FILED

MIDDLE DISTRICT (7111 (SEP 21) PM 4: 18
CASE NO.:	CLERK. US BIOTRICT COURT MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA FORT MYERS FLORIDA
DAVID L. ROBINSON, an individual, and GAYLE ROBINSON, an individual, on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated, Plaintiffs,	2:17-CV-520-FtM-G9MRM
v.	CLASS ACTION
MONTEREY FINANCIAL SERVICES, LLC, a California limited liability company, d/b/a "Monterey Collections," and "Monterey Loan Servicing,"	
Defendant	

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES AND INCIDENTAL RELIEF

Plaintiffs, David L. Robinson, an individual, and Gayle Robinson, an individual, on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated, by and through their undersigned attorney, sue Defendant, Monterey Financial Services, LLC, a California limited liability company, doing business as "Monterey Collections," and "Monterey Loan Servicing," and allege:

I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. This is an action brought pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692, *et sequi*, known more commonly as the "Fair Debt Collection Practices Act" ("FDCPA"), which prohibits debt collectors from engaging in abusive, deceptive and unfair practices.

II. JURISDICTION

The jurisdiction of this Court arises under 15 U.S.C. §1692k and 28
 U.S.C. §1337.

III. ALLEGATIONS AS TO PARTIES

- 3. At all times material hereto, Plaintiffs, David L. Robinson ("Mr. Robinson") and Gayle Robinson ("Ms. Robinson") (collectively, the "Robinsons"), were *sui juris* and residents of Lee County, Florida.
- 4. At all times material hereto, Defendant, Monterey Financial Services, LLC, was a California limited liability company, doing business as "Monterey Collections," and "Monterey Loan Servicing" ("Monterey Collections" or "Debt Collector") in Lee County, Florida.
- 5. Defendant is or was engaged in the collection of debts from consumers using the mail and telephone. Defendant regularly attempted to collect consumer debts alleged to be due to another in Lee County, Florida.
- 6. Several years prior to the filing of the instant action, the Robinsons purchased a time-share interest through Avalon Resorts ("Avalon Resorts") for the personal and family use of the Robinsons.

IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

7. For an extended period of time, Defendant acted as a collection agency for various timeshare companies, including but not limited to, Avalon Resorts.

- 8. In the course of its representation of the various timeshare companies,
 Defendant regularly collected or attempted to collect monies from consumers for
 delinquent assessments ("Assessment Fees").
- 9. On or about August 21, 2017, Defendant sent or caused to be sent to the Robinsons written correspondence, known more commonly in the collection industry as a "dunning letter," for the purpose of collecting monies for Assessment Fees purportedly owed by the Robinsons to Avalon Resorts ("Initial Collection Communication").
- 10. A true and correct copy of the Initial Collection Communication is attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Exhibit "A."
- 11. Pursuant to the Initial Collection Communication, Monterey Collections represented to the Robinsons that the Robinsons owed the following monies to Avalon Resorts:

Principal:	897.75		
Interest:	0.00		
Fees:	332.50		
Balance Due:	1230.25		

("Purported Assessment Debt Disclosure").

- 12. Pursuant to the Purported Assessment Debt Disclosure, Monterey

 Collections claimed that the Robinsons owed the sum of Three Hundred Thirty-Two and
 50/100ths Dollars (\$332.50) as and for undisclosed "fees" ("Collection Fees").
- 13. By information and belief, the Collection Fees were not authorized under a contract or applicable law.

14. Pursuant to the Initial Collection Communication, Monterey Collections stated the following:

Monterey Financial will accept the above stated balance in full satisfaction of the debt if payment is received by 08/26/2017. Please be advised that in the event payment is not received by this 08/26/2017, the above amount due may increase by the accrual of additional interest and fees.

("Payment Deadline").

15. Pursuant to the Initial Collection Communication, Monterey Collections required that all communications to Monterey Collections must be in writing through the following disclosure:

Please note that if we don't receive notice from you within thirty (30) days of this mailing that you are contesting the validity of this debt, or any portion of it, we will assume that the debt is valid. If you provide notice to us that you do not believe the debt is valid, or any portion of it, within the same period described above, we will mail you verification of the debt or judgment. Also, if you send us a written request within the same period, we will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different than the current creditor. Any communications concerning disputed debts, including an instrument tendered in full satisfaction of a debt, must be sent to Monterey Financial Services, LLC, 4095 Avenida de la Plata, Oceanside, California 92056.

[emphasis added by Plaintiffs] ("Written Communication Requirement").

V. DEFENDANT'S PRACTICES

- 16. It is or was the policy and practice of Defendant to send collection letters in the form of Exhibit "A" to consumers in a manner which was reasonably calculated to confuse or frustrate consumers with respect to advising consumers as to the right of consumers with respect to the validation of consumer debts under 15 U.S.C. §1692g.
- 17. It is or was the policy and practice of Defendant to send collection letters in the form of Exhibit "A" to consumers wherein Defendant charged or attempted to

charge for collection fees for which the Defendant was not entitled to recover from consumers such as the Robinsons.

VI. CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

- 18. This action is brought on behalf of a class consisting of (i) all natural persons (ii) to whom letters the same form as Exhibit "A" were sent (iii) in an attempt to collect a debt which, according to the nature of the creditor or the debt, or the records of the creditor or defendants, was incurred for personal, family, or household purposes (iv) which were not returned undelivered by the U.S. Post Office (v) during the one year period prior to the filing of the complaint in this action.
- 19. Plaintiffs allege on information and belief based on the Defendant's use of letters in the form of Exhibit "A" that the class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impractical. Based on Defendant's use of letters in the form of Exhibit "A," Plaintiffs estimate that the class includes hundreds or thousands of class members.
- 20. There are questions of law or fact common to the class, which common issues predominate over any issues involving only individual class members.
- 21. The common factual issue common to each class member is that each was sent a letter in the form of Exhibit "A."
- 22. The principal legal issues are whether Defendant's letters in the form of Exhibit "A" violate the FDCPA:
 - (i) by failing to properly inform the consumer with respect to the consumer's rights for debt verification in a manner which was not reasonably

calculated to confuse or frustrate the least sophisticated consumer in violation of 15 U.S.C. §1692g,

- (ii) by making false or misleading representations in violation of 15 U.S.C. §1692e, and
- (iii) by using unfair or unconscionable means to collect a debt in violation of 15 U.S.C. §1692f.
- 23. The Robinsons' claim is typical of those of the class members. All are based on the same facts and legal theories.
- 24. The Robinsons will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class. They have retained counsel experienced in handling actions involving unlawful practices under the FDCPA and class actions. Neither Plaintiffs nor their counsel have any interests which might cause them not to vigorously pursue this action.
- 25. Certification of the class under Rule 23(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure is also appropriate in that:
 - (1) The questions of law or fact common to the members of the class predominate over any questions affecting an individual member.
 - (2) A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy.
- 26. Certification of a class under Rule 23(b)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure is also appropriate in that Defendant has acted on grounds generally applicable to the class thereby making appropriate declaratory relief with respect to the class as a whole.

27. The Robinsons request certification of a hybrid class of Rule 23(b)(3) for monetary damages and Rule 23(b)(2) for equitable relief.

VII. ALLEGATIONS OF LAW

- 28. At all times material hereto, the Robinsons were "consumer(s)" as said term is defined under 15 U.S.C. §1692a(3).
- 29. At all times material hereto, Avalon Resorts and the various other timeshare companies represented by Defendant were each a "creditor(s)" as said term is defined under 15 U.S.C. §1692a(4).
- 30. At all times material hereto, the Assessment Fees purportedly owed to Avalon Resorts and the various timeshare companies represented by Defendant was a "debt" as said term is defined under 15 U.S.C. §1692a(5).
- 31. At all times material hereto, Defendant was a "debt collector(s)" as said term is defined under 15 U.S.C. §1692a(6).
 - 32. 15 U.S.C. §1692g(a) provides, in pertinent part, the following:

Notice of Debts; Contents

Within five days after the initial communication from the 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 written notice containing:

- (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 receiving 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, 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.
- 33. Through the use of the Payment Deadline and the Written Communication Requirement in the Initial Collection Communication, Defendant has violated the requirements of 15 U.S.C.§1692g(b) by using a communication that overshadowed or was inconsistent with the disclosure of the consumer's right to dispute the debt or to request the name and address of the original creditor.
- 34. Through the use of the Written Communication Requirement in the Initial Collection Communication, Defendant improperly stated or implied that a consumer must dispute a debt in writing when no such requirement exists under 15 U.S.C.§1692g(a)(3).
- 35. Defendant violated the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. §1692 et sequi, through:
 - a. the use of false representations, deceptive or misleading representations or means to collect or attempt to collect a debt in violation of 15 U.S.C. §§1692e, e(2) and e(10);
 - b. the use of unfair or unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect a debt in violation of 15 U.S.C. §1692f; and
 - c. the failure to properly inform the consumer as to the consumer's rights for debt verification in a manner which was not reasonably calculated to

confuse or frustrate the least sophisticated consumer in violation of 15 U.S.C. §1692g.

- 32. As a result of Defendant's conduct, Plaintiffs and the class are entitled to an award of actual and statutory damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692k.
- 33. Plaintiffs and the class are entitled to an award of costs and attorney's fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692k.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, David L. Robinson, an individual, and Gayle Robinson, an individual, on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated, request judgment be entered in their favor and in favor of the class against Defendant, Monterey Financial Services, LLC, a California limited liability company, doing business as "Monterey Collections," and "Monterey Loan Servicing":

- A. Declaratory judgment that Defendant's Exhibit "A" violates the FDCPA;
- B. Actual and statutory damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692k;
- C. An award of costs and attorney's fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692k; and
- D. Such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and equitable.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiffs, David L. Robinson, an individual, and Gayle Robinson, an individual, on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated, pursuant to Rule 38(b), Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, demands a trial by jury of all issues so triable.

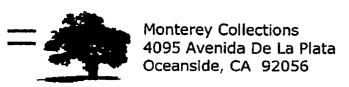
Dated this 18 day of September, 2017

Robert W. Murphy

Florida Bar No./17223 1/212 S.E. 2nd Avenue Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33316 (954) 763-8660 Telephone (954) 763-8607 Fax

Email: rphyu@aol.com;
rwmurphy@lawfirmmurphy.com
Counsel for Plaintiffs

EXHIBIT "A"



TELEPHONE: (877) 775-3091

FAX: (760) 639-3541

TOLL FREE FROM MEXICO: 001-866-928-9343

Monterey Financial Services | Monterey Loan Servicing | Monterey Collections

THIS HAS BEEN SENT TO YOU BY A COLLECTION AGENCY

August 21, 2017

DAVID L ROBINSON GAYLE ROBINSN

00200

Account No.:

1659

Contract No.: 220-6873 Client: Avalon Resorts

Your account has been referred to this agency for collection. Unless you notify this office within thirty (30) days after receiving this notice that you dispute the validity of the debt or any portion thereof, this office will assume this debt is valid. If you notify this office in writing within thirty (30) days from receiving this notice this office will: obtain verification of the debt or obtain a copy of a judgment and mail you a copy of such judgment or verification. If you request from this office in writing within thirty (30) days after receiving this notice, this office will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor. Please govern yourself accordingly. All payments should be sent to:

Monterey Collections P.O. Box 5199 Oceanside, CA 92052

Principal:

897.75

Interest:

0.00

Fees:

332.50

Balance Due:

1230.25

Monterey Financial will accept the above stated balance in full satisfaction of the debt if payment is received by 08/26/2017. Please be advised that in the event payment is not received by this 08/26/2017, the above amount due may increase by the accrual of additional interest and fees.

Yours Truly, Patricia Baker Account Representative

For your convenience, you may also go to https://www.montereyfinancial.com/mfonline/ to review your account information, make a payment, sign up for automatic payments, or to receive payoff quotes. Our privacy policy is also available for your review at https://www.montereyfinancial.com/montfin/privacy-policy/.

Please note that if we don't receive notice from you within thirty (30) days of this mailing that you are contesting the validity of this debt, or any portion of it, we will assume that the debt is valid. If you provide notice to us that you do not believe the debt is valid, or any portion of it, within the same period described above, we will mail you verification of the debt or judgment. Also, if you send us a written request within the same period, we will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different than the current creditor. Any communications concerning disputed debts, including an instrument tendered in full satisfaction of a debt, must be sent to Monterey Financial Services, LLC, 4095 Avenida de la Plata, Oceanside, California 92056.

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

1659

IMPORTANT STATE DISCLOSURES and LICENSING INFORMATION: Please see below for additional disclosures and licensing information. Should you have any questions please contact Monterey Financial Services between the hours of 8:00 am and 6:00 pm PST at (877) 775-3091.

For California: "The state Rosenthal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act require that, except under unusual circumstances, collectors may not contact you before 8 a.m. or after 9 p.m. They may not harass you by using threats of violence or arrest or by using obscene language. Collectors may not use false or misleading statements or call you at work if they know or have reason to know that you may not receive personal calls at work. For the most part, collectors may not tell another person, other than your attorney or spouse, about your debt. Collectors may contact another person to confirm our location or enforce a judgment. For more information about debt collection activities, you may contact the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-FTC-HELP or www.ftc.gov."

"As required by law, you are hereby notified that a negative credit report reflecting on your credit record may be submitted to a credit reporting agency if you fail to fulfill the terms of your credit obligation. But we will not submit a negative credit report to a credit reporting agency about this credit obligation until the expiration of the time period described within your initial letter."

For **Colorado:** "A consumer has the right to request in writing that a debt collector or collection agency cease further communication with the consumer. A written request to cease communication will not prohibit the debt collector or collection agency from taking any other action authorized by law to collect the debt."

Monterey Collection Services Denver Office: 1776 S. Jackson St, Ste. 900, Denver, CO 80210. Phone # (877)775-3091. We are licensed by the Collection Agency Board located at Ralph L Carr, Colorado Judicial Center, 1300 Broadway, 6th floor, Denver, CO 80203. If you ask that we stop contacting you at home, at work, or to cease collection efforts altogether, we will stop with the possible exception of one written notice which will explain the possible consequences of your actions or inactions. Please do not send any payments to the address of the Collection Agency Board listed in this paragraph. For information about the Colorado Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, see www.coag.gov/car.

For Massachusetts: Monterey Financial Services can be reached at 877-775-3091 and our office hours are Monday through Friday from 8am to 6pm PST and Saturday from 8am to 11am PST. The business office address is 949 S. Main Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230. You have the right to make a 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.

For Minnesota: This collection agency is licensed by the Minnesota Department of Commerce #8002282.

For New York: New York City Department of Consumer Affairs License Number 0991753.

For North Carolina: North Carolina Department of Insurance Permit Number 101662.

For **Tennessee**: Monterey Collection Services is licensed by the Collection Service Board of the Department of Commerce and Insurance, license # 00000168.

For Utah: As required by Utah law, you are hereby notified that a negative credit report reflecting on your credit record may be submitted to a credit reporting agency if you fail to fulfill the terms of you credit obligations. We will not submit a negative credit report to a credit reporting agency about this credit obligation until the expiration of the time period described at the bottom of the initial letter.

For Washington: The business office address in Washington is 512 Bell Street, Edmonds, WA 98020.

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other parties a 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 court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

ourpose of initiating the civil do	cket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCT	IONS ON NEXT PAGE O	F THIS FO	RM.)			
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDANTS			
David L. Robinson, an individual, and Gayle Robinson, an individual behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated, (b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Lee (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)		ual, on	Monterey Financial Services, LLC, a California limited liability company d/b/a "Monterey tidilations and "Monterey Loan Servicing County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Lee (IN COLEDINALS DESCRIPTION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVIRONMENT ERS FLURIUM				
(2)	ett				or pinns of Old idd Cure		
	Iddress, and Telephone Number,			Attorneys (If Known)			
Robert W. Murphy, Esqui Florida 33316 / Telephon		nue, Fort Lauderd	ale,				
II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)				II. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plainti, (For Diversity Cases Only) and One Box for Defendant)			
□ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	★ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)			en of This State		PTF DEF	
2 U.S. Government Defendant	4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenshi)	p of Parties in Item III)	Citiz	en of Another State	2		
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Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' Suits 190 Other Contract 195 Contract Product Liability 196 Franchise	☐ 340 Marine ☐ 345 Marine Product Liability ☐ 350 Motor Vehicle ☐ 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability ☐ 360 Other Personal Injury ☐ 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPEI 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage 385 Property Damage Product Liability	0 77 0 74 0 75	10 Fair Labor Standards Act 20 Labor/Management Relations 40 Railway Labor Act 51 Family and Medical Leave Act 90 Other Labor Litigation 91 Employee Retirement	SOCIECT SPECIALIST 861 HIA (1395ff) 862 Black Lung (923) 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) 864 SSID Title XVI 865 RSI (405(g))	470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations 480 Consumer Credit 490 Cable/Sat TV 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange 890 Other Statutory Actions 891 Agricultural Acts 83 Environmental Matters 895 Freedom of Information Act	
□ 210 Land Condemnation □ 220 Foreclosure □ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment □ 240 Torts to Land □ 245 Tort Product Liability □ 290 All Other Real Property	☐ 440 Other Civil Rights ☐ 441 Voting ☐ 442 Employment ☐ 443 Housing/ Accommodations ☐ 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment ☐ 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other ☐ 448 Education	Habeas Corpus: 463 Alien Detainee 510 Motions to Vacat Sentence 530 General 535 Death Penalty Other: 540 Mandamus & Otl 550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement	der 0 44	Income Security Act INTELLIGINATION 62 Naturalization Application 65 Other Immigration Actions	☐ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) ☐ 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	□ 896 Arbitration □ 899 Administrative Procedure	
	moved from	Appellate Court		pened Anothe	r District Litigation		
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION				(Specty) Do not cite jurisdictional state	utes unless diversity):		
VII. REQUESTED IN		ause: air Debt Collection IS A CLASS ACTIO		es Act DEMAND \$	•	if demanded in complaint:	
COMPLAINT: VIII. RELATED CAS	UNDER RULE 2 E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE		$\frac{1}{2}$	JURY DEMAND: DOCKET NUMBER	yes □ No	
DATE 9 /18(17		SIGNATURE OF AT	TORNEY	OF RECORD	-		
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY RECEIPT # A	MOUNT	APPLYING IFP		JUDGE	MAG. JU	DGE	
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ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: Monterey Financial Services Accused of Violating FDCPA