UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO WESTERN DIVISION

Monique Ross,	individually	and on	behalf	of all	others
similarly situate	ed:				

Plaintiff,

Civil Action No: _____

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

-V.-

DeVille Asset Management, Ltd. and John Does 1-25;

Defendant(s).

Plaintiff Monique Ross (hereinafter, "Plaintiff" or "Ross"), an Ohio resident, brings this Class Action Complaint by and through her attorneys, Zukowsky Law, LLC, against Defendant Deville Asset Management, Ltd. (hereinafter "Defendant" or "DeVille"), 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 Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (hereinafter "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 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et. seq. The Court has pendent jurisdiction over the State law claims in this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).
- 4. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) as this is where a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred.

NATURE OF THE ACTION

- 5. Plaintiff brings this class action on behalf of a class of Ohio 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 relief.

PARTIES

Plaintiff is a resident of the State of Ohio, County of Hamilton, residing at 3035
 Feltz Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45211.

- 2. DeVille Asset Management, Ltd. 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 1132 Glade Road, Colleyville, TX 76034.
- 3. Upon information and belief, Defendant 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.
- 4. 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

- 5. Plaintiff brings this claim on behalf of the following case, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a) and 23(b)(3).
 - 6. The Class consists of:
 - a. all individuals with addresses in the State of Ohio;
 - b. to whom Deville Asset Management, Ltd. sent an initial collection letter attempting to collect a consumer debt;
 - c. without including an appropriate disclosure that interest, fees and costs are continuously accruing, or in the alternative, the creditor/and or Defendant has made the decision to waive accruing interest and fees, and would accept the amount stated on the collection letter as payment in full;
 - d. demanding payment in less than 30 days from the date of the letter and overshadowing Plaintiff's rights under 15 U.S.C. 1692g;
 - e. 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 (21) days after the filing of this action.

- 7. 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.
- 8. Excluded from the Plaintiff Class 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.
- 9. There are questions of law and fact common to the Plaintiff Class, 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 Exhibit A, violate 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e and 1692g.
- 10. The Plaintiff's claims are typical of the class members, as all are based upon the same facts and legal theories. The Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Plaintiff Class defined in this complaint. The Plaintiff has retained counsel with experience in handling consumer lawsuits, complex legal issues, and class actions, and neither the Plaintiff nor her attorneys have any interests, which might cause them not to vigorously pursue this action.
- 11. 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 Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that the Plaintiff Class defined above is 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 Class 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 U.S.C. § 1692e and §1692g.
- c. **Typicality:** The Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the class members.

 The Plaintiff and all members of the Plaintiff Class have claims arising out of the Defendants' common uniform course of conduct complained of herein.
- d. Adequacy: The Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class members insofar as Plaintiff has no interests that are adverse to the absent class members. The Plaintiff is committed to vigorously litigating this matter. Plaintiff has also retained counsel experienced in handling consumer lawsuits, complex legal issues, and class actions. Neither the Plaintiff nor her 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.
- 12. 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

Class 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.

13. Depending on the outcome of further investigation and discovery, Plaintiff 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

- 14. 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.
- 15. Some time prior to September 25, 2017, an obligation was allegedly incurred to JD Byrider CO-748 (hereinafter "JD Byrider").
- 16. The JD Byrider obligation arose out of a transactions involving funding for an automobile, which Plaintiff used primarily for personal, family or household purposes.
 - 17. The alleged JD Byrider obligation is a "debt" as defined by 15 U.S.C.§ 1692a(5).
 - 18. JD Byrider is a "creditor" as defined by 15 U.S.C.\(\) 1692a(4).
- 19. JD Byrider or a subsequent owner of the JD Byrider debt contracted with the Defendant to collect the alleged debt.
- 20. Defendant 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.

The September 25, 2017 Collection Letter

21. On or about September 25, 2017, Defendant sent the Plaintiff an initial contact notice (the "Letter") regarding the alleged debt owed to JD Byrider. See Letter at Exhibit A.

Violation I

22. The top of the letter states:

Re: JD Byrider CO-748 Principal Balance: \$3,890.34

Interest: \$734.16

Total Balance: \$4,624.50

23. The Defendant is required to include a disclosure that interest was accruing, or in the alternative, the creditor/and or Defendant has made the decision to waive the accruing interest.

24. "Absent fuller disclosure, an unsophisticated consumer may not understand how

these fees are calculated, whether they may be disputed, or what provision of the note gives rise

to them. Because the statement gives no indication as to what the unaccrued fees are or how

they are calculated, she cannot deduce that information from the statement." <u>Carlin v Davidson</u>

Fink LLP, 852 F3d 207, 217 (2d Cir 2017)(*emphasis added*).

25. Plaintiff's September 25, 2017 Collection Letter fails to conclusively state that

interest, fees and costs are continuously accruing.

26. Plaintiff's September 25, 2017 Collection Letter fails to explicitly provide the basis

for said interest, fees and costs.

27. Plaintiff's September 25, 2017 Collection Letter fails to state in what amount said

interest, fees and costs are charged and added on to the "Total Balance: \$4,624.50", or the

frequency thereof.

- 28. A consumer could read the September 25, 2017 Collection Letter and be easily misled into believing that they could pay the debt in full at any time by paying the listed "Total Balance: \$4,624.50".
- 29. However, since contractual or statutory interest is automatically accruing, as well as undisclosed fees, a consumer who pays the "Total Balance: \$4,624.50" will be unaware as to whether or not the debt has been paid in full.
- 30. The September 25, 2017 Collection Letter uses language that is confusing to Plaintiff since it is unclear as to whether or not the account was actually, currently accruing interest.
- 31. Each and every aspect of this language confuses the consumer as to amount of the debt, and coerces payment from the consumer by making threats during the initial thirty-day period.
- 32. As a result of Defendant's deceptive, misleading and unfair debt collection practices, Plaintiff has been damaged.

Violation II

- 33. The collection letter threatens "You have thirty (30) days to make arrangements for payment or further collection efforts will commence."
- 34. When a debt collector solicits payment from a consumer, it must, within five days of an initial communication, provide the consumer with a written validation notice which must include the following information:
 - (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).

This is known as the "G Notice."

- 35. 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).
- 36. While the September 25, 2017 letter contains the requisite "G-Notice," it is completely overshadowed by the earlier threat for payment in the letter.
- 37. Specifically, Defendant threatens that Plaintiff must make payment arrangements within thirty (30) days which overshadows the fact that Plaintiff has thirty (30) days to dispute and receive validation of the debt pursuant to the "G Notice."

- 38. Defendant's statement is confusing to Plaintiff as it overshadows the truth that if Plaintiff disputes the debt within her thirty day period, all debt collection efforts must cease until Defendant verifies the debt.
- 39. Although a collection letter may track the statutory language, "the collector nonetheless violates the Act if it conveys that information in a confusing or contradictory fashion so as to cloud the required message with uncertainty." <u>Russel v. EQUIFAX A.R.S.</u>, 74 F.3d 30, 35 (2d Cir. 1996).
- 40. Threatening Plaintiff to make payment arrangements in thirty (30) days in the same letter with the "G Notice" is confusing because the least sophisticated consumer would believe she had to pay within thirty days, which overshadows her right to validate or dispute the debt under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.
- 41. Plaintiff sustained an imminent risk of harm in that she was provided with false information about the alleged debt which prevented her from making reasonable decisions about whether to pay the debt.
- 42. As a result of Defendant's deceptive misleading and false debt collection practices, Plaintiff has been damaged.

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

- 43. 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.
- 44. 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.

- 45. 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.
 - 46. Defendant violated §1692e:
 - a. As the Letter it is open to more than one reasonable interpretation, at least one of which is inaccurate.
 - b. By making a false and misleading representation in violation of §1692e(10).
- 47. 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.

- 48. 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.
- 49. 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.
- 50. Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692g, any collection activities and communication during the 30-day period may not overshadow or be inconsistent with the disclosure of the consumer's right to dispute the debt or request the name and address of the original creditor.
- 51. Defendant violated this section by threatening Plaintiff to make payment arrangements during the thirty day validation and dispute period provided by the FDCPA.
- 52. 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

53. 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 Monique Ross, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, demands judgment from Defendant DeVille Asset Management, Ltd. as follows:

- 1. Declaring that this action is properly maintainable as a Class Action and certifying Plaintiff as Class representative, and Amichai E. Zukowsky, 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: July 6, 2018 Respectfully Submitted,

ZUKOWSKY LAW, LLC

/s/ Amichai E. Zukowsky
Amichai E. Zukowsky, Esq.
23811 Chagrin Blvd., Ste 160
Beachwood, OH 44122
Phone: (216) 800-5529
ami@zukowskylaw.com
Attorneys For Plaintiff

EXHIBIT A

ASSETMANAGEMENT .::

DeVille Asset Management, LTD

PO Box 1987 Colleyville IX 76034 1987

Foll free (BHB) 20 Local (#17) 25) Facsimile (817) 251. service@deville.hc www.devillelid

September 25, 2017

MONIQUE N ROSS

Reference #:

Re:

Original Account #:

Principal Balance: Interest: Total Balance:

7522

JD Byrider CO-748

2731

\$3,890.34 \$734.16 \$4,624.50

Dear MONIQUE N ROSS

Please be advised that your account has been assigned to DeVille Asset Management, LTD.

You have thirty (30) days to make arrangements for payment or further collection efforts will commence.

You are directed to address all future correspondence and/or payments concerning this account to:

DeVille Asset Management, LTD PO Box 1987 Colleyville, TX 76034-1987

For you convenience, you may also make additional payments online at: www.paydeville.com

Sincerely,

DeVille Asset Management, LTD (817) 251-7000 service@devilleltd.com

Payments can be made online @ www.paydeville.com

This communication is an attempt by a debt collector to collect a debt, and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Unless you notify this office within 30 days from receiving this notice that you dispute the validity of this debt or any portion thereof, this office will assume this debt is valid. If you notify this office in writing within 30 days of 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 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.

489-CTPCII10-16-07/13/1

*** Detach Lower Portion And Return With Payment ***

Colleyville TX 76034-1987 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

F YOU WISH TO PAY BY CRED VISA EXP DATE CARD NUMBER CARD HOLDER NAME AMOUNT PAID SIGNATURE

Reference #:

7522

\$4,624.50 Balance:

Pay online at www.paydeville.com www.devilleltd.com

ԱՍԵՎ-Ոգեմի-Այ-Այ-Միահինակում-վելի իրիկութվ լրմի (ԱՍ) բուհի

ere ere MONIQUE N ROSS DeVille Asset Management, LTD PO Box 1987 Colleyville TX 76034-1987

Case: 1:18-cv-00455-MRB_Doc_#: 1-3 Filed: 07/06/18 Page: 1 of 2 PAGEID #: 15

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 cour purpose of initiating the civil d	t. This form, approved by the ocket sheet. (SEE INSTRUC	he Judicial Conference of the 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			
Monique Ross, individua	lly and on behalf of all	others similarly situate	ed DeVille Asset Man	agement, Ltd. and John	Does 1-25		
(b) County of Residence of	_	lamilton	County of Residence	of First Listed Defendant	AM W		
(E.	XCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CA	ISES)	NOTE: IN LAND CO	(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES O DNDEMNATION CASES, USE TO OF LAND INVOLVED.	*		
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Zukowsky Law, LLC 23811 Chagrin Blvd., Ste (216) 800-5529			Attorneys (If Known)				
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	ICTION (Place an "X" in G	One Box Only)	 I. CITIZENSHIP OF P	RINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plainti		
☐ 1 U.S. Government	⋨ 3 Federal Question	, , ,	(For Diversity Cases Only)	ΓF DEF	and One Box for Defendant) PTF DEF		
Plaintiff	(U.S. Government	Not a Party)		1	incipal Place		
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizensh	ip of Parties in Item III)	Citizen of Another State	2			
W. M. EVIDE OF GVV	n		Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	3 🗖 3 Foreign Nation	□ 6 □ 6		
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 □ 245 Tort Product Liability □ 290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY 310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel & Slander 330 Federal Employers' Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury 362 Personal Injury Medical Malpractice CIVIL RIGHTS 440 Other Civil Rights 441 Voting 442 Employment 443 Housing/ Accommodations 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other 448 Education	PERSONAL INJURY 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability 368 Asbestos 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 3729(a)) □ 400 State Reapportionment □ 410 Antitrust □ 430 Banks and Banking □ 450 Commerce □ 460 Deportation □ 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations □ 480 Consumer Credit □ 490 Cable/Sat TV □ 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange ▼ 890 Other Statutory Actions □ 891 Agricultural Acts □ 893 Environmental Matters □ 895 Freedom of Information Act □ 896 Arbitration □ 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision □ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes		
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT: VIII. RELATED CASION	Cite the U.S. Civil State 15 USC Sect. 16 Brief description of car Defendant sent F CHECK IF THIS UNDER RULE 2	Appellate Court attute under which you are figure 192 et seq. Fair Debt Course: Plaintiff deceptive, misl IS A CLASS ACTION 3, F.R.Cv.P.	Reinstated or Reopened 5 Transft Anothe (specify) Illing (Do not cite jurisdictional state Collection Practices Act eading and overshadowing DEMAND \$	r District Litigation Transfer iutes unless diversity): ng collection letter CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND:	if demanded in complaint:		
DATE IF ANY	,	JUDGE SIGNATURE OF ATTOR	NEV OF RECORD	DOCKET NUMBER			
07/06/2018 FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		/s/ Amichai E. Zul					
RECEIPT # AI	MOUNT	APPLYING IFP	JUDGE	MAG. JUE	OGE		

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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.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Southern District of Ohio

Southern District of Unio					
Monique Ross, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated)))				
Plaintiff(s))				
V.	Civil Action No.				
)				
DeVille Asset Management, Ltd. and John Does 1-25)))				
Defendant(s)	,)				
SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION					
To: (Defendant's name and address) DeVille Asset Managemer 1132 Glade Road Colleyville, TX 76034	nt, Ltd.				
A lawsuit has been filed against you. Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are: Zukowsky Law, LLC Ami Zukowsky, Esq. 23811 Chagrin Blvd, Ste 160 Beachwood, OH 44122					
If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.					
	CLERK OF COURT				
D					
Date:	Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk				
	signature of Cierk of Deputy Cierk				

Civil Action No.

PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))

was rec	This summons for (neeived by me on (date)	ame of individual and title, if an	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
	☐ I personally serve	ed the summons on the ind				
			on (date)	; or		
	☐ I left the summon	as at the individual's reside	ence or usual place of abode with (name)			
	, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there,					
	on (date) , and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or					
	☐ I served the summ	nons on (name of individual)			, who is	
	designated by law to	o accept service of process	on behalf of (name of organization)		_	
			on (date)	; or		
	☐ I returned the sun	nmons unexecuted because			; or	
	☐ Other (specify):					
	My fees are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a tota	nl of \$().00 .	
	I declare under pena	lty of perjury that this info	rmation is true.			
Date:						
			Server's signature			
		_	Printed name and title	,		
		_	Server's address			

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

Print Save As... Reset

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