LAWRENCE C. HERSH

Attorney at Law 17 Sylvan Street, Suite 102B Rutherford, NJ 07070 (201) 507-6300 Attorney for Plaintiff, and all others similarly situated

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

	X
JI SEO, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated,	
Plaintiff,	: : Civil Action No.
VS.	: CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT AND JURY TRIAL DEMAND
LYONS, DOUGHTY & VELDHUIS, P.C.,	:
Defendant.	
	— X

Plaintiff JI SEO (hereinafter "Plaintiff"), on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated, by and through his undersigned attorney, alleges against the abovenamed Defendant LYONS, DOUGHTY & VELDHUIS, P.C. (hereinafter "Defendant"), its employees, agents, and successors, the following:

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. Plaintiff brings this action for statutory damages and declaratory and injunctive relief arising from the Defendant's violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692 *et seq.*, the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (hereinafter "FDCPA"), which prohibits debt collectors from engaging in abusive, deceptive and unfair practices.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1331.
 This is an action for violations of 15 U.S.C. § 1692 *et seq*.

3. Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. §1391(b) because jurisdiction is not founded solely on diversity of citizenship and Plaintiff resides in this jurisdiction.

DEFINITIONS

4. As used in reference to the FDCPA, the terms "creditor," "consumer," "debt," and "debt collector" are defined in § 803 of the FDCPA and 15 U.S.C. § 1692a.

JURY DEMAND

5. Plaintiff demands a jury trial on all issues.

PARTIES

6. The FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 *et seq.*, which prohibits certain debt collection practices provides for the initiation of court proceedings to enjoin violations of the FDCPA and to secure such equitable relief as may be appropriate in each case.

7. Plaintiff is a natural person and resident of Bergen County, in the State of New Jersey, and is a "Consumer" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).

8. Based upon information and belief, Defendant Lyons, Doughty & Veldhuis, P.C. ("LDV") is a law firm with offices located in Mt. Laurel, New Jersey.

9. Based 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. Defendant is a "Debt Collector" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692(a)(6).

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

10. Plaintiff brings this action as a state wide class action, pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (hereinafter "FRCP"), on behalf of himself and all New Jersey consumers and their successors in interest (the "Class"), who have received debt collection letters and/or notices from the Defendant which are in violation of the FDCPA, as described in this Complaint.

- 11. This Action is properly maintained as a class action. The Class consists of:
 - All New Jersey consumers who were subject to post-judgment collection activity in New Jersey state court by Defendant in an attempt to collect a debt, which included the alleged conduct and practices described herein.
 - The Class period begins one year prior to the filing of this Action. The class definition may be subsequently modified or refined.

12. The Class satisfies all the requirements of Rule 23 of the FRCP for maintaining a class action:

 Upon information and belief, the Class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable because there are hundreds and/or thousands of persons who have received debt collection letters and/or notices from the Defendant that violate specific provisions of the FDCPA. Plaintiff is complaining of a standard document that is sent to hundreds of persons (*See* Exhibit A, except that the undersigned attorney has, in accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 5.2 partially redacted the financial account numbers in an effort to protect Plaintiff's privacy);

- There are questions of law and fact which are common to the Class and which predominate over questions affecting any individual Class member. These common questions of law and fact include, without limitation:
 - a. Whether Defendant violated various provisions of the FDCPA.
 - Whether Plaintiff and the Class have been injured by the Defendant's conduct;
 - c. Whether Plaintiff and the Class have sustained damages and are entitled to restitution as a result of Defendant's wrongdoing, and if so, what is the proper measure and appropriate statutory formula to be applied in determining such damages and restitution; and
 - d. Whether Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to declaratory and/or injunctive relief.
- Plaintiff's claims are typical of the Class, which all arise from the same operative facts and are based on the same legal theories;

- Plaintiff has no interest adverse or antagonistic to the interest of the other members of the Class;
- Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interest of the Class and has retained experienced and competent attorneys to represent the Class;
- A Class Action is superior to other methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the claims herein asserted. Plaintiff anticipates that no unusual difficulties are likely to be encountered in the management of this class action;
- A Class Action will permit large numbers of similarly situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum simultaneously and without the duplication of effort and expense that numerous individual actions would engender. Class treatment will also permit the adjudication of relatively small claims by many Class members who could not otherwise afford to seek legal redress for the wrongs complained of herein. Absent a Class Action, class members will continue to suffer losses of statutory protected rights as well as monetary damages. If the Defendant's conduct is allowed to proceed without remedy it will continue to reap and retain the proceeds of its ill-gotten gains;
- Defendant has acted on grounds generally applicable to the entire Class, thereby making appropriate final injunctive relief or corresponding declaratory relief with respect to the Class as a whole.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

13. Plaintiff is at all times relevant to this lawsuit, a "consumer" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(3).

14. 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 Service, telephone and/or the Internet.

15. Defendant is a "debt collector" as defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(6).

16. Sometime prior to November 17, 2019, Plaintiff allegedly incurred a financial obligation to Capital One Bank (USA), N.A. ("Capital One") related to a credit card Account ("the Debt").

17. The Debt arose out of a transaction in which money, property, insurance or services, which are the subject of the transaction, are primarily for personal, family or household purposes.

18. The Debt is a "debt" as defined by 15 U.S.C. $\frac{1692a(5)}{1000}$.

19. Capital One is a "creditor" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(4).

20. Sometime prior to November 17, 2009, Capital One either directly or through intermediate transactions assigned, placed or transferred the Debt to the Law firm of Eichenbaum & Stylianou, L.L.C. ("E&S") for purposes of collection.

21. At the time the Debt was assigned, placed or transferred to E&S, the Debt was in default.

22. On or about November 17, 2019, E&S sued Plaintiff on behalf of Capital in the Special Civil Part of the Bergen County Superior Court in the case of <u>Capital One</u> <u>Bank (USA), N.A. v. Seo</u>, Ber-DC-033182-09 ("the State Court Action") in an attempt to

collect the Debt.

23. On or about January 8, 2010, a judgment was entered against Plaintiff in the amount of \$1706.49 in the State Court Action.

24. On or about September 7, 2012, Defendant substituted in as attorney of record for Capital One and E&S withdrew as attorney of record in the State Court action.

25. At that time that Defendant substituted in as attorney of record for Capital One, the Debt was still in default.

26. Subsequently, on March 27, 2020, Defendant filed an Application for a wage application in the State Court Action, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit A.

27. The wage execution application indicated that post-judgment interest was waived with respect to both Interest From Prior Writs and New Interest on This Writ.

28. Nonetheless even though the Application for Wage Execution indicated that Interest from Prior writs was waived, Defendant still sought to collect \$47.52 in Interest from Prior Writs.

29. Defendant was not entitled to collect \$47.52 in Interest from Prior Writs.

30. The Least Sophisticated Consumer would be confused as to whether or not he or she would owe \$47.52 in Interest from Prior Writs since the Wage Execution Application indicated that the interest had been waived.

31. Plaintiff suffered injury in fact by being subjected to the unfair and abusive practices of Defendant.

32. Plaintiff suffered actual harm by being the target of Defendant's misleading debt collection communications.

33. Defendant violated Plaintiff's rights not to be the target of misleading debt

collection communications.

34. Defendant violated Plaintiff's right to a trustful and fair debt collection process.

35. Under the FDCPA, Plaintiff had the right to receive certain information from Defendant regarding his or her rights under the FDCPA.

36. Defendant's communication was designed to cause Plaintiff to suffer a harmful disadvantage in charting a course of action in response to Defendant's collection efforts.

37. Defendant's collection activity provided confusing and incorrect information caused Plaintiff a concrete injury in that Plaintiff was deprived of her right to receive accurate and trustworthy information regarding her rights under the FDCPA.

38. Defendant's communications were designed to cause Plaintiff to suffer a harmful disadvantage in charting a course of action in response to Defendant's collection efforts.

39. The FDCPA ensures that consumers are fully and truthfully apprised of the facts and of their rights, the act enables them to understand, make informed decisions about, and participate fully and meaningfully in the debt collection process. The purpose of the FDCPA is to provide information that helps consumers to choose intelligently. The Defendant's false representations misled the Plaintiff in a manner that deprived Plaintiff of his or her right to enjoy these benefits.

40. As a result of Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff suffered an actual, concrete injury as a result of Defendant's failure to provide Plaintiff information required under the FDCPA.

41. The failure of Defendant to provide correct information impeded Plaintiff's ability to make a well-reasoned decision.

42. Defendant's failure to provide accurate information injured Plaintiff in that it impacted her ability to decide on how to proceed with respect to the matter – will he hire an attorney, represent himself, payoff the debt, engage in a payment plan, file for bankruptcy, etc.

43. The deceptive communication additionally violated the FDCPA since it frustrated Plaintiff's ability to intelligently choose his or her response.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES COMPLAINED OF

44. It is Defendant's policy and practice to file writs for wage execution, in the form annexed hereto as **Exhibit A**, which violate the FDCPA, by *inter alia*:

- (a) Using false, deceptive or misleading representations or means in connection with the collection of a debt;
- (b) By making false representations of the character or legal status of a debt;
- (c) Using unfair or unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect any debt and/or,
- (d) seeking to collect more in interest than entitled to.

45. On information and belief, Defendant filed applications for wage garnishments which indicated that interest was waived, but still sought to collect post judgment interest with respect to at least 30 natural persons in the State of New Jersey.

<u>COUNT I</u>

FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT 15 U.S.C. §1692 VIOLATIONS

46. Plaintiff repeats the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 45 as if the same were set forth at length.

47. Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. §1692 et seq. of the FDCPA in connection with its collection attempts against Plaintiff and others similarly situated.

48. By attempting to collect post-judgment interest in an application for a wage execution, but indicating that such interest was waived, Defendant violated:

- A. 15 U.S.C. §1692e, by using a false, deceptive or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt;
- B. 15 U.S.C. §1692e(2)(A), by falsely representing the character, amount, or legal status of any debt;
- C. 15 U.S.C. §1692e(2)(B), by falsely representing any services rendered or compensation which may lawfully be received by a debt collector for the collection of a debt;
- D. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(5) by threatening to take an action which cannot legally be taken;
- E. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(10) by using a false representation or deceptive means to collect or attempt to collect a debt from Plaintiff;
- F. 15 U.S.C. §1692f by using unfair or unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect any debt; and,
- G. 15 U.S.C. §1692f(1), by collecting or attempting to collect any amount not expressly authorized by the agreement creating the debt or permitted by law;

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and others similarly situated,

demands judgment against Defendant as follows:

(a) Declaring that this action is properly maintainable as a Class Action and

certifying Plaintiff as Class representative and attorney Lawrence Hersh, Esq., as Class

Counsel;

- (b) Awarding Plaintiff and the Class maximum statutory damages;
- (c) Awarding pre-judgment interest;
- (d) Awarding post-judgment interest;
- (e) Awarding reasonable attorneys' fees, costs and expenses; and
- (f) Awarding Plaintiff and the Class such other and further relief as the Court may

deem just and proper.

Dated: Rutherford, New Jersey March 25, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

By: <u>s/ Lawrence C. Hersh</u> Lawrence C. Hersh, Esq. 17 Sylvan Street, Suite 102B Rutherford, NJ 07070 (201) 507-6300 *Attorney for Plaintiff*

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO LOCAL RULE 11.2

I, Lawrence C. Hersh, the undersigned attorney of record for Plaintiff, do hereby certify to my own knowledge and based upon information available to me at my office, the matter in controversy is not the subject of any other action now pending in any court or in any arbitration or administrative proceeding. Case 2:21-cv-06763-JMV-MF Document 1 Filed 03/25/21 Page 12 of 16 PageID: 12

Dated: March 24, 2021

By: <u>s/ Lawrence C. Hersh</u> Lawrence C. Hersh, Esq Case 2:21-cv-06763-JMV-MF Document 1 Filed 03/25/21 Page 13 of 16 PageID: 13

EXHIBIT A

BER-DC-033182-09 03/27/2020 3:33:44 PM Pg 4 of 6 Trans ID: SCP2020728887 Case 2:21-cv-06763-JMV-MF Document 1 Filed 03/25/21 Page 14 of 16 PageID: 14

Lyons, Doughty and Veldhuis, P.C. 136 Gaither Drive, Suite 100 Po Box 1269 Mt Laurel, NJ 08054 Telephone: (856) 222-0166 Attorneys for Plaintiff _____ David R. Lyons, Esq. 281841972 ____ Laurie H. Lyons, Esq. 019532002 ___ Craig H. Lyons, Esq. 042701999

____ Keith Esposito, Esq. 235932017

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY LAW DIVISION, SPECIAL CIVIL PART BERGEN COUNTY Tel. (201) 527-2700

Docket No.: DC-033182-09

Capital One Bank (USA), N.A.

Plaintiff

vs.

Л W SEO

DESIGNATED DEFENDANT, 278 MAIN ST APT D6 Little FerryNJ076431349 SSN: XXX-XX-X600

ORDER, CERTIFICATION AND EXECUTION AGAINST EARNING PURSUANT TO 15 <u>U.S.C.</u> 1673 AND <u>N.J.S.A</u>. 2A:17-56

Judgment No.: VJ-000654-10 Writ Number: Issued

Name and Address of Employer Ordered to Make Deductions: Highgate Hotels, L.P Corporation Service Company 100 Charles Ewing Boulevard; Suite 160 EwingNJ 08628

Unless the designated defendant is currently subject to withholding under another wage execution, the employer is ordered to deduct from the earnings which the designated Defendant receives and to pay over to the court officer named below, the lesser of the following: (a) 10 % of the gross weekly pay; or (b) 25% of disposable earnings for that week; or (c) the amount, if any by which the designated Defendant's disposable weekly earnings exceed \$217.50 per week, until the total amount due has been deducted or the complete termination of employment. Upon either of these events, an immediate accounting is to be made to the court officer. Disposable earnings are defined as that portion of the earnings remaining after the deduction from gross earnings of any amounts required by law to be withheld. In the event the disposable earnings so defined are \$217.50 or less, if paid weekly, or \$435.00 or less, if paid every two weeks, or \$471.25 of less, if paid twice a month, or \$942.50 or less if paid monthly then no amount shall be withheld under this execution. In no event shall more than 10% of gross salary be withheld and only one execution against your wages shall be satisfied at a time. <u>Please refer to Page 2</u>, <u>How to Calculate Proper Garnishment Amount.</u>

The employer shall immediately give the designated defendant a copy of this order. The designated defendant may object to the wage execution or apply for a reduction in the amount withheld at any time. To Object or apply for a reduction, a written statement of the objection or reasons for a reduction must be filed with the Clerk of the Court and a copy must be sent to the creditor's attorney or directly to the creditor if there is no attorney. A hearing will be held within 7 days after filing the objection or application for a reduction. According to law, no employer may terminate an employee because of garnishment.

BER-DC-033182-09 03/27/2020 3:33:44 PM Pg 5 of 6 Trans ID: SCP2020728887 Case 2:21-cv-06763-JMV-MF Document 1 Filed 03/25/21 Page 15 of 16 PageID: 15

Judgment Date:	1/8/2010			
Judgment Award:	\$1,620.09			
Court Costs & StatAtty Fees:	\$86.40			
Total Judgment Amount:	\$1,706.49			
Interest From Prior Writs:	\$47.52			
(interest waived)				
Costs from Prior Writ:	\$89.98			
Subtotal A:	\$1,843.99			
Credits from Prior Writs	\$0.00			
Subtotal B:	\$1,843.99			
New Miscellaneous Costs:	\$0.00			
New Interest On This Writ:	\$0.00			
(interest waived)				
New Credits On this Writ:	\$687.13			
Execution Fees & Mileage:	\$35.00			
Subtotal C:	\$1,191.86			
Court Officer Fee:	\$119.19			
TOTAL DUE THIS DATE:	\$1,311.05			

Make payments at least monthly to Court Officer as set forth

COURT OFFICER

I RETURN this execution to the Court					
() Unsatisfied () Satisfied					
() Partially Satisfied					
Amount collected	\$				
Fee Deducted	\$				

I CERTIFY that the foregoing statements made by me are true.

I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by me are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

3/27/20

- _____ S/ David R. Lyons David R. Lyons
- _____ S/ Laurie H. Lyons
- Laurie H. Lyons
- X S/ Lauren Linker Keating Lauren Linker Keating
- _____ S/ Craig H. Lyons
- Craig H. Lyons
- _____ S/ Keith Esposito
- Keith Esposito

Firm Name: Lyons, Doughty & Veldhuis, P.C. Firm Address: 136 Gaither Drive, Suite 100 PO Box 1269 Mt Laurel NJ 08054

BER-DC-033182-09 03/27/2020 3:33:44 PM Pg 6 of 6 Trans ID: SCP2020728887 Case 2:21-cv-06763-JMV-MF Document 1 Filed 03/25/21 Page 16 of 16 PageID: 16

HOW TO CALCULATE PROPER GARNISHMENT AMOUNT

(1)	Gross Salary per pay period	
(2) I	Less:	
I	Amounts Required by Law to be Withheld:	
	a) U.S. Income Tax	
	b) FICA (Social Security)	
	c) State Income Tax, ETT, etc.	
	d) N.J. SUI	
e) O	ther State or Municipal withholding	
	f) TOTAL	
(3)	Equals "disposable earnings"	
(4)	If salary is paid:	
	- weekly, then subtract \$217.50	
	- every two weeks, then subtract \$435.00	
	- twice per month, then subtract \$471.25	
	- monthly, then subtract \$942.50	
(Federal	law prohibits any garnishment when "disposable earnings"	
are smal	ller than the amount on line 4)	
(5)	Equals the amount potentially subject to garnishment	
	(if less than zero, enter zero)	
(6)	Take "disposable earnings" (line 3) and multiply by .25:	
	\$x .25 = \$	
(7)	Take the gross salary (line 1) and multiply by .10:	
	\$x .10 = \$	

(8) Compare lines 5, 6, and 7 - the amount which may lawfully be deducted is the smallest amount on line 5, line 6, or line 7 i.e.

Source: 15 U.S.C. 1671 et seq.; 29 c.f.r. 5870; N.J.S.A. 2A:1750 et seq.

JS 44 (Rev. 10/20) Case 2:21-cv-06763-JMV-MCLOQUOOVER SHOP 25/25/21 Page 1 of 2 PageID: 17

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. *(SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)*

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS		enons on next 1 not c	////////	DEFENDA	NTS					
JI SEO				LYONS, DOUGHTY & VELDHUIS, P.C.,						
31320										
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Bergen				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant						
(EX	XCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF C.	ASES)		NOTE: IN LAN			LAINTIFF CASES O		OF	
				THE T	RACT OF	F LAND IN	ON CASES, USE TI IVOLVED.	HE LOCATION	OF	
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, A	Address, and Telephone Numb	er)		Attorneys (If Kr	nown)					
Lawrence Hersh	ı, Esq.									
17 Sylvan St., N	lo. 102b. Rutherford	l, NJ 07070								
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X" in	One Box Only)	III. CI	FIZENSHIP O		NCIPA				
1 U.S. Government x 3 Federal Question			(For Diversity Cases	Only) PTF	DEF	4	and One Box for I	Defendant) PTF	DEF	
Plaintiff	(U.S. Government	Not a Party)	Citize	Citizen of This State		1 Incorporated <i>or</i> Principal Place of Business In This State			4	4
			C'ti-							
2 U.S. Government Defendant	4 Diversity (Indicate Citizens)	hip of Parties in Item III)	Cluze	en of Another State	2	2	Incorporated <i>and</i> Principal Place of Business In Another State		5	5
			Citize	en or Subject of a	3	3	Foreign Nation		6	6
			Fo	reign Country			-			
IV. NATURE OF SUIT		only) DRTS	FC	ORFEITURE/PENAL			for: <u>Nature of S</u> KRUPTCY		SCRIPTION STATUT	
110 Insurance	PERSONAL INJURY	PERSONAL INJURY		5 Drug Related Seizur		_	eal 28 USC 158	375 False 0		
120 Marine 130 Miller Act	310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product	365 Personal Injury - Product Liability	69	of Property 21 USC 881 690 Other		423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157		376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a))		2
140 Negotiable Instrument	Liability	367 Health Care/		o oulor	L			400 State F	Reapportior	nment
L 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment	320 Assault, Libel & Slander	Pharmaceutical Personal Injury				PROPERTY RIGHTS 820 Copyrights		410 Antitrust 430 Banks and Banking		ng
151 Medicare Act	330 Federal Employers'	Product Liability				830 Pate	ent	450 Comm	erce	
152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans	Liability 340 Marine	368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product			L		ent - Abbreviated v Drug Application	460 Deport 470 Racket		nced and
(Excludes Veterans)	345 Marine Product	Liability				840 Tra	demark	Corrup	t Organiza	tions
153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits	Liability 350 Motor Vehicle	PERSONAL PROPER		LABOR 0 Fair Labor Standard	e		end Trade Secrets of 2016	× 480 Consu (15 US	mer Credit SC 1681 or	
160 Stockholders' Suits	355 Motor Vehicle	371 Truth in Lending	/ 1	Act		net	012010	485 Teleph		
190 Other Contract	Product Liability	380 Other Personal	72	0 Labor/Management			L SECURITY		tion Act	
195 Contract Product Liability 196 Franchise	360 Other Personal Injury	Property Damage 385 Property Damage	74	Relations 0 Railway Labor Act			x (1395ff) ck Lung (923)	490 Cable/ 850 Securit		odities/
	362 Personal Injury -	Product Liability		1 Family and Medical		863 DIV	VC/DIWW (405(g))	Excha	nge	
REAL PROPERTY	Medical Malpractice CIVIL RIGHTS	PRISONER PETITION	IS 79	Leave Act 0 Other Labor Litigati	ion	=	D Title XVI (405(g))	890 Other : 891 Agricu	-	
210 Land Condemnation	440 Other Civil Rights	Habeas Corpus:		1 Employee Retiremen		-		893 Enviro	nmental M	atters
220 Foreclosure	441 Voting	463 Alien Detainee		Income Security Act	it 🗖		AL TAX SUITS	895 Freedo	m of Infor	mation
230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 240 Torts to Land	442 Employment 443 Housing/	510 Motions to Vacate Sentence			L		es (U.S. Plaintiff Defendant)	Act 896 Arbitra	ation	
245 Tort Product Liability	Accommodations	530 General				871 IRS	—Third Party	899 Admin		
290 All Other Real Property	445 Amer. w/Disabilities Employment	- 535 Death Penalty Other:	46	IMMIGRATION 2 Naturalization Appli	ication	26	USC 7609		view or Ap y Decision	•
	446 Amer. w/Disabilities	- 🗌 540 Mandamus & Othe		5 Other Immigration	leation			950 Consti		
	Other 448 Education	550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition		Actions			State Statutes			
		560 Civil Detainee -								
		Conditions of Confinement								
V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in	n One Box Only)	Commentent								
	moved from \Box 3	Remanded from	4 Rein	stated or 5 Ti	ransferre	d from	☐ 6 Multidistri		Multidis	
Proceeding Star	te Court	Appellate Court	Reop		nother D	District	Litigation	-	Litigatio	
	Cite the U.S. Civil St	atute under which you ar	e filing <i>(</i>		pecify)	es unless di	Transfer		Direct F	lle
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIC	15 USC 1692 et seg	atate ander which you a	e ming (1	o noi cue jurisuleitor	iui siuinii	.5 инисээ ш	versity).			
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	Brief description of c	ause:								
VII. REQUESTED IN	FDCPA	S IS A CLASS ACTION	T D	EMAND \$		C	HECK YES only	if demanded in	, complai	nt
COMPLAINT:	UNDER RULE 2			EMAND \$			URY DEMAND:			nt.
VIII. RELATED CASE										
IF ANY	(See instructions):	JUDGE				_DOCK	ET NUMBER			
DATE		SIGNATURE OF ATT	FORNEY O	DF RECORD						
March 25,2021										
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY										
RECEIPT # AN	MOUNT	APPLYING IFP		JUD	GE		MAG. JUI	DGE		

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- **I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- (b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- (c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".

II. Jurisdiction. The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below. United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here. United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box. Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment

to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.

Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.)

- **III.** Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties. This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: <u>Nature of Suit Code Descriptions</u>.
- V. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.

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

Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. 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 Collector Unlawfully Demanded Post-Judgment Interest, Class Action Alleges</u>