Case 1:18-cv-02589 Document 1 Filed 05/01/18 Page 1 of 11 PageID #: 1

## BARSHAY SANDERS, PLLC

100 Garden City Plaza, Suite 500 Garden City, New York 11530 Tel: (516) 203-7600 Fax: (516) 706-5055 Email: ConsumerRights@BarshaySanders.com Attorneys for Plaintiff Our File No.: 114816

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Maureen Stephens, individually and on behalf of all those similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

Docket No:

## CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

DeVille Assset Management, Ltd,

Defendant.

Maureen Stephens, individually and on behalf of all those similarly situated (hereinafter referred to as "*Plaintiff*"), by and through the undersigned counsel, complains, states and alleges against DeVille Assset Management, Ltd (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.

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#### **PARTIES**

5. Plaintiff Maureen Stephens is an individual who is a citizen of the State of New York residing in Queens County, New York.

6. Plaintiff is a "consumer" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).

7. On information and belief, Defendant DeVille Assset Management, Ltd, is a Texas Limited Partnership with a principal place of business in Tarrant County, Texas.

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 5, 2017. ("<u>Exhibit 1</u>.")

15. The Letter is a "communication" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(2).

## FIRST COUNT Violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692g Validation of Debts

16. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the foregoing paragraphs as if fully restated herein.

17. 15 U.S.C. § 1692g provides that within five days after the initial communication with a consumer in connection with the collection of any debt, a debt collector shall, unless the information is contained in the initial communication or the consumer has paid the debt, send the consumer a written notice containing certain enumerated information.

18. One such requirement is that the debt collector provides "the name of the creditor

to whom the debt is owed." 15 U.S.C. 1692g(a)(2).

19. A debt collector has the obligation not just to convey the name of the creditor to whom the debt is owed, but also to convey such clearly.

20. A debt collector has the obligation not just to convey the name of the creditor to whom the debt is owed, but also to state such explicitly.

21. Merely naming the creditor without specifically identifying the entity as the current creditor to whom the debt is owed is not sufficient to comply with 15 U.S.C. 1692g(a)(2).

22. Even if a debt collector conveys the required information, the debt collector nonetheless violates the FDCPA if it conveys that information in a confusing or contradictory fashion so as to cloud the required message with uncertainty.

23. When determining whether the name of the creditor to whom the debt is owed has been conveyed clearly, an objective standard, measured by how the "least sophisticated consumer" would interpret the notice, is applied.

24. Although the Letter identifies an "Original Creditor" of "Santander CO-766," it fails to identify fails to identify by name and label any entity as "current creditor," "account owner," or "creditor to whom the debt is owed."

25. The Letter fails to indicate who Defendant represents.

26. The Letter fails to indicate who is Defendant's client.

27. The Letter fails to indicate to whom Plaintiff should make her payment.

28. The Letter states that payment should be sent to Defendant.

29. The least sophisticated consumer, reading the letter in its entirety, and especially because of the Letter's instructions to make payment to Defendant, would not know whether the "ORIGINAL CREDITOR" is also the creditor to whom the debt is owed, whether Defendant is the creditor to whom the debt is owed, or whether the creditor to whom the debt is owed is some unnamed entity.

30. Defendant failed to clearly state the name of the creditor to whom the debt is owed.

31. The least sophisticated consumer would likely be confused as to the name of the creditor to whom the debt is owed.

32. The least sophisticated consumer would likely be uncertain as to the name of the

creditor to whom the debt is owed.

33. Defendant violated § 1692g as it failed to clearly and explicitly convey the name of the creditor to whom the debt is owed.

## SECOND COUNT Violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692g Validation of Debts

34. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the foregoing paragraphs as if fully restated herein.

35. 15 U.S.C. § 1692g provides that within five days after the initial communication with a consumer in connection with the collection of any debt, a debt collector shall, unless the information is contained in the initial communication or the consumer has paid the debt, send the consumer a written notice containing certain enumerated information.

36. One such requirement is that the debt collector provide "the name of the creditor to whom the debt is owed." 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(2).

37. A debt collector has the obligation not just to convey the name of the creditor to whom the debt is owed, but also to convey such clearly.

38. A debt collector has the obligation not just to convey the name of the creditor to whom the debt is owed, but also to state such explicitly.

39. Merely naming the creditor without specifically identifying the entity as the current creditor to whom the debt is owed is not sufficient to comply with 15 U.S.C. 1692g(a)(2).

40. Even if a debt collector conveys the required information, the debt collector nonetheless violates the FDCPA if it conveys that information in a confusing or contradictory fashion so as to cloud the required message with uncertainty.

41. When determining whether the name of the creditor to whom the debt is owed has been conveyed clearly, an objective standard, measured by how the "least sophisticated consumer" would interpret the notice, is applied.

42. The Letter indicates a creditor of "Santander CO-766."

43. Upon information and belief there is no legal entity named "Santander CO-766."

44. Defendant failed to explicitly state the name of the creditor to whom the debt is owed.

45. Defendant failed to clearly state the name of the creditor to whom the debt is

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owed.

46. The least sophisticated consumer would likely be confused as to the name of the creditor to whom the debt is owed.

47. The least sophisticated consumer would likely be uncertain as to the name of the creditor to whom the debt is owed.

48. Defendant violated § 1692g as it failed to clearly and explicitly convey the name of the creditor to whom the debt is owed.

## <u>THIRD COUNT</u> Violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692e False or Misleading Representations as to the Name of the <u>Creditor to Whom the Debt is Owed</u>

49. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the foregoing paragraphs as if fully restated herein.

50. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e prohibits a debt collector from using any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt.

51. While § 1692e specifically prohibits certain practices, the list is non-exhaustive, and does not preclude a claim of falsity or deception based on any non-enumerated practice.

52. The question of whether a collection letter is deceptive is determined from the perspective of the "least sophisticated consumer."

53. A collection letter is deceptive under 15 U.S.C. § 1692e if it can reasonably be read by the least sophisticated consumer to have two or more meanings, one of which is inaccurate.

54. A collection letter is also deceptive under 15 U.S.C. § 1692e if it is reasonably susceptible to an inaccurate reading by the least sophisticated consumer.

55. For purposes of 15 U.S.C. § 1692e, the failure to clearly and accurately identify the creditor to whom the debt is owed is unfair and deceptive to the least sophisticated consumer.

56. The identity of creditor to whom the debt is owed is a material piece of information to a consumer.

57. Knowing the identity of creditor to whom the debt is owed affects how a consumer responds to a debt collector's attempts to collect the debt.

58. Because the Letter can reasonably be read by the least sophisticated consumer to have two or more meanings, one of which is inaccurate, as described, it is deceptive within the

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meaning of 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.

59. Because the Letter is reasonably susceptible to an inaccurate reading by the least sophisticated consumer, as described, it is deceptive within the meaning of 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.

60. The least sophisticated consumer would likely be deceived by the Letter.

61. The least sophisticated consumer would likely be deceived in a material way by the Letter.

62. Defendant violated § 1692e by using a false, deceptive and misleading representation in its attempt to collect a debt.

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

63. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the foregoing paragraphs as if fully restated herein.

64. The Debt was incurred on an interest bearing account.

65. The Letter sets forth a "Current Balance."

66. The Letter fails to disclose whether the "Current Balance" may increase due to additional interest.

67. The Letter fails to disclose whether the "Current Balance" may increase due to additional late fees.

68. The Letter fails to indicate the minimum amount Plaintiff owed at the time of the Letter.

69. The Letter fails to provide information that would allow the least sophisticated consumer to determine the minimum amount he or she owes at the time of the Letter.

70. 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.

71. 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.

72. The Letter fails to provide information that would allow the least sophisticated consumer to determine the amount of interest owed.

73. For instance, the Letter fails to indicate the applicable interest rate.

74. For instance, the Letter fails to indicate the date of accrual of interest.

BARSHAY | SANDERS PLLC 100 GARDEN CITY PLAZA, SUITE 500 GARDEN CITY, NEW YORK 11530 75. For instance, the Letter fails to indicate the amount of interest during any measurable period.

76. The Letter fails to provide information that would allow the least sophisticated consumer to determine the amount of late fees owed.

77. For instance, the Letter fails to indicate the amount of late fees.

78. For instance, the Letter fails to indicate the date such fees will be added.

79. For instance, the Letter fails to indicate the amount of late fees during any measurable period.

80. The Letter fails to contain an explanation, understandable by the least sophisticated consumer, of any fees and interest that may cause the amount stated to increase.

81. The Letter fails to state whether interest, late fees and/or other fees are accruing.

82. The Letter fails to state what part of the amount stated is attributable to principal.

83. The Letter fails to state what part of the amount stated is attributable to interest.

84. The Letter fails to state what part of the amount stated is attributable to late fees.

85. The Letter fails to state what part of the amount stated is attributable to other fees.

86. 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.

87. 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.

88. The Letter, because of the aforementioned failures, would render the least sophisticated consumer unable to determine the amount of his or her debt.

89. 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 interest and fees would continue to accrue, or whether the amount of the debt was static.

90. A collection letter violates 15 U.S.C. § 1692e if it can reasonably be read by the least sophisticated consumer to have two or more meanings, one of which is inaccurate.

91. The Letter, because of the aforementioned failures, and because interest and late fees were always charged on the account and Plaintiff was never informed by anyone that interest and late fees would no longer be applied, and especially because of the use of the word "Current,"

can reasonably be read by the least sophisticated consumer to mean that interest was still accruing.

92. The Letter, because of the aforementioned failures, and because interest and late fees were always charged on the account and Plaintiff was never informed by anyone that interest and late fees would no longer be applied, and especially because of the use of the word "Current," can reasonably be read by the least sophisticated consumer to mean that late fees were still accruing.

93. The Letter could also reasonably be read by the least sophisticated consumer to mean that interest was no longer accruing.

94. The Letter could also reasonably be read by the least sophisticated consumer to mean that late fees were no longer accruing.

95. The Letter could reasonably be read by the least sophisticated consumer to mean that the debt could be satisfied in full by payment of the amount stated.

96. The Letter could reasonably be read by the least sophisticated consumer to mean that the debt could be satisfied in full by payment of the amount stated at any time after receipt of the Letter.

97. The Letter could also reasonably be read by the least sophisticated consumer to mean that the amount stated was accurate only on the date of the Letter because of the continued accumulation of interest and/or late fees.

98. Because the Letter can reasonably be read by the least sophisticated consumer to have two or more meanings, one of which is inaccurate, as described, it is deceptive under 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.

99. For these reasons, Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.

## FIFTH COUNT Violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692f <u>Unlawful Fee</u>

100. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the foregoing paragraphs as if fully restated herein.

101. 15 U.S.C. § 1692f provides a debt collector may not use unfair or unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect any debt.

102. 15 U.S.C. § 1692f(1) prohibits the collection of any amount, including any

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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.

103. The Letter direct Plaintiff to Defendant's website to make payments.

104. Defendant's payment portal sets forth that Defendant charges a processing fee for making such payments.

105. Such processing fee is neither expressly authorized by the agreement creating the debt, nor permitted by law.

106. Such processing fee is prohibited by 15 U.S.C. § 1692f(1).

107. Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692f by charging a processing fee.

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

108. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the foregoing paragraphs as if fully restated herein.

109. 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.

110. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(2)(A) prohibits the false representation of the character, amount, or legal status of any debt.

111. 15 U.S.C. § 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.

112. Defendant violated § 1692e by making a false representation that it is entitled to receive compensation for payment via a processing fee.

113. The least sophisticated consumer would likely be deceived by the processing fee language into believing that Defendant was legally entitled to collect the fee.

114. The least sophisticated consumer would likely be deceived in a material way by Defendant's conduct.

115. Defendant violated § 1692e by using a false, deceptive and misleading representation in its attempt to collect a debt.

## **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

116. 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 substantially similar to the Letter herein, from one year before the date of this Complaint to the present.

117. 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.

118. Defendant regularly engages in debt collection.

119. The Class consists of more than 35 persons from whom Defendant attempted to collect delinquent consumer debts using a collection letter substantially similar to the Letter herein.

120. 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.

121. 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.

122. 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

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

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#### 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: April 30, 2018

#### **BARSHAY SANDERS, PLLC**

By: <u>/s/ Craig B. Sanders</u> Craig B. Sanders, Esq. 100 Garden City Plaza, Suite 500 Garden City, New York 11530 Tel: (516) 203-7600 Fax: (516) 706-5055 csanders@barshaysanders.com *Attorneys for Plaintiff* Our File No.: 114816 ASSET MANAGEMENT LTD 

October 5, 2017

MAUREEN STEPHENS PO Box 341182 Jamaica NY 11434-7182

Reference #: Original Creditor: Original Account #: Current Balance: 4661 Santander CO-766 30000187224011000 \$17,377.16

#### Dear MAUREEN STEPHENS,

This is a reminder that you have a scheduled Debit or Credit Card Payment set to run in the amount of \$350.00 on 10/15/2017.

The Current Account Balance of your account: \$17,377.16

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

Please note that all payments are processed through DeVille Asset Management, LTD.

Sincerely,

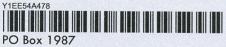
DeVille Asset Management, LTD (817) 251-7000 service@devilleltd.com

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

\*\*Payments can be made online @ www.paydeville.com\*\*\*

453-CTPCII10-19-07/13/17

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



Colleyville TX 76034-1987 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Reference #:

4661 Balance: \$17,377.16 Pay online at www.paydeville.com www.devilleltd.com

1.80

19 - 453 MAUREEN STEPHENS PO Box 341182 Jamaica NY 11434-7182

## JS 44 (Rev. 11/27/17) Case 1:18-cv-02589 Dequirent 10 VERS 15/01/18 Page 1 of 2 PageID #: 13

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.)* 

pulpose of initiating the ervir at	exer sheet: (SEE hisThe e	inelie en nem mee	01 111	is i oluil.)							
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS		DEFENDANTS									
MAUREEN STEPHENS				DEVILLE ASSSET MANAGEMENT, LTD							
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff QUEENS (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant <u>TARRANT</u> (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.							
(C) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)				Attorneys (If Known)							
BARSHAY SANDERS, PLLC 100 Garden City Plaza, Ste 500, Garden City, NY 11530											
(516) 203-7600 II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an "X" in (	One Box Only)	III. CI	I TIZENSHIP O	F PR	INCIPA	L PARTIES (	Place an "X" in	One Box fo	r Plaintiff	
O 1     U.S. Government       Plaintiff     • 3       Federal Question       (U.S. Government Not a Party)		Not a Party)		Diversity Cases Only) en of This State	PTI O 1		Incorporated or Pri of Business In T	ncipal Place	Box for Defend PIF O 4	dant) DEF O 4	
O 2 U.S. Government Defendant	O 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenshi	0 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)		Citizen of Another State O				rincipal Place	0 5	O 5	
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IV. NATURE OF SUIT		ly) DRTS	FO	DRFEITURE/PENAL	TY	BAN	KRUPTCY	OTHER	R STATUT	ES	
<ul> <li>0 110 Insurance</li> <li>0 120 Marine</li> <li>0 130 Miller Act</li> <li>0 140 Negotiable Instrument</li> <li>0 150 Recovery of Overpayment &amp; Enforcement of Judgment</li> <li>0 151 Medicare Act</li> <li>0 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans)</li> <li>0 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits</li> <li>0 160 Stockholders' Suits</li> <li>0 190 Other Contract</li> <li>0 195 Contract Product Liability</li> <li>0 196 Franchise</li> </ul> <b>REAL PROPERTY</b> <ul> <li>0 210 Land Condemnation</li> <li>0 220 Foreclosure</li> <li>0 230 Rent Lease &amp; Ejectment</li> <li>0 240 Torts to Land</li> <li>0 245 Tort Product Liability</li> <li>0 290 All Other Real Property</li> </ul>	PERSONAL INJURY O 310 Airplane O 315 Airplane Product Liability O 320 Assault, Libel & Slander O 330 Federal Employers' Liability O 340 Marine O 345 Marine Product Liability O 350 Motor Vehicle O 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability O 360 Other Personal Injury O 360 Other Personal Injury O 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice CIVIL RIGHTS O 440 Other Civil Rights O 441 Voting O 442 Employment O 443 Housing/ Accommodations O 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment O 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other O 4446 Amer. w/Disabilities -	<ul> <li>PERSONAL INJUR</li> <li>O 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability</li> <li>O 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury</li> <li>Product Liability</li> <li>O 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability</li> <li>O 368 Asbestos Personal</li> <li>Injury Product Liability</li> <li>PERSONAL PROPERT</li> <li>O 370 Other Fraud</li> <li>O 371 Truth in Lending</li> <li>O 380 Other Personal Property Damage</li> <li>O 385 Property Damage Product Liability</li> <li>PRISONER PETITIONS</li> <li>Habeas Corpus:</li> <li>O 463 Alien Detaince</li> <li>O 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence</li> <li>O 530 General</li> <li>O 535 Death Penalty Other:</li> <li>O 540 Mandamus &amp; Other</li> <li>O 550 Civil Rights</li> <li>O 555 Prison Condition</li> </ul>	0 690 <b>FY</b> 0 710 0 720 0 740 0 791 0 791 0 791 0 462 0	5 Drug Related Seizure Property 21 USC 881 ) Other D Fair Labor Standards Act ) Labor/Management Relations ) Railway Labor Act   Family and Medical Leave Act ) Other Labor Litigation   Employee Retirement Income Security Act IMMIGRATION P Naturalization Applic 465 Other Immigration ctions	n	<ul> <li>O 423 Withd 28 US</li> <li>PROPE</li> <li>O 820 Copyi</li> <li>O 830 Paten</li> <li>O 840 Trade</li> <li>SOCIAI</li> <li>O 861 HIA (</li> <li>O 862 Black</li> <li>O 863 DIWC</li> <li>O 863 DIWC</li> <li>O 864 SSID</li> <li>O 865 RSI (</li> <li>FEDER</li> <li>O 870 Taxes or Do</li> <li>O 871 IRS—</li> </ul>	C 157 RTY RIGHTS rights t mark SECURITY 1395ff) Lung (923) C/DIWW (405(g)) Title XVI 405(g)) AL TAX SUITS (U.S. Plaintiff efendant)	<ul> <li>0 375 False Claims Act</li> <li>0 400 State Reapportionment</li> <li>0 410 Antitrust</li> <li>0 430 Banks and Banking</li> <li>0 450 Commerce</li> <li>0 460 Deportation</li> <li>0 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations</li> <li>480 Consumer Credit</li> <li>0 490 Cable/Sat TV</li> <li>0 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange</li> <li>0 890 Other Statutory Actions</li> <li>0 891 Agricultural Acts</li> <li>0 895 Freedom of Information Act</li> <li>0 896 Arbitration</li> <li>0 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision</li> <li>0 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes</li> </ul>		nment ng ced and ations odities/ cetions atters mation ocedure ppeal of	
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VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO		atute under which you are use: 15 USC \$1692 F		Do not cite jurisdiction			iversity): 15 USC	\$1692			
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:       • CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.			CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:         JURY DEMAND:       • Yes ○ No								
VIII. RELATED CASE IF ANY	k(S)	(See Instructions) JUDGE		DOCKET NUMBER							
DATE May 1, 2018		SIGNATURE OF ATTO		of record Sanders							
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		75 010	415 D.	Sunders							
RECEIPT #AN	IOUNT	APPLYING IFP		JUDO	GΕ		MAG. JUI	DGE			

#### Case 1:18-cv-02589 Document 1-2 Filed 05/01/18 Page 2 of 2 PageID #: 14 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,
  - $\Box$  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)

- 1. Is the civil action being filed in the Eastern District removed from a New York State Court located in Nassau or Suffolk County: NO
- 2. If you answered "no" above:

a) Did the events or omissions giving rise to the claim or claims, or a substantial part thereof, occur in Nassau or Suffolk County? <u>NO</u>

b) Did the events or omissions giving rise to the claim or claims, or a substantial part thereof, occur in the Eastern District? <u>YES</u>

c) If this is a Fair Debt Collection Practice Act case, specific the County in which the offending communication was received: QUEENS

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?  $\underline{\qquad}$  Yes  $\underline{\qquad}$  No

(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>	Sanders
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AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action

## **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

for the

## EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Maureen Stephens, individually and on behalf of all those similarly situated	) ) _	
<i>Plaintiff(s)</i>	)	
	)	Civil Action No.
V.	)	
	)	
DeVille Assset Management, Ltd	)	
Defendant(s)	)	

## SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address) DeVille Assset Management, Ltd

2801 PARAMOUNT BLVD AMARILLO, TX 79109-3347

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:

BARSHAY SANDERS PLLC 100 GARDEN CITY PLAZA, SUITE 500 GARDEN CITY, NY 11530

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

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

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

# **ClassAction.org**

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>DeVille Asset Management Hit with Multi-Count FDCPA Suit in New York</u>