UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT

Icela Reyes, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated;

Plaintiff,

Civil Action No: _____

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

-v.-

Schreiber/Cohen, LLC

Midland Funding, LLC

John Does 1-25

Defendant(s).

Plaintiff Icela Reyes (hereinafter, "Plaintiff" or "Reyes"), a Connecticut resident, brings this Class Action Complaint by and through her attorneys, RC Law Group, PLLC, against Defendant Schreiber/Cohen, LLC (hereinafter "Defendant Schreiber/Cohen") and Defendant Midland Funding, LLC (hereinafter "Defendant Midland"), 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 pursuant to <u>28 U.S.C. § 1331</u>, <u>15 U.S.C. § 1692</u> et. seq. and <u>28 U.S.C. § 2201</u>. If applicable, the Court also has pendant jurisdiction over the State law claims in this action pursuant to <u>28 U.S.C. § 1367(a)</u>.
 - 4. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to <u>28 U.S.C.</u> § <u>1391(b)(2)</u>.

NATURE OF THE ACTION

- 5. Plaintiff brings this class action on behalf of a class of Connecticut consumers under §1692 et seq. of Title 15 of the United States Code, commonly referred to as the Fair Debt Collections Practices Act ("FDCPA"), and
 - 6. Plaintiff is seeking damages and declaratory and injunctive relief.

PARTIES

7. Plaintiff is a resident of the State of Connecticut, County of Fairfield, residing at 120 Sage Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06610.

- 8. Defendant Schreiber/Cohen, LLC is a "debt collector" as the phrase is defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692(a)(6) and used in the FDCPA with an address at 53 Stiles Road, Suite A-102, Salem, NH 03079.
- 9. Upon information and belief, Defendant Schreiber/Cohen 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.
- 10. Defendant Schreiber/Cohen is a "debt collector," as defined under the FDCPA under 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).
- 11. Defendant Midland Funding, LLC is a "debt collector" as the phrase is defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692(a)(6) and used in the FDCPA with an address at 3111 Camino Del Rio North, Suite 103, San Diego, CA 92108.
- 12. Upon information and belief, Defendant Midland Funding 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.
- 13. Defendant Midland Funding is a "debt collector," as defined under the FDCPA under 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).
- 14. John Does 1-25, are fictitious names of individuals and businesses alleged for the purpose of substituting names of Defendants whose identities will be disclosed in discovery and should be made parties to this action.

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

- 15. Plaintiffs bring this claim on behalf of the following case, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a) and 23(b)(3).
 - 16. The Class consists of:
 - a. all individuals with addresses in the State of Connecticut;

- b. who were sent an initial collection letter from Defendant Schreiber/Cohen on behalf of Defendant Midland Funding attempting to collect a consumer debt;
- c. whose letter fails to clearly state the identity of the current creditor to whom the debt is owed;
- d. which letter was sent on or after a date one (1) year prior to the filing of this action and on or before a date twenty-one (2l) days after the filing of this action.
- 17. The identities of all class members are readily ascertainable from the records of Defendants and those companies and entities on whose behalf they attempt to collect and/or have purchased debts.
- 18. Excluded from the Plaintiff Classes are the Defendants and all officer, members, partners, managers, directors and employees of the Defendants and their respective immediate families, and legal counsel for all parties to this action, and all members of their immediate families.
- 19. There are questions of law and fact common to the Plaintiff Classes, which common issues predominate over any issues involving only individual class members. The principal issue is whether the Defendants' written communications to consumers, in the forms attached as Exhibits A, violate 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e and 1692g.
- 20. The Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the class members, as all are based upon the same facts and legal theories. The Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Plaintiff Classes defined in this complaint. The Plaintiffs have retained counsel with experience in handling consumer lawsuits, complex legal issues, and class actions, and neither the Plaintiffs nor their attorneys have any interests, which might cause them not to vigorously pursue this action.

- 21. This action has been brought, and may properly be maintained, as a class action pursuant to the provisions of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure because there is a well-defined community interest in the litigation:
 - a. <u>Numerosity:</u> The Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and on that basis allege, that the Plaintiff Classes defined above are so numerous that joinder of all members would be impractical.
 - b. <u>Common Questions Predominate:</u> Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Plaintiff Classes and those questions predominance over any questions or issues involving only individual class members. The principal issue is \whether the Defendants' written communications to consumers, in the forms attached as Exhibit A violate 15 USC §1692e and §1692g.
 - c. **Typicality:** The Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of the class members. The Plaintiffs and all members of the Plaintiff Classes have claims arising out of the Defendants' common uniform course of conduct complained of herein.
 - d. Adequacy: The Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class members insofar as Plaintiffs have no interests that are adverse to the absent class members. The Plaintiffs are committed to vigorously litigating this matter. Plaintiffs have also retained counsel experienced in handling consumer lawsuits, complex legal issues, and class actions. Neither the Plaintiffs nor their counsel have any interests which might cause them not to vigorously pursue the instant class action lawsuit.

- e. <u>Superiority:</u> A class action is superior to the other available means for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy because individual joinder of all members would be impracticable. Class action treatment will permit a large number of similarly situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum efficiently and without unnecessary duplication of effort and expense that individual actions would engender.
- 22. Certification of a class under Rule 23(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure is also appropriate in that the questions of law and fact common to members of the Plaintiff Classes predominate over any questions affecting an individual member, and a class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy.
- 23. Depending on the outcome of further investigation and discovery, Plaintiffs may, at the time of class certification motion, seek to certify a class(es) only as to particular issues pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(c)(4).

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 24. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs numbered above herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.
- 25. Some time prior to July 3, 2017, an obligation was allegedly incurred to Synchrony Bank.
- 26. The Synchrony Bank obligation arose out of transactions in which money, property, insurance or services, which are the subject of the transaction, are primarily for personal, family or household purposes.

- 27. The alleged Synchrony Bank obligation is a "debt" as defined by 15 U.S.C.§ 1692a(5).
- 28. Due to her financial constraints, Plaintiff could not pay the alleged debt, and it went into default.
- 29. Sometime thereafter, as per the collection letter the debt was "assigned" to Defendant Midland Funding.
- 30. Defendant Midland Funding is a "debt collector" as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6) of the FDCPA.
- 31. Defendant Midland Funding, a subsequent owner of the Synchrony Bank debt, contracted the Defendant Schreiber/Cohen to collect the alleged debt.
- 32. Defendant Schreiber/Cohen collects and attempts to collect debts incurred or alleged to have been incurred for personal, family or household purposes on behalf of creditors using the United States Postal Services, telephone and internet.
- 33. Defendant Schreiber/Cohen is a "debt collector" as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6) of the FDCPA.

Violation I – July 3, 2017 Collection Letter

- 34. On or about July 3, 2017, Defendant Schreiber/Cohen sent the Plaintiff an initial contact notice (the "Letter") regarding the alleged debt owed to Defendant Midland Funding.

 See Exhibit A.
- 35. When a debt collector solicits payment from a consumer, it must, within five days of an initial communication
 - (1) the amount of the debt;
 - (2) the name of the creditor to whom the debt is owed;

- (3) a statement that unless the consumer, within thirty days after receipt of the notice, disputes the validity of the debt, or any portion thereof, the debt will be assumed to be valid by the debt collector;
- (4) a statement that if the consumer notifies the debt collector in writing within the thirty-day period that the debt, or any portion thereof, is disputed, the debt collector will obtain verification of the debt or a copy of the judgment against the consumer and a copy of such verification or judgment will be mailed to the consumer by the debt collector; and
- (5) a statement that, upon the consumer's written request within the thirty-day period, the debt collector will provide the consumer with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor. 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a).
- 36. The FDCPA further provides that "if the consumer notifies the debt collector in writing within the thirty day period . . . that the debt, or any portion thereof, is disputed . . . the debt collector shall cease collection . . . until the debt collector obtains verification of the debt . . . and a copy of such verification is mailed to the consumer by the debt collector." 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(b).
- 37. Defendant Schreiber/Cohen's July 3, 2017 Collection Letter did not contain all the requirements of "G Notice."
- 38. Schreiber/Cohen's July 3, 2017 Collection Letter does not meaningfully convey the identity of the current creditor.
- 39. Schreiber/Cohen's July 3, 2017 Collection Letter merely states: "Re: Midland Funding, LLC as Assignee of SYNCHRONY BANK"

- 40. Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692g, a debt collector is required in the initial communication with a consumer, to identify the name of the current creditor to whom the debt is owed.
- 41. The obligation is not only to identify the name of the creditor, but to convey the name of the creditor clearly and explicitly.
- 42. Mere allusions to the creditor's identity are insufficient. The Letter must specifically and clearly identify the creditor of the collection account.
- 43. A least sophisticated consumer would be left to guess or make assumptions that what follows "Re:" is the identity of the current creditor.
- 44. In addition, a least sophisticated consumer may reasonably interpret the statement "Re: Midland Funding, LLC as Assignee of SYNCHRONY BANK" in two different ways, one of which is inaccurate.
- 45. Specifically, the consumer may think that Synchrony Bank is still the owner of the debt, or the consumer may just as reasonably think that Midland Funding, LLC may be the owner.
- 46. An assignee may receive all or only some rights from an assignor, and merely stating that one is an assignee does not unambiguously disclose that the assignee is the current creditor and or owner.
- 47. Because Schreiber/Cohen's July 3, 2017 letter was subject to more than one reasonable interpretation, at least one of which is inaccurate, it is misleading as a matter of law.

- 48. Schreiber/Cohen's July 3, 2017 Collection Letter fails to provide any information as to the relationship between Plaintiff and "Midland Funding, LLC as Assignee of SYNCHRONY BANK".
- 49. On its face, Schreiber/Cohen's July 3, 2017 Collection Letter would easily confuse the least sophisticated consumer as to the identity of the creditor, and to whom the debt is owed.
- 50. As a result of Defendant's deceptive, misleading and unfair debt collection practices, Plaintiff has been damaged.

<u>COUNT I</u> VIOLATIONS OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT_15 U.S.C. §1692e et seq.

- 51. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs above herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.
- 52. Defendant's debt collection efforts attempted and/or directed towards the Plaintiff violated various provisions of the FDCPA, including but not limited to 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.
- 53. Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692e, a debt collector may not use any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt.
- 54. Defendants made deceptive and misleading representations when they communicated to Plaintiff and failed to clearly state the identity of the current creditor to whom the debt is owed, in violation of 15 U.S.C. §§1692e, 1692e(2), 1692e(5) and 1692e(10).
- 55. By reason thereof, Defendant is liable to Plaintiff for judgment that Defendant's conduct violated Section 1692e et seq. of the FDCPA, actual damages, statutory damages, costs and attorneys' fees.

COUNT II VIOLATIONS OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT 15 U.S.C. §1692g et seq.

- 56. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs above herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.
- 57. Defendant's debt collection efforts attempted and/or directed towards the Plaintiff violated various provisions of the FDCPA, including but not limited to 15 U.S.C. § 1692g.
 - 58. Pursuant to 15 USC §1692g, a debt collector:

Within five days after the initial communication with a consumer in connection with the collection of any debt, a debt collector shall, unless the following information is contained in the initial communication or the consumer has paid the debt, send the consumer a written notice containing –

- 1. The amount of the debt;
- 2. The name of the creditor to whom the debt is owed;
- A statement that unless the consumer, within thirty days after receipt of the notice, disputes the validity of the debt, or any portion thereof, the debt will be assumed to be valid by the debt-collector;
- 4. A statement that the consumer notifies the debt collector in writing within thirty-day period that the debt, or any portion thereof, is disputed, the debt collector will obtain verification of the debt or a copy of a judgment against the consumer and a copy of such verification or judgment will be mailed to the consumer by the debt collector; and

- 5. A statement that, upon the consumer's written request within the thirty-day period, the debt collector will provide the consumer with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor.
- 59. Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. §1692g by failing to clearly and adequately inform the consumer as to the identity of the current creditor to whom the debt is owed.
 - 60. Such a material omission overshadows the "g-notice" contained in the letter.
- 61. By reason thereof, Defendant is liable to Plaintiff for judgment that Defendant's conduct violated Section 1692g et seq. of the FDCPA, actual damages, statutory damages, costs and attorneys' fees.

DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY

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

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Icela Reyes, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

demands judgment from Defendant Schreiber/Cohen, LLC, and Defendant Midland Funding,

LLC, as follows:

1. Declaring that this action is properly maintainable as a Class Action and certifying

Plaintiff as Class representative, and Yaakov Saks, Esq. as Class Counsel;

2. Awarding Plaintiff and the Class statutory damages;

3. Awarding Plaintiff and the Class actual damages;

4. Awarding Plaintiff costs of this Action, including reasonable attorneys' fees and

expenses;

5. Awarding pre-judgment interest and post-judgment interest; and

6. Awarding Plaintiff and the Class such other and further relief as this Court may

deem just and proper.

Dated: Hackensack, New Jersey

January 25, 2018

/s/ Yaakov Saks

By: Yaakov Saks Bar ID: CT30021

RC Law Group, PLLC

285 Passaic Street Hackensack, NJ 07601 Phone: (201) 282-6500

Fax: (201) 282-6501 Attorneys For Plaintiff

MAIN OFFICE 53 Stiles Road Suite A102 - Saler Tel (603)870-5333 Toll Free 120 A102 - Salem, NH 03079 Toll Free (800)423-8142

Client Acct#:	Balance:	Our File #:	NC.	Da:	Date:
8976	Balance: \$1,475.41	0725		Midland Funding, LLC as Assignee of	Date: July 3, 2017

Dear Icela Reyes:

This law firm represents our above named client. The original creditor is SYNCHRONY BANK. The last four (4) digits of the original creditor's account numbers are: 8976.

CONSUMER NOTICE PURSUANT TO 15 U.S.C. SECTION 1692(g)

You are hereby given notice of the following information concerning the above referenced debt. Unless, within 30 days after receipt of this notice you dispute the validity of the debt, or any portion thereof, the debt will be assumed to be valid by the debt collector. If you notify us in writing within the thirty day period that the debt or any portion thereof is disputed, we will obtain verification of the debt, or a copy of a judgment against you, and we will mail such verification or judgment to you. In addition, upon your written request within the thirty day period, this firm will provide the name and address of the original creditor if the original creditor is different from the current creditor.

THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

If you have any questions, please contact this office at toll free at (800) 423-8142 between the hours of 8:30AM and 5:30PM (ET) Monday - Friday.

Case 3:18-cv-00152 Document 1-1 Filed 01/25/18 Very truly yours, Schreiber/Cohen, LLC

NOTICE OF IMPORTANT RIGHTS TO MASSACHUSETTS CONSUMERS
YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE WRITTEN OR ORAL REQUEST THAT TELEPHONE CALLS
REGARDING YOUR DEBT NOT BE MADE TO YOU AT YOUR PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT. ANY SUCH
ORAL REQUEST WILL BE VALID FOR ONLY TEN DAYS UNLESS YOU PROVIDE WRITTEN
CONFIRMATION OF THE REQUEST POSTMARKED OR DELIVERED WITHIN SEVEN DAYS OF SUCH
REQUEST. YOU MAY TERMINATE THIS REQUEST BY WRITING TO THE DEBT COLLECTOR.

A Please Return Coupon with Remittance

Client Acct#: Our File #: Balance: Midland Funding, LLC SYNCHRONY BANK Assignee of

53 Stiles Rd Suite # A102 Salem, NH 03079-0111

Schreiber/Cohen, LLC 53 Stiles Road Suite A1 Salem, NH 03079

Case 3:18-cv-00152 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 purpose of initiating the civil de	t. This form, approved by the ocket sheet. (SEE INSTRUC	he Judicial Conference of t TIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF T	he United States in September 1 HIS FORM.)	.974, is required for the use of	the Clerk of Court for the			
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFENDANTS	DEFENDANTS				
Icela Reyes, individually	and on behalf of all otl	hers similarly situated	; Schreiber/Cohen,	Schreiber/Cohen, LLC; Midland Funding, LLC; John Does 1-25				
(b) County of Residence of	of First Listed Plaintiff <u>F</u> EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CA	Fairfield (SES)	County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.					
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, A RC Law Group PLLC 285 Passaic Street, Hack 201-282-6500	, ,	r)	Attorneys (If Known)					
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an "X" in O	ne Box Only)	I. CITIZENSHIP OF P	RINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintif			
☐ 1 U.S. Government 3 Federal Question			(For Diversity Cases Only) and One Box for Defendant) PTF DEF PTF DEF					
Plaintiff	· ·		Citizen of This State	1				
☐ 2 U.S. Government ☐ 4 Diversity Defendant (Indicate Citizenship of It		ip of Parties in Item III)	Citizen of Another State	2				
			Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country					
IV. NATURE OF SUIT		orts	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	Click here for: Nature of BANKRUPTCY	of Suit Code Descriptions. OTHER STATUTES			
□ 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	PERSONAL INJURY 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability 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 385 Property Damage Product Liability PRISONER PETITIONS Habeas Corpus: 463 Alien Detainee 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence 530 General 535 Death Penalty Other: 540 Mandamus & Other 550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement	☐ 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 ☐ 690 Other	□ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 □ 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS □ 820 Copyrights □ 830 Patent □ 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application □ 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	□ 375 False Claims Act □ 376 Qui Tam (31 USC			
V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only) 1								
VIII. RELATED CASI IF ANY	E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE	DOCKET NUMBER					
DATE	SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD							
01/25/2018 FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	TO TOURIST COME							
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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: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.
- **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>Debt Collectors Hit with FDCPA Suit Over Alleged Failure to Identify Creditor</u>