages of \$5,000.00 pursuant to California Penal						
11	Code § 637.2(a);						
12	• Reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to, <i>inter alia</i> , Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. §						
13	1021.5;						
14	• An award of costs;						
15	• Any other relief the Court may deem just a	nd proper including interest.					
16	TRIAL BY J	JRY					
17	53. Pursuant to the Seventh Amendment to t	he Constitution of the United States of					
18	America, Plaintiff and Class Members are	entitled to, and demand, a trial by jury.					
19							
20		Respectfully submitted,					
21		KAZEROUNI LAW GROUP, APC					
22	Date: September 24, 2018	By: <u>/s/ Abbas Kazerounian</u>					
23		Abbas Kazerounian, Esq.					
24		ak@kazlg.com Attorney for Plaintiff					
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	Case No.: 10 of 11 CLASS ACTION COM	Mitchell v. Avvo, Inc. APLAINT					

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20	Case No.:		11 of 11		Mitchell v. Avvo, Inc.
		CLASS ACT	TION COMPLAINT	-	

JS 44 (Rev. 06/17) Case 3:18-cv-02213-BEN-BLM Document 17 Stilled 09/24/18 PageID.13 Page 1 of 2

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.)*

F	(
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDANT	ГS			
STEPHEN MITCHELL, Individually and On Beha	alf of All Others Similar	lv Situated		Avvo, Inc.				
(b) County of Residence of		San Diego County		County of Residen	nce of First Lis	ted Defendant	King County, WA	
	XCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CA	0 /				PLAINTIFF CASES	0 11	
				NOTE: IN LAND THE TRA	CONDEMNAT	ION CASES, USE ' NVOLVED.	THE LOCATION OF	
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, J	Address, and Telephone Numbe	r)		Attorneys (If Know	vn)			
Kazerouni Law Group								
245 Fischer Avenue, Sui Costa Mesa, California 9		1) 400-6808						
		,						
II. BASIS OF JURISD	CTION (Place an "X" in O	ne Box Only)				AL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box;	
□ 1 U.S. Government	□ 3 Federal Question			(For Diversity Cases Onl	PTF DEF		and One Box for Defend PTF	DEF
Plaintiff	(U.S. Government)	Not a Party)	Citize	en of This State		Incorporated <i>or</i> F of Business In		□ 4
□ 2 U.S. Government	▲ 4 Diversity	· · · (D · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Citize	en of Another State		Incorporated and		X 5
Defendant	(Indicale Cutzensni	ip of Parties in Item III)						
				en or Subject of a reign Country		Foreign Nation	□ 6	□ 6
IV. NATURE OF SUIT							of Suit Code Description	_
CONTRACT		RTS		DRFEITURE/PENALTY		NKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUT	TES
 110 Insurance 120 Marine 	PERSONAL INJURY ☐ 310 Airplane	PERSONAL INJURY ☐ 365 Personal Injury -	Y 🗆 62	5 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 88		beal 28 USC 158 hdrawal	 375 False Claims Act 376 Qui Tam (31 USC) 	
130 Miller Act	□ 315 Airplane Product	Product Liability	□ 69	0 Other		USC 157	3729(a))	
 140 Negotiable Instrument 150 Recovery of Overpayment 	Liability 320 Assault, Libel &	367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical			PROPI	CRTY RIGHTS	 400 State Reapportion 410 Antitrust 	ment
& Enforcement of Judgment	t Slander	Personal Injury			□ 820 Cop		430 Banks and Bankir	ıg
 151 Medicare Act 152 Pacevery of Defaulted 	330 Federal Employers' Liability	Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal			□ 830 Pate	ent ent - Abbreviated	450 Commerce460 Deportation	
152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans	□ 340 Marine	Injury Product				v Drug Application	□ 400 Deportation □ 470 Racketeer Influen	ced and
(Excludes Veterans)	□ 345 Marine Product	Liability		LABOD	□ 840 Tra		Corrupt Organizat	ions
□ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits	Liability 350 Motor Vehicle	PERSONAL PROPER 370 Other Fraud		LABOR 0 Fair Labor Standards		L SECURITY (1395ff)	□ 480 Consumer Credit □ 490 Cable/Sat TV	
160 Stockholders' Suits	355 Motor Vehicle	371 Truth in Lending	i	Act	🗖 862 Bla	ck Lung (923)	850 Securities/Common	odities/
 190 Other Contract 195 Contract Product Liability 	Product Liability 360 Other Personal	380 Other Personal Property Damage	□ 72	0 Labor/Management Relations		VC/DIWW (405(g)) D Title XVI	Exchange X 890 Other Statutory A	ctions
□ 196 Franchise	Injury	□ 385 Property Damage		0 Railway Labor Act	🗖 865 RSI		891 Agricultural Acts	
	362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	Product Liability	□ 75	1 Family and Medical Leave Act			 893 Environmental Ma 895 Freedom of Inform 	
REAL PROPERTY	CIVIL RIGHTS	PRISONER PETITION		0 Other Labor Litigation		RAL TAX SUITS	Act	
 210 Land Condemnation 220 Foreclosure 	☐ 440 Other Civil Rights ☐ 441 Voting	Habeas Corpus: 463 Alien Detainee	1 79	1 Employee Retirement Income Security Act		es (U.S. Plaintiff Defendant)	 896 Arbitration 899 Administrative Pr 	ocedure
220 Porcelosure 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	□ 442 Employment	510 Motions to Vacate		meome Security Act		—Third Party	Act/Review or Ap	
 240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability 	443 Housing/ Accommodations	Sentence 530 General			26	USC 7609	Agency Decision 950 Constitutionality of	
□ 290 All Other Real Property	□ 445 Amer. w/Disabilities -	□ 535 Death Penalty		IMMIGRATION			State Statutes	51
	Employment 446 Amer. w/Disabilities -	Other: 540 Mandamus & Othe		2 Naturalization Applicat 5 Other Immigration	tion			
	Other	□ 540 Mandanius & Outo	a 🗅 40	Actions				
	□ 448 Education	 555 Prison Condition 560 Civil Detainee - 						
		Conditions of						
		Confinement						
V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" i								
		Remanded from Appellate Court	J 4 Rein Reop	stated or D 5 Tran bened Ano (spec	other District	☐ 6 Multidis Litigatio Transfer	n - Litigatio	on -
		tute under which you ar	e filing (1	Do not cite jurisdictional	statutes unless a	liversity):		
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION	ON 28 U.S.C. § 1332 Brief description of ca							
		fornia Invasion of P	rivacy A	ct, Cal. Pen. Code	e § 630, et :	seq.		
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:		IS A CLASS ACTION		EMAND \$			y if demanded in complai D: XY Yes □No	
VIII. RELATED CAS							. •	
IF ANY	(See instructions):	JUDGE			DOCK	ET NUMBER		
DATE		SIGNATURE OF ATT	ORNEY (OF RECORD				
09/24/2018		s/ Abbas Kazer	ounian	l				
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY								
RECEIPT # AN	MOUNT	APPLYING IFP		JUDGE		MAG. JU	DGE	

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 there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: <u>Nature of Suit Code Descriptions</u>.
- V. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.

Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.

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

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

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

Multidistrict Litigation – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407.

Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7.** Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statue.

- 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>Class Action Alleges Avvo Recorded Customer Phone Conversations Without Consent</u>