### **BARSHAY SANDERS, PLLC**

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Attorneys for Plaintiff
Our File No.: 113010

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Nirvana Singh, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Docket No:

Plaintiff,

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

VS.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

EOS CCA, Inc.,

Defendant.

Nirvana Singh, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated (hereinafter referred to as "*Plaintiff*"), by and through the undersigned counsel, complains, states and alleges against EOS CCA, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "*Defendant*"), as follows:

#### **INTRODUCTION**

1. This action seeks to recover for violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, *et seq.* ("FDCPA").

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 2. This Court has federal subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d).
- 3. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred in this Judicial District.
- 4. At all relevant times, Defendant conducted business within the State of New York.

#### **PARTIES**

- 5. Plaintiff Nirvana Singh is an individual who is a citizen of the State of New York residing in Suffolk County, New York.
  - 6. Plaintiff is a "consumer" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).
- 7. On information and belief, Defendant EOS CCA, Inc., is a Massachusetts Corporation with a principal place of business in Plymouth County, Massachusetts.
- 8. Defendant is regularly engaged, for profit, in the collection of debts allegedly owed by consumers.
  - 9. Defendant is a "debt collector" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

#### **ALLEGATIONS**

- 10. Defendant alleges Plaintiff owes a debt ("the Debt").
- 11. The Debt was primarily for personal, family or household purposes and is therefore a "debt" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5).
- 12. Sometime after the incurrence of the Debt, Plaintiff fell behind on payments owed.
- 13. Thereafter, at an exact time known only to Defendant, the Debt was assigned or otherwise transferred to Defendant for collection.
- 14. In its efforts to collect the debt, Defendant contacted Plaintiff by letter ("the Letter") dated October 17, 2016. ("Exhibit 1.")
  - 15. The Letter was the initial communication Plaintiff received from Defendant.
  - 16. The Letter is a "communication" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(2).

# FIRST COUNT Violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692e

- 17. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the foregoing paragraphs as if fully restated herein.
- 18. The Letter sets forth a "Principal" of \$370.22, and "Fees Coll. Costs" of \$161.56.
- 19. The Letter fails to provide information that would allow Plaintiff to determine what Plaintiff will need to pay to resolve the debt at any given moment in the future.
- 20. The Letter fails to provide information that would allow the least sophisticated consumer to determine what he or she will need to pay to resolve the debt at any given moment in

the future.

- 21. The Letter fails to contain an explanation, understandable by the least sophisticated consumer, of any fees that may cause the amount stated to increase.
  - 22. The Letter fails to set forth the source of the "Fees Coll. Costs."
  - 23. The Letter fails to set forth if additional "Fees Coll. Costs" will be applied.
  - 24. The Letter fails to set forth when additional "Fees Coll. Costs" will be applied.
- 25. The Letter fails to set forth the amount of any additional "Fees Coll. Costs" that will be applied.
- 26. The Letter, because of the aforementioned failures, would render the least sophisticated consumer unable to determine the minimum amount owed at the time of the Letter.
- 27. The Letter, because of the aforementioned failures, would render the least sophisticated consumer unable to determine what she will need to pay to resolve the debt at any given moment in the future.
- 28. The Letter, because of the aforementioned failures, would render the least sophisticated consumer unable to determine the amount of his or her debt.
- 29. The Letter, because of the aforementioned failures, would render the least sophisticated consumer unable to determine the amount of her debt because the consumer would not know whether "Fees Coll. Costs" would continue to accrue, or whether the amount of the debt was static.
- 30. The Letter, because of the aforementioned failures, did not convey "the amount of the debt" clearly from the perspective of the least sophisticated consumer.
- 31. The Letter, because of the aforementioned failures, did not convey "the amount of the debt" accurately from the perspective of the least sophisticated consumer.
- 32. The Letter, because of the aforementioned failures, did not convey "the amount of the debt" without ambiguity from the perspective of the least sophisticated consumer.
- 33. The Letter, because of the aforementioned failures, violates 15 U.S.C. § 1692e. See Balke v. Alliance One Receivables Management, Inc., No. 16-CV-5624(ADS)(AKT), 2017 WL 2634653 (E.D.N.Y. June 19, 2017).

SECOND COUNT Violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692f Unlawful Fee

- 34. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the foregoing paragraphs as if fully restated herein.
- 35. 15 U.S.C. § 1692f provides a debt collector may not use unfair or unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect any debt.
- 36. §1692f(1) limits prohibits the collection of any amount, including any interest, fee, charge, or expense incidental to the debt, unless such amount is expressly authorized by the agreement creating the debt or permitted by law.
  - 37. Defendant's letter sets forth that Defendant charges "Fees Coll. Costs."
- 38. Such "Fees Coll. Costs" are neither expressly authorized by the agreement creating the debt, nor permitted by law
  - 39. Such "Fees Coll. Costs" are prohibited by 15 U.S.C. § 1692f(1).

# THIRD COUNT Violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692e False Representation as to Unlawful Fee

- 40. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the foregoing paragraphs as if fully restated herein.
- 41. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e prohibits a debt collector from using any false, deceptive, or misleading representations or means in connection with the collection of any debt.
- 42. § 1692e(2)(A) prohibits the false representation of the character, amount, or legal status of any debt.
- 43. § 1692e(2)(B) prohibits the false representation of any services rendered or compensation that may be lawfully received by any debt collector for the collection of a debt.
- 44. Defendant violated § 1692e by making a false representation that it is entitled to receive compensation via "Fees Coll. Costs."
- 45. The least sophisticated consumer would likely be deceived into believing that Defendant was legally entitled to collect "Fees Coll. Costs."
- 46. The least sophisticated consumer would likely be deceived in a material way by Defendant's conduct.
- 47. Defendant violated § 1692e by using a false, deceptive and misleading representation in its attempt to collect a debt.

## **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

48. Plaintiff brings this action individually and as a class action on behalf of all

persons similarly situated in the State of New York from whom Defendant attempted to collect a consumer debt using a collection letter materially identical to the Letter herein, from one year before the date of this Complaint to the present.

- 49. This action seeks a finding that Defendant's conduct violates the FDCPA, and asks that the Court award damages as authorized by 15 U.S.C. § 1692k.
  - 50. Defendant regularly engages in debt collection.
- 51. The Class consists of more than 35 persons from whom Defendant attempted to collect delinquent consumer debts using a collection letter materially identical to the Letter herein.
- 52. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Class. Common questions of law or fact raised by this class action complaint affect all members of the Class and predominate over any individual issues. Common relief is therefore sought on behalf of all members of the Class. This class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy.
- 53. The prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the Class would create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to the individual members of the Class, and a risk that any adjudications with respect to individual members of the Class would, as a practical matter, either be dispositive of the interests of other members of the Class not party to the adjudication, or substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their interests. Defendant has acted in a manner applicable to the Class as a whole such that declaratory relief is warranted.
- 54. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect and represent the interests of the Class. The management of the class action proposed is not extraordinarily difficult, and the factual and legal issues raised by this class action complaint will not require extended contact with the members of the Class, because Defendant's conduct was perpetrated on all members of the Class and will be established by common proof. Moreover, Plaintiff has retained counsel experienced in actions brought under consumer protection laws.

#### **JURY DEMAND**

55. Plaintiff hereby demands a trial of this action by jury.

#### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests judgment as follows:

- a. Certify this action as a class action; and
- b. Appoint Plaintiff as Class Representative of the Class, and Plaintiff's attorneys as Class Counsel; and
- c. Find that Defendant's actions violate the FDCPA; and
- d. Grant damages against Defendant pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k; and
- e. Grant Plaintiff's attorneys' fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k; and
- f. Grant Plaintiff's costs; together with
- g. Such other relief that the Court determines is just and proper.

DATED: October 16, 2017

# BARSHAY SANDERS, PLLC

By: \_/s/ Craig B. Sanders \_\_\_\_

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csanders@barshaysanders.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff
Our File No.: 113010

PO BOX 980202e 2:17-cv-06071 Document 1-1 Filed 10/1 ADT SECURITY SERVICES BOSTON, MA 02298-1002 6927 TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$531.78 IF PAYING BY VISA OR MASTERCARD, FILL OUT BELOW Exp. Oale **EOS CCA** իլիդլիիդոլիկնորդիրիդիչիկնններիննորկուկիցնինիկն PO BOX 981025 NIRVANA SINGH BOSTON, MA 02298-1025 72 CHERRY RD ոնկուկորդիկին իրհուկիննույններիկներիկին գիկիլիկիկիլի **ROCKY POINT NY 11778-9368** 

Detach remittance silp and enclose with payment



000041

EOS CCA PO BOX 981002 BOSTON, MA 02298-1002 STATEMENT DATE **ACCOUNT # CLIENT NAME** 

10/17/16 ADT SECURITY SERVICES

**TOTAL AMOUNT DUE** 

\$531.78

### COLLECTION PLACEMENT REMINDER

Your account with ADT SECURITY SERVICES has an outstanding balance of \$531.78.

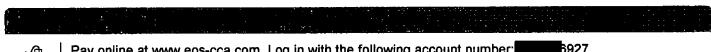
You are receiving this notice because you have not paid the above-referenced debt, nor contacted us to make arrangements to pay the above-referenced debt.

This letter serves as a request for payment of your debt. For your convenience, you may remit payment online, through the mail or by phone.

If you cannot pay your balance in full, please contact us to discuss payment options.

New York City Dept of Consumer Affairs License #0960830. You may contact our office at the toll free number above during the hours noted and speak to David Weydt or any available representative.

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.



Pay online at www.eos-cca.com. Log in with the following account number:



Pay by phone at 1-844-867-4999.



Pay by mail. Include the remittance slip below and send to the address shown on the slip.

Office Hours: Mon-Thur 8:00 AM - 9:00 PM EST, Fri 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM EST, Sat 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM EST



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| EOS CCA ACCOUNT# | CLIENT ACCOUNT# | PRINCIPAL | INTEREST | FEES<br>COLL. COSTS | BALANCE  |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------|----------|---------------------|----------|
| 927              | 8365            | \$370.22  | \$0.00   | \$161.56            | \$531.78 |
| L                |                 |           |          | TOTAL DUE:          | \$531.78 |

For general account inquiries, call 1-844-867-4999 or 1-781-443-7002. For customer service issues, call our Consumer Relations Department at 1-877-395-5997.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

for the

| EASTERN DISTRICT  | OF <u>NEW YORK</u>   |
|---|--|
| Nirvana Singh, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated  Plaintiff(s)  V.  | ) ) ) ) Civil Action No. )   |
| EOS CCA, Inc.  Defendant(s)   | )  |
| SUMMONS IN A CI   | VIL ACTION   |
| To: (Defendant's name and address)  EOS CCA, Inc. 700 Longwater Drive Norwell, Massachusetts 02061  A lawsuit has been filed against you.  Within 21 days after service of this summons on 60 days if you are the United States, or a United States a States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) – you attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Fedmotion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attor | ngency, or an officer or employee of the United<br>must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the<br>deral Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or<br>mey, whose name and address are: |
| BARSHAY SAND<br>100 GARDEN CITY PL<br>GARDEN CITY,  | AZA, SUITE 500   |
| If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion   | <u> </u>   |

CLERK OF COURT

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

JS 44 (Rev. 07/16)

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.<br>purpose of initiating the civil do   | . This form, approved by the ocket sheet. (SEE INSTRUC          | ctions on Next Page   | OF THI  | S FORM.)   | er 19.         | /4, is requii   | ed for the use of   | the Clerk of Co  | ourt for th  | ne  |
|---|---|---|---|--|----------------|---|---|--|--|---|
| I. (a) PLAINTIFFS   |   |   |   | DEFENDANTS   |                |   |   |  |  |   |
| NIRVANA SINGH   |   |   |   | EOS CCA, INC.  |                |   |   |  |  |   |
| (b) County of Residence of I  | First Listed Plaintiff  | SUFFOLK   |   | County of Resider  | nce o          | f First Liste   | ed Defendant  | PLYMOUTH   |  |   |
| (EX   | XCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF C                                       | ASES)   |   | (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)   |                |   |   |  |  |   |
|   |   |   |   | NOTE: IN LAND C<br>THE TRA   | ACT (          | DEMNATION<br>OF LAND IN   | VOLVED.   | E LOCATION O   | F  |   |
| (c) Attorneys (Firm Name, A   | ddress, and Telephone Numbe                                     | 2r)   |   | Attorneys (If Knov   | vn)            |   |   |  |  |   |
|   | DERS, PLLC<br>laza, Ste 500, Garden C                           | ity, NY 11530   |   |  |                |   |   |  |  |   |
| (516) 203-7600  | CTION   |   | п ст  | TIZENCIIID OE  | DD             | INCIDA  | I DADTIEC   |  |  |   |
| II. BASIS OF JURISDI  | CTION (Place an "X" in  | One Box Only)   |   | TIZENSHIP OF<br>Diversity Cases Only)  | PK             | INCIPA  | L PARTIES   |  | One Box f<br>Box for Defei   |   |
| O 1 U.S. Government<br>Plaintiff  | • 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government                           | Not a Party)  | Citize  | en of This State   | <b>PTF</b> 0 1 |   | Incorporated or Proof Business In   |  | <b>PIF</b> O 4   | <b>DEF</b> 0 4  |
| O 2 U.S. Government<br>Defendant  | O 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizensh                               | ip of Parties in Item III)  | Citize  | Citizen of Another State O 2 O 2 Incorporated <i>and</i> Princip of Business In Anothe   |                | -   | O 5   | 0 5  |  |   |
|   |   |   |   | en or Subject of a preign Country  | O 3            | O 3   | Foreign Nation  |  | 0 6  | 0 6   |
| IV. NATURE OF SUIT  |   | ly)<br>ORTS   | FC  | ORFEITURE/PENALT   | Y_I            | BAN   | KRUPTCY   | OTHER  | STATU  | TES   |
| O 110 Insurance O 120 Marine O 130 Miller Act O 140 Negotiable Instrument O 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment O 151 Medicare Act O 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) O 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits O 160 Stockholders' Suits O 190 Other Contract O 195 Contract Product Liability O 196 Franchise  REAL PROPERTY O 210 Land Condemnation O 220 Foreclosure O 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment O 240 Torts to Land O 245 Tort Product Liability O 290 All Other Real Property | PERSONAL INJURY O 310 Airplane O 315 Airplane Product Liability | PERSONAL INJURY O 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability O 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability O 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERT O 370 Other Fraud O 371 Truth in Lending O 380 Other Personal Property Damage O 385 Property Damage O 385 Property Damage Product Liability PRISONER PETITIONS Habeas Corpus: O 463 Alien Detainee O 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence O 530 General O 535 Death Penalty Other: O 540 Mandamus & Other O 550 Civil Rights O 560 Civil Detainee Conditions of Confinement | O 625 O 690 O 710 O 720 O 740 O 791 O 462 O 462 | LABOR  Fair Labor Standards Act Labor/Management Relations Railway Labor Act Family and Medical Leave Act Other Labor Litigation Employee Retirement Income Security Act  IMMIGRATION Naturalization Applicat 465 Other Immigration ctions | of             | O 422 Appea O 423 Withd 28 US  PROPEI O 820 Copyr O 830 Paten O 840 Trade  SOCIAI O 861 HIA ( O 862 Black O 863 DIWC O 864 SSID O 865 RSI (  FEDER O 871 IRS— | al 28 USC 158 rawal C 157  RTY RIGHTS rights t mark  SECURITY 1395ff) Lung (923) CDIWW (405(g)) Title XVI 105(g))  AL TAX SUITS (U.S. Plaintiff efendant) | O 375 False 0 O 400 State I O 410 Antitr O 430 Banks O 450 Comm O 460 Depor O 470 Racket Corru ● 480 Consu: O 490 Cable/ O 850 Securit Excha O 890 Other : O 891 Agrict O 893 Enviro O 895 Freedo Act O 896 Arbitr O 899 Admin Act/R Agene O 950 Constit | Claims Acteapportic stand Bankierce ation eer Influer to Organizmer Credi Sat TV ies/Comming Statutory Altural Acteumental Mm of Information isstrative Peview or Act Decision of Peview or Act Decision of Peview or Act Decision of Information isstrative Peview or Act Decision of Information isstrative Peview or Act Decision of Information of Informatical Information of Information of Informatical Information of Informatical Information Informatical Inf | et onment ing meed and rations t modities/ Actions is Matters rmation rocedure Appeal of in |
| V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in  1 Original O 2 Remo Proceeding Cou  | oved from State O 3 Ren<br>Cor                                  | art   | 4 Reinsta<br>Reop                               | ened Anoth<br>(speci   | ner Di         | strict  | O 6 Multidistrict<br>Litigation –<br>Transfer   | I<br>I   | Iultidistric<br>itigation -<br>Direct File   | -   |
| VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO  |   | atute under which you are use: 15 USC §1692 Fa  |   | Oo not cite jurisdictional Collection Practices  |                |   | iversity): 15 USC   | §1692  |  |   |
| VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:  | • CHECK IF THIS I<br>UNDER RULE 2                               | S A <b>CLASS ACTION</b><br>3, F.R.Cv.P.   | DI  | EMAND \$   |                | JU  | CHECK YES on RY DEMAND:   | -  | n compla   |   |
| VIII. RELATED CASE<br>IF ANY  | C(S)  | (See Instructions) JUDGE  |   |  |                | DOCI  | KET NUMBER_   |  |  |   |
| DATE October 17, 2017   |   | SIGNATURE OF ATTO   |   | of RECORD<br>Craig B. Sanders  | s e            |   |   |  |  |   |
| FOR OFFICE USE ONLY   |   |   | / S C   | Juig D. Dander   |                |   |   |  |  |   |
|   | IOUNT   | APPLYING IFP  |   | JUDGI  | Е              |   | MAG. JU   | DGE  |  |   |

## Case 2:17-cv-06071 Document 1-3 Filed 10/17/17 Page 2 of 2 PageID #: 11 CERTIFICATION OF ARBITRATION ELIGIBILITY

Local Arbitration Rule 83.10 provides that with certain exceptions, actions seeking money damages only in an amount not in excess of \$150,000, exclusive of interest and costs, are eligible for compulsory arbitration. The amount of damages is presumed to be below the threshold amount unless a certification to the contrary is filed.

| I, <u>Craig B. Sanders</u> , counsel for <u>Plaintiff</u> , do hereby certify that the above captioned civil action is ineligible for compulsory arbitration for the following reason(s):  |
|--|
| ☐ monetary damages sought are in excess of \$150,000, exclusive of interest and costs,   |
| ☐ the complaint seeks injunctive relief,   |
| ☐ the matter is otherwise ineligible for the following reason  |
| DISCLOSURE STATEMENT - FEDERAL RULES CIVIL PROCEDURE 7.1   |
| Identify any parent corporation and any publicly held corporation that owns 10% or more or its stocks:   |
|  |
| RELATED CASE STATEMENT (Section VIII on the Front of this Form)  |
| Please list all cases that are arguably related pursuant to Division of Business Rule 50.3.1 in Section VIII on the front of this form. Rule 50.3.1 (a) provides that "A civil case is "related" to another civil case for purposes of this guideline when, because of the similarity of facts and legal issues or because the cases arise from the same transactions or events, a substantial saving of judicial resources is likely to result from assigning both cases to the same judge and magistrate judge." Rule 50.3.1 (b) provides that "A civil case shall not be deemed "related" to another civil case merely because the civil case: (A) involves identical legal issues, or (B) involves the same parties." Rule 50.3.1 (c) further provides that "Presumptively, and subject to the power of a judge to determine otherwise pursuant to paragraph (d), civil cases shall not be deemed to be "related" unless both cases are still pending before the court." |
| NY-E DIVISION OF BUSINESS RULE 50.1(d)(2)  |
| <ol> <li>Is the civil action being filed in the Eastern District removed from a New York State Court located in Nassau or Suffolk<br/>County: NO</li> </ol>  |
| <ol> <li>If you answered "no" above:</li> <li>a) Did the events or omissions giving rise to the claim or claims, or a substantial part thereof, occur in Nassau or Suffolk County? <a href="YES">YES</a></li> </ol>  |
| b) Did the events or omissions giving rise to the claim or claims, or a substantial part thereof, occur in the Eastern District? YES   |
| If your answer to question 2 (b) is "No," does the defendant (or a majority of the defendants, if there is more than one) reside in Nassau or Suffolk County, or, in an interpleader action, does the claimant (or a majority of the claimants, if there is more than one) reside in Nassau or Suffolk County?   |
| (Note: A corporation shall be considered a resident of the County in which it has the most significant contacts).  |
| BAR ADMISSION  |
| I am currently admitted in the Eastern District of New York and currently a member in good standing of the bar of this court.  Yes  No   |
| Are you currently the subject of any disciplinary action (s) in this or any other state or federal court?  ☐ Yes (If yes, please explain) ■ No   |
| I certify the accuracy of all information provided above.  |

Signature: <u>/s Craig B. Sanders</u>

# **ClassAction.org**

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>EOS CCA Accused of Sending Confusing Debt Collection Letter</u>