# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA ATLANTA DIVISION

	)
Paulette E. Rakestraw, on behalf of	)
herself and all persons similarly situated,	)
	)
Plaintiff,	)
	) CIVIL ACTION FILE
V.	)
	) NO
Nationstar Mortgage, LLC.,	)
	)
Defendant.	)

# **CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff Paulette E. Rakestraw, by and through her attorney of record, files this Complaint on behalf of herself and all persons similarly situated within the United States and hereby alleges as follows:

# **PARTIES**

1.

Plaintiff Paulette E. Rakestraw ("Ms. Rakestraw") is a resident of the State of Georgia. She currently resides at 116 Trailside Circle, Hiram, GA 30141.

2.

Defendant Nationstar Mortgage, LLC. ("Nationstar") is a Texas corporation

authorized to do business in the State of Georgia and is currently in good standing. Nationstar may be served through its registered agent, Corporation Service Company, 40 Technology Parkway South, Suite 300, Norcross, GA 30092.

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

3.

Jurisdiction and venue are proper over the parties as pled in this Complaint.

This Court has federal question jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' RESPA claim. Venue is proper in this district as Ms. Rakestraw resides in this district, the violation occurred here and Nationstar does business here.

# FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

4.

Ms. Rakestraw is the maker of a promissory note and the grantor of a security deed dated April 1, 2004, for a loan on her home at 391 Quail Ridge Rd., Hiram, Georgia 30141. The lender for this loan was American Mortgage Network, Inc. ("AMN"). This loan is a federally related mortgage loan.

5.

Defendant Nationstar is a servicer of federally related mortgage loans and has represented itself to Ms. Rakestraw as the servicer of this loan.

6.

Ms. Rakestraw has paid this loan in full and the Cancellation of Deed to Secure Debt is dated June 11, 2018.

7.

Ms. Rakestraw sent Qualified Written Requests (QWR) to Nationstar on or about November 28, 2017, January 1, 2018, and May 4, 2018, which asked for a: "1) Complete payment history that includes an explanation and breakdown of all charges and credits applied during the life of the loan, dating back to 2003 [sic], the origination of the loan."

Nationstar failed to provide this information most notably by not providing account information for most of the years before it became the servicer. Nationstar also failed to provide explanations for some of the charges or credits it did list; instead characterizing some items only as: "CORP ADVANCE ADJUST," "NON CASH FEE ADJ," "CORP ADV DISP," DecCorp Adv Deferred I," "PMT-MISC SUSP," and "MISC ADJ."

8.

Ms. Rakestraw sent Qualified Written Requests to Nationstar on or about March 26, 2018 and April 16, 2018 which asked: "1. Please provide an explanation and detailed breakdown of all BofA Mics [sic] payments. 2. Please provide an

explanation and detailed breakdown of all escrow payments on each amount since the beginning of my loan (2004)." This information also was not provided.

9.

Ms. Rakestraw sent a Qualified Written Request to Nationstar on or about May 27, 2018, which asked for: "1. An explanation and detailed breakdown of all Countrywide, BofA, Nationstar and Mr. Cooper charges and credits on my account history. Specifically a breakdown of all escrow charges, miscellaneous postings and corporate advancements. 2. A legible and comprehensible breakdown of the account history or a code sheet to be able to interpret the account history. Nationstar also failed to provide this information.

10.

Nationstar's incomplete and incomprehensible responses are potentially damaging to Ms. Rakestraw because she has paid for charges that it refused to explain to her, and which she may not owe.

11.

Nationstar's failure to provide the account information from the years Bank of America serviced the loan is particularly troubling because Nationstar has admitted it does not know if the account totals it received from Bank of America are accurate. Nationstar informed Ms. Rakestraw in a response dated May 10, 2018:

"Unfortunately we could not provide one for Bank of America, as it is not legible and you will need to reach out to them directly." Nationstar then obtained a legible copy from Bank of America, which it provided with its May 31, 2018 response, but warned Ms. Rakestraw to "Please keep in mind that we are unable to account for the prior servicer's record keeping and we are unable to provide a code sheet to assist in reconciling the accounting for the prior servicer's pay history."

12.

Ms. Rakestraw has suffered actual damages that include the costs of sending the follow-up requests for the information that Nationstar failed to provide.

13.

Ms. Rakestraw may have suffered actual damages from paying for charges she did not owe because Nationstar failed to provide explanations for many of the charges to her account.

## **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

14.

Class Plaintiff brings this action both individually and on behalf of all persons whose qualified written requests for information about their mortgage loan account payments and charges were not completely or comprehensibly responded to by Nationstar since June 30, 2015 (the "Class").

15.

The Class of persons described above is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable. Important questions of law and fact exist which are common to the entire Class and predominate over any questions that may affect individual Class Members in that Defendant has acted on grounds generally applicable to the entire Class.

16.

All questions as to the actions attributable to Defendant herein are similarly common. A determination of liability for such conduct will also be applicable to all members of the Class.

17.

The claims of the Class representative, Plaintiff Ms. Rakestraw, are typical of the claims of the Class in that all Plaintiffs are suing for damages under 12 U.S.C. § 2605(e) and (f). The Class violations are all violations of the same federal law and Nationstar has the same illegal practice nationwide, so common questions of law and fact will predominate over questions affecting only individual members. A determination of a violation will be applicable to all members of the Class. Class certification will also eliminate the need for duplicative litigation.

18.

Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the entire Class. Plaintiff has retained counsel competent and experienced in the prosecution of class action litigation. Plaintiff has no interests that are contrary to or in conflict with those of the Class he seeks to represent.

19.

Class actions are specifically provided for by 12 U.S.C. § 2605, and this action is superior to all other available methods for fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy. There is no difficulty to be encountered in the management of this action that would preclude its maintenance as a class action.

20.

The prosecution of separate actions by individual Class Members would create a risk of inconsistent and varying adjudications concerning the subject of this action, which adjudications could establish incompatible standards for Defendant under the laws alleged herein. A class action is superior to other available methods for fairly and efficiently adjudicating this controversy.

21.

Plaintiff intends to send notice to all members of the Class as required by Fed.

R. Civ. P. 23. The names and addresses of the Class are available from Defendant's

records.

## REQUEST FOR CLASS RELIEF VIOLATIONS OF 12 U.S.C. § 2605

22.

Plaintiffs incorporated by reference the allegations from paragraphs 1-21 as if set forth verbatim herein.

23.

The Real Estate Settlement Practices Act ("RESPA"), codified at 12 U.S.C. § 2605, governs the duty of loan servicers to respond to borrower inquiries it categorizes as Qualified Written Requests (QWRs).

24.

Servicers are required to provide information related to the servicing of the loans in response to QWRs. Defendant has failed to comply with this requirement because it has refused to provide the complete and comprehensible account history and the explanations of charges and credits requested by Ms. Rakestraw and the other class members, as required in 12 U.S.C. § 2605(e).

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

25.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and the Class, prays:

- 1. For an award of actual and statutory damages,
- 2. For an award of all reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred by Plaintiffs, and
  - 3. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and equitable.

### **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

26.

Pursuant to Rule 38(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff and the Class demand a trial by jury.

Submitted this 29th day of June, 2018.

BY: Wayne Charles, P.C.

s/Wayne CharlesWayne CharlesGeorgia State Bar No. 515244

WAYNE CHARLES, PC 395 Highgrove Dr. Fayetteville, GA 30215 (770) 241-8936 (770) 460-0412 (fax)

Attorney for named Plaintiff and the Class

# **CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE WITH LOCAL RULE 5.1**

I hereby certify that I prepared the foregoing in Times New Roman, 14-point font, as approved by Local Rule 5.1.

s/Wayne Charles
Wayne Charles

# Case 1:18-cv-03144-ELR-LTW Document 1-1 Filed 06/29/18 Page 1 of 2 CIVIL COVER SHEET

JS44 (Rev. 6/2017 NDGA)

The JS44 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 is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket record. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ATTACHED)

I. (a) PLAINTIFF(S)		DEFENDANT(S)		
Paulette E. Rakestraw, on behalf of herself and all persons similarly situated		Nationstar Mortgage, LLC.		
(b) COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED PLAINTIFF Paulding (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)	:	COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED  DEFENDANT GWINNET  (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, TELEPHONE NUM E-MAIL ADDRESS)	MBER, AND	ATTORNEYS (IF KNOWN)		
Wayne Charles Wayne Charles, PC 395 Highgrove Dr., Fayetteville, GA 30215 770-241-8936 wc115@bellsouth.net	·			
II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY)		ZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES  N "X" IN ONE BOX FOR PLAINTIFF AND ONE BOX FOR DEFENDANT)  (FOR DIVERSITY CASES ONLY)		
1 U.S. GOVERNMENT PLAINTIFF  2 U.S. GOVERNMENT DEFENDANT  1 U.S. GOVERNMENT (U.S. GOVERNMENT NOT A PARTY)  4 DIVERSITY (INDICATE CITIZENSHIP OF PARTIES IN ITEM III)	PLF DEF  1 1 1 CITIZEN OF THIS STATE  4 1 4 INCORPORATED OR PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS IN THIS STATE  2 1 2 CITIZEN OF ANOTHER STATE  5 1 INCORPORATED AND PRINCIPAL			
IV. ORIGIN (PLACE AN "X "IN ONE BOX ONLY)  1 ORIGINAL PROCEEDING 2 REMOVED FROM APPELLATE COURT  3 REMANDED FROM APPELLATE COURT	4 REINSTATED O	TRANSFERRED FROM S ANOTHER DISTRICT OSpecify District)  OR S ANOTHER DISTRICT TRANSFER TROM MAGISTRATE JUDGE TRANSFER JUDGMENT		
MULTIDISTRICT 8 LITIGATION - DIRECT FILE				
V. CAUSE OF ACTION (CITE THE U.S. CIVIL STATUTE JURISDICTIONAL STATUTES UNI 12 U.S.C. § 2605 Defendant failed to respond		are filing and write a brief statement of cause - do not cite or requests for information about the servicing of home loans.		
(IF COMPLEX, CHECK REASON BELOW)	,			
☑ 1. Unusually large number of parties. ☐ 6. Problems locating or preserving evidence		tems locating or preserving evidence		
2. Unusually large number of claims or defenses.				
3. Factual issues are exceptionally complex				
5. Extended discovery period is needed.	_	Existence of highly technical issues and proof.		
CONTINUED ON REVERSE				
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY  RECEIPT # AMOUNT \$	ΔΡΡΙ ΥΙΝ	FIFP MAG. IUDGE (IFP)		
JUDGE MAG, JUDGE		OF SUIT CAUSE OF ACTION		
(Referral)				

# Case 1:18-cv-03144-ELR-LTW Document 1-1 Filed 06/29/18 Page 2 of 2

#### VI NATURE OF SUIT (PLACE AN "Y" IN ONE BOX ONLY)

VI. NATURE OF SUIT (PLACE AN "X" I	N ONE BOX ONLY)			
CONTRACT - "0" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK    150 RECOVERY OF OVERPAYMENT & ENFORCEMENT OF JUDGMENT   152 RECOVERY OF DEFAULTED STUDENT LOANS (Excl. Veterans)   153 RECOVERY OF OVERPAYMENT OF VETERAN'S BENEFITS  CONTRACT - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK	CIVIL RIGHTS - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK  440 OTHER CIVIL RIGHTS  441 VOTING  442 EMPLOYMENT  443 HOUSING/ ACCOMMODATIONS  445 AMERICANS with DISABILITIES - Employment  446 AMERICANS with DISABILITIES - Other  448 EDUCATION	SOCIAL SECURITY - "0" MONTHS DISCOVERY		
110 INSURANCE   120 MARINE   130 MILLER ACT   140 NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENT   151 MEDICARE ACT   160 STOCKHOLDERS' SUITS   190 OTHER CONTRACT   195 CONTRACT   195 CONTRACT   195 CONTRACT   196 FRANCHISE   196 FRANCHISE   197 CONTRACT   196 FRANCHISE   198 EDICTMENT   196 FRANCHISE   197 CONTRACT   197 CONTRACT   198 FRANCHISE   198 EDICTMENT   199 ALL OTHER REAL PROPERTY   190 ALL OTHER REAL PROPERTY   190 ALL OTHER REAL PROPERTY   191 AIRPLANE   131 AIRPLANE   131 AIRPLANE   131 AIRPLANE   131 AIRPLANE   131 AIRPLANE   134 AIRPLANE   135 MARINE   136 MOTOR VEHICLE   135 MOTOR VEHICLE   135 MOTOR VEHICLE   136 PERSONAL INJURY - MEDICAL   MALPRACTICE   136 PERSONAL INJURY - PRODUCT LIABILITY   1367 PERSONAL INJURY - PRODUCT LIABILITY   1368 ASBESTOS PERSONAL INJURY PRODUCT LIABILITY   1368 ASBESTOS PERSONAL INJURY PRODUCT LIABILITY   1370 OTHER PERSONAL PROPERTY - "4" MONTHS   1370 OTHER PERSONAL PROPERTY DAMAGE   1385 PROPERTY DAMAGE   1385 PROPERTY DAMAGE   1385 PROPERTY DAMAGE   1385 PROPERTY DAMAGE   1380 OTHER PERSONAL PROPERTY DAMAGE   1380 THER PERSONAL PROPERTY DAMAGE   1380 OTHER PERSONAL PROPERTY DAMAGE   1380 THER PERSONAL PROPERTY DAMAGE   1380 THER PERSONAL PROPERTY DAMAGE   1380 THER PERSONAL PROPERTY DAMAGE   1380 OTHER PERSONAL PROPERTY DA	IMMIGRATION - "0" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK   462 NATURALIZATION APPLICATION   465 OTHER IMMIGRATION ACTIONS	FEDERAL TAX SUITS - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK  870 TAXES (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) 871 IRS - THIRD PARTY 26 USC 7609  OTHER STATUTES - "4" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK  375 FALSE CLAIMS ACT 376 Qui Tam 31 USC 3729(a) 400 STATE REAPPORTIONMENT 430 BANKS AND BANKING 450 COMMERCE/ICC RATES/ETC. 460 DEPORTATION 470 RACKETEER INFLUENCED AND CORRUPT ORGANIZATIONS 480 CONSUMER CREDIT 490 CABLE/SATELLITE TV 890 OTHER STATUTORY ACTIONS 931 AGRICULTURAL ACTS 893 ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS 995 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 899 ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES ACT / REVIEW OR APPEAL OF AGENCY DECISION 950 CONSTITUTIONALITY OF STATE STATUTES  OTHER STATUTES - "8" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK 410 ANTITRUST 850 SECURITIES / COMMODITIES / EXCHANGE  OTHER STATUTES - "0" MONTHS DISCOVERY TRACK  896 ARBITRATION (Confirm / Vacate / Order / Modify)  * PLEASE NOTE DISCOVERY TRACK FOR EACH CASE TYPE. SEE LOCAL RULE 26.3		
CHECK IF CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.Civ.P. 23 DEMAND \$ 1,000,000  JURY DEMAND YES NO (CHECK YES ONLY IF DEMANDED IN COMPLAINT)				
VIII. RELATED/REFILED CASE(S) IF ANY DOCKET NO				
CIVIL CASES ARE DEEMED RELATED IF THE PENDING CASE INVOLVES: (CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX)  1. PROPERTY INCLUDED IN AN EARLIER NUMBERED PENDING SUIT.  2. SAME ISSUE OF FACT OR ARISES OUT OF THE SAME EVENT OR TRANSACTION INCLUDED IN AN EARLIER NUMBERED PENDING SUIT.  3. VALIDITY OR INFRINGEMENT OF THE SAME PATENT, COPYRIGHT OR TRADEMARK INCLUDED IN AN EARLIER NUMBERED PENDING SUIT.  4. APPEALS ARISING OUT OF THE SAME BANKRUPTCY CASE AND ANY CASE RELATED THERETO WHICH HAVE BEEN DECIDED BY THE SAME BANKRUPTCY JUDGE.  5. REPETITIVE CASES FILED BY PROSE LITIGANTS.  6. COMPANION OR RELATED CASE TO CASE(S) BEING SIMULTANEOUSLY FILED (INCLUDE ABBREVIATED STYLE OF OTHER CASE(S)):				
□ 7. EITHER SAME OR ALL OF THE PARTIES AND ISSUES IN THIS CASE WERE PREVIOUSLY INVOLVED IN CASE NO. , WHICH WAS DISMISSED. This case □ IS □ IS NOT (check one box) SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME CASE.				
Warne Charles	Jone .	29,2018		

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

# **ClassAction.org**

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: Nationstar Mortgage Sued Over Alleged Failure to Provide Complete Payment History