IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO EASTERN DIVISION

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|--------------------------------|
|) CASE NO.: |
|) |
|) JUDGE: |
|) |
|) <u>CLASS ACTION</u> |
| COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY |
| RELIEF, INJUNCTIVE RELIEF, AND |
| MONEY DAMAGES |
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Plaintiff Nyoka Summerall, by and through counsel, and on behalf of herself and all other individuals similarly situated, hereby submits her Class Action Complaint to this Court against Defendant Head Mercantile Co., Inc. ("HMC"), and avers and alleges as follows:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 1. At all times relevant, Plaintiff Nyoka Summerall resided and resides in Cleveland, Ohio.
- 2. Defendant HMC was and is a corporation registered under the laws of the State of Ohio with principal place of business in Westlake, Ohio.
- 3. "The HMC Group" was and is a registered trade name of HMC under the laws of the State of Ohio.
- 4. "SOS Group" was and is a registered trade name of HMC under the laws of the State of Ohio.

- 5. HMC is engaged in the regular and frequent business of collecting consumer debts, including the specific debt at issue in this case, which involved alleged debt of Nyoka Summerall arising from the purchase of a personal vehicle from an automobile dealership.
- 6. Nyoka Summerall is a consumer and incurred a debt on her own behalf arising from her purchase of an automobile from an automobile dealership.
- 7. Jurisdiction of this Court is invoked pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331.
- 8. This Court has jurisdiction under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act ("FDCPA"), 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d), and pursuant to supplemental jurisdiction, 28 U.S.C. § 1367. Because the parties are all located within the Northern District of Ohio, this Court has personal jurisdiction over them, and venue is also proper.

FACTS COMMON TO ALL COUNTS

- 9. Defendant HMC is a debt collection company whose purpose, according to its Articles of Incorporation, is "[b]illing and collections."
- 10. HMC attempted to collect consumer debts from Plaintiff related to a vehicle purchased by Plaintiff from an Ohio used vehicle dealership.
- 11. On or around January 20, 2016, HMC, through its agent and employee Mary Jordan, sent a facsimile communication to Plaintiff's employer, a third party, regarding Plaintiff's consumer debt. A true and accurate copy of this communication is attached hereto as Exhibit 1. The social security number has been redacted.
- 12. That facsimile was actually received by the employer of Plaintiff.
- 13. HMC did not obtain Plaintiff's consent to communicate her debt or about her debt with her employer prior to sending the January 20, 2016 communication.

- 14. The January 20, 2016 facsimile message requested verification of the fact of Plaintiff's employment, as well as her status as either a full-time or part-time employee.
- 15. The communication of the January 20, 2016 facsimile message, sent to Plaintiff's employer and received by Plaintiff's employer, contained the following language: "This is an attempt by a debt collector to collect a debt; any information obtain [sic] will be used for that purpose."
- 16. HMC disclosed to Plaintiff's employer the existence of Plaintiff's alleged debt. This was later communicated to Plaintiff through her employer, as well.
- 17. This communication caused Plaintiff significant and severe stress, harassment, humiliation, and embarrassment at work. HMC denied in communications with Plaintiff's attorney that it had communicated the fact that a debt existed to Plaintiff's employer, and refused to take any action to correct his communication and its impact.
- 18. One of the primary purposes, and specific conduct, that the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act was enacted to address and prevent was exactly the type of communication sent by HMC and the type of harm suffered by Plaintiff—the FDCPA specific prohibits collectors from disclosing the existence of a debt to third parties, and has specific regulations applicable to contact with employers to prevent humiliation, embarrassment, harassment, and stress caused to debtors like Plaintiff. *See* 15 U.S.C. § 1692b(2)-(5); 15 U.S.C. § 1692c(b).
- 19. The purpose of the FDCPA was to protect consumers like Plaintiff from abusive debt collection practices, specifically to do so in order to protect the employment/job of consumer debtors, as well as to protect invasions of privacy and to prevent a competitive disadvantage to collectors who comply with the law and are not abusive in their collection practices, i.e. to prevent a race to the bottom in debt collection activities. *See* 15 U.S.C. 1692(a)-(e).

COUNT I – VIOLATION OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

- 20. Plaintiff reincorporates and re-alleges all the foregoing allegations as if fully rewritten herein.
- 21. The Plaintiff is a "consumer" within the meaning of 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692a(3) and 1692c(d) as she purchased a vehicle for family or personal use, which is the subject matter of the collection attempt in this case.
- 22. HMC is a "debt collector" within the meaning of 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6) as it is in the business of regularly collecting consumer debts from individuals owed or due or asserted to be owed or due another (here, debt allegedly owed to Ray Poyar Auto Sales, Inc.).
- 23. HMC, when it sent its January 20, 2016 facsimile communication to Plaintiff's employer, violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692c(b), as well as 15 U.S.C. § 1692b(2)-(5), by communicating, in connection with the collection of a debt and without Plaintiff's prior consent, with a person other than Plaintiff, her attorney, a consumer reporting agency, the creditor, the attorney of the creditor, or the attorney of the debt collector. Specifically, the facsimile, which stated it was a debt collection attempt, was communicated by HMC to, and received by, supervisors and/or co-workers of Plaintiff, was directed to them, and not Plaintiff herself.
- 24. Through sending the facsimile, HMC violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692d by engaging in conduct, the natural consequence of which is to harass, abuse, or oppress a person in connection with the collection of a debt.
- 25. All of this conduct engaged in by HMC was in its capacity as debt collector collecting debts on behalf of Ray Poyar Auto Sales, Inc.
- 26. HMC's actions in violation of the FDCPA were committed knowingly—HMC knew what letters it used and employed, including the fax cover sheet which appears to be a standard form used by HMC.

- 27. Given the knowledge of HMC and the fact that the facsimile message contained handwritten language, HMC's conduct was not the consequence of any bona fide error.
- 28. Upon information and belief, HMC regularly and routinely uses its facsimile cover sheet with debt collection communication language when corresponding with third-parties concerning the debt of its consumer debtors. This is a regular pattern and practice of HMC.
- 29. As a direct and proximate result of HMC's conduct, Plaintiff suffered damages including harm to her reputation at work, stress, harassment, emotional and mental anguish, embarrassment, loss of privacy as to her debts or alleged debts, and other harm.

COUNT II – VIOLATIONS OF THE OHIO CONSUMER SALES PRACTICES ACT

- 30. Plaintiff reincorporates and re-alleges all the foregoing allegations as if fully rewritten herein.
- 31. HMC is a "supplier" within the meaning of Ohio Rev. Code §§ 1345.01(C) because it was engaged in the business of effecting a consumer transaction, i.e. attempting to obtain payment for goods provided by Ray Poyar Auto Sales, Inc. to Plaintiff and/or others for personal and family use.
- 32. Plaintiff is a "consumer" within the meaning of Ohio Rev. Code § 1345.01(D) as she engaged in the transaction for consumer goods and was involved in the collection efforts of HMC.
- 33. HMC's act of attempting to enforce the payment of consumer vehicle debts allegedly owed by Plaintiff was a consumer transaction within the meaning of Ohio Rev. Code § 1345.01(A), as the underlying transaction involved goods used for individual or family purposes.
- 34. HMC engaged in deceptive, unfair, and unconscionable acts under Ohio Rev. Code § 1345.01 *et seq.* by engaging in and committing a violation of the FDCPA, listed above in this Complaint.

- 35. Specifically, Ohio courts have held, and such cases were available in the Public Inspection File ("PIF") prior to the conduct engaged in by the Defendant in this case, that a debt collector violates the Consumer Sales Practices Act and engages in unfair or deceptive acts or practices under it when it violates the FDCPA, including but not limited to the case of *State ex rel. DeWine v. Royal Oak Financial Services, Inc.*, PIF# 10003097, listed in the PIF since July 10, 2013.
- 36. As a direct and proximate result of HMC's conduct, Plaintiff has suffered mental anguish, stress, embarrassment, and other harm as outlined above, and is entitled to all reasonable damages, injunctive relief prohibiting such conduct, declaratory judgment that such conduct engaged in is unfair, deceptive, and/or unconscionable, attorney's fees, and all other relief this Court deems equitable and just.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

- 37. All of the conduct, specifically the use of a facsimile and communication communicating debt collection attempts and activities with third-parties as outlined above and in the attached Exhibit, were engaged in by Defendant pursuant to a policy or custom, and was its ordinary and habitual practice.
- 38. This class action complaint for declaratory and injunctive relief, as well as monetary damages and attorney's fees, is brought by Plaintiff on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated.

 The class is defined as:
 - a. All present and future persons, who have incurred debts for personal, family, or household purposes, herein after "consumer debtors," where HMC sent communication(s) to third-party(ies), including communication(s) to employer(s) of such consumer debtors, stating that the communication was in relation to a consumer

- debtor and also stating that the communication was from a debt collector and/or that it was an attempt to collect a debt. This definition applies to Count I.
- b. All present and future persons, who have incurred debts for personal, family, or household purposes, where such debt was incurred in the State of Ohio, herein after "Ohio consumer debtors," where HMC sent communication(s) to third-party(ies), including communication(s) to employer(s) of such Ohio consumer debtors, stating that the communication was in relation to an Ohio consumer debtor and also stating that the communication was from a debt collector and/or that it was an attempt to collect a debt. This definition applies to Count II.
- 39. The joinder of all class members in the class (presumed and believed to be greater than forty (40)) is impracticable because the membership is too numerous and it changes from day to day, and because the class contains future members who's employers are being communicated with by Defendant.
- 40. Members of the class are entitled to similar common damages under both the FDCPA and OCSPA.
- 41. Plaintiff requests certification of a hybrid class combining the elements of Rule 23(b)(3) for monetary damages and Rule 23(b)(2) for declaratory and injunctive relief.
- 42. A class action is a superior method for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy. Class-wide damages are essential to induce Defendant to comply with Federal and State law. The interest of class members in individually controlling the prosecution of separate claims against Defendant is small because the maximum statutory damages on an individual are \$1000 for violation of the FDCPA or \$200 per violation of the OCSPA. Management of these class

- claims are likely to present significantly fewer difficulties than those presented in many class claims, e.g. for securities fraud.
- 43. All members of the class have a right to damages or other relief which may be readily computed in each case or otherwise readily determined because they are statutory and stipulated in nature.
- 44. Prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the class would create risk of varying individual adjudications, which would establish incompatible standards of conduct for Defendant who is expected to oppose the class.
- 45. Members of the class have in common questions of law and/or questions of fact, including but not limited to, whether the challenged practices violate the FDCPA and OCSPA.
- 46. The claims of the named Plaintiff are typical of the claims of the class, as per the definitions of the class.
- 47. The named Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent the interests of the class and she will vigorously prosecute the case on behalf of the class.
- 48. Many of the persons with whom Defendant dealt, or who were affected by their activities, may not be aware of their rights, or are not in a financial position to assert such rights readily. Because of relegation of their claims to individual actions would result in an unreasonable multiplicity of suits and a corresponding burden on this and other courts, a class action is far superior to all other methods for a fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy.
- 49. Plaintiff is represented by competent counsel with experience in federal consumer and class action cases and who thus have the experience and resources necessary to protect the interests of the class. Attorney Daniel J. Myers was appointed class-counsel in another national class-action, and is involved in class-action and consumer related work.

50. Defendant has acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the Plaintiff class, thereby making appropriate declaratory and injunctive relief, as well as damages under the FDCPA and attorney's fees under the FDCPA and the OCSPA appropriate, for the class as a whole.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays that this Honorable Court grant her the following relief:

- a. Enter an order that this action shall be maintained as a class action pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23(a) and (b)(2) and/or (b)(3).
- b. Enter preliminary and permanent injunctions enjoining Defendant from applying in the future the customs or policies complained of herein against the Plaintiff and the current members of Plaintiff's class, as well as preliminary and permanent injunctions enjoining Defendant from applying in the future the customs or policies complained of herein against the future members of the Plaintiff's class.
- c. Judgment against Defendant, for declaratory judgment holding that Defendant's conduct was unfair, deceptive, and/or unconscionable under Ohio R.C. § 1345.01 et seq.
- d. All damages permitted by the FDCPA to the Plaintiff and the Plaintiff's class, and attorneys' fees under both Ohio R.C. § 1345.09, as well as all relief permitted by 15 U.S.C. § 1692k.
- e. The costs of this action, and pre-judgment and post-judgment interest.
- f. Grant Plaintiff and the class such other relief as is proper, just, and equitable.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Daniel J. Myers_

Daniel J. Myers, Esq. (0087909) Samantha A. Vajskop, Esq. (0087837) Myers Law, LLC 600 East Granger Road, Second Floor

Cleveland, OH 44133

P: 216-236-8202 F: 216-674-1696

E: DMyers@MyersLawLLC.com SVajskop@MyersLawLLC.com

Counsel for Plaintiff and Proposed Class

United States District Court

for the Northern District of Ohio Nyoka Summerall, and all others similarly situated Plaintiff Civil Action No. 1:16-cv-2870 Head Mercantile Co., Inc. Defendant SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION Head Mercantile Co., Inc. To: (Defendant's name and address) c/o James Scharfeld, Statutory Agent 29065 Clemens Road #200 Westlake, OH 44145 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:

Daniel J. Myers, Esq. whose name and address are: Myers Law, LLC 600 East Granger Road Second Floor Cleveland, OH 44131 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.

| | | GERI M. SMITH, CLERK OF COURT |
|-------|------------|------------------------------------|
| | | |
| Date: | 11/28/2016 | |
| | | Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk |

AO 440 (Rev. 12/09) Summons in a Civil Action (Page 2)

Civil Action No.

PROOF OF SERVICE

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

| | This summons for (nan | ne of individual and title, if any) | | | |
|--------|--|-------------------------------------|---|------------|-------------|
| was re | ceived by me on (date) | · | | | |
| | ☐ I personally served | the summons on the individual a | t (place) | | |
| | | | on (date) | ; or | |
| | ☐ I left the summons | at the individual's residence or us | sual place of abode with (name) | | |
| | | , a person o | f suitable age and discretion who resid | les there, | |
| | on (date), and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or | | | | |
| | ☐ I served the summons on (name of individual) designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of (name of organization) | | | | ho is |
| | | | | | |
| | - | | on (date) | ; or | |
| | ☐ I returned the sum | nons unexecuted because | | | ; or |
| | ☐ Other (specify): | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | My fees are \$ | for travel and \$ | for services, for a total of \$ | 0.00 | |
| | I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true. | | | | |
| | i deciare under penan | y or perjury that this information | is true. | | |
| Dotos | | | | | |
| Date: | | | Server's signature | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | Printed name and title | | |
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| | | | | | |
| | | | Server's address | | |

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

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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.)

| purpose of initiating the civil de | | | HIS FORM.) | y 7 1, is required for the use of | and Clerk of Court for the |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| I. (a) PLAINTIFFS | | | DEFENDANTS | | |
| Nyoka Summerall | | | Head Mercantile Co., Inc. | | |
| (b) County of Residence of | of First Listed Plaintiff C | Suyahoga | County of Residence | of First Listed Defendant | Cuyahoga |
| (E. | XCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CA | SES) | _ | (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES O | , |
| | | | | ONDEMNATION CASES, USE TI OF LAND INVOLVED. | HE LOCATION OF |
| Daniel J. Myers & Samar 600 East Granger Road, 216-236-8202 | | | Attorneys (If Known) | | |
| II. BASIS OF JURISDI | ICTION (Place an "X" in O | ne Box Only) | I. CITIZENSHIP OF P | RINCIPAL PARTIES | (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintif |
| ☐ 1 U.S. Government | ≯ 3 Federal Question | | (For Diversity Cases Only) | rf 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 | |
| | | | Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | 3 | □ 6 □ 6 |
| IV. NATURE OF SUIT | | orts | FORFEITURE/PENALTY | BANKRUPTCY | OTHER STATUTES |
| ☐ 110 Insurance | PERSONAL INJURY | PERSONAL INJURY | ☐ 625 Drug Related Seizure | ☐ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 | ☐ 375 False Claims Act |
| ☐ 120 Marine ☐ 130 Miller Act | ☐ 310 Airplane ☐ 315 Airplane Product | ☐ 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability | of Property 21 USC 881 ☐ 690 Other | ☐ 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 | ☐ 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) |
| ☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument | Liability | ☐ 367 Health Care/ | - 070 Other | | ☐ 400 State Reapportionment |
| ☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment | ☐ 320 Assault, Libel & Slander | Pharmaceutical Personal Injury | | PROPERTY RIGHTS ☐ 820 Copyrights | ☐ 410 Antitrust☐ 430 Banks and Banking |
| ☐ 151 Medicare Act | ☐ 330 Federal Employers' | Product Liability | | □ 830 Patent | ☐ 450 Commerce |
| ☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans | Liability ☐ 340 Marine | ☐ 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product | | □ 840 Trademark | 460 Deportation470 Racketeer Influenced and |
| (Excludes Veterans) | ☐ 345 Marine Product | Liability | LABOR | SOCIAL SECURITY | Corrupt Organizations |
| ☐ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits | Liability ☐ 350 Motor Vehicle | PERSONAL PROPERTY ☐ 370 Other Fraud | ☐ 710 Fair Labor Standards Act | ☐ 861 HIA (1395ff) ☐ 862 Black Lung (923) | ☐ 480 Consumer Credit☐ 490 Cable/Sat TV |
| ☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits | ☐ 355 Motor Vehicle | ☐ 371 Truth in Lending | ☐ 720 Labor/Management | ☐ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) | □ 850 Securities/Commodities/ |
| ☐ 190 Other Contract ☐ 195 Contract Product Liability | Product Liability 360 Other Personal | ☐ 380 Other Personal Property Damage | Relations ☐ 740 Railway Labor Act | ☐ 864 SSID Title XVI ☐ 865 RSI (405(g)) | Exchange X 890 Other Statutory Actions |
| ☐ 196 Franchise | Injury | ☐ 385 Property Damage | ☐ 751 Family and Medical | (11/6) | ☐ 891 Agricultural Acts |
| | ☐ 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice | Product Liability | Leave Act ☐ 790 Other Labor Litigation | | ☐ 893 Environmental Matters ☐ 895 Freedom of Information |
| REAL PROPERTY | CIVIL RIGHTS | PRISONER PETITIONS | ☐ 791 Employee Retirement | FEDERAL TAX SUITS | Act |
| ☐ 210 Land Condemnation ☐ 220 Foreclosure | ☐ 440 Other Civil Rights ☐ 441 Voting | Habeas Corpus: ☐ 463 Alien Detainee | Income Security Act | ☐ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) | ☐ 896 Arbitration ☐ 899 Administrative Procedure |
| ☐ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment | ☐ 441 Voting ☐ 442 Employment | ☐ 510 Motions to Vacate | | ☐ 871 IRS—Third Party | Act/Review or Appeal of |
| ☐ 240 Torts to Land | □ 443 Housing/ | Sentence | | 26 USC 7609 | Agency Decision |
| ☐ 245 Tort Product Liability ☐ 290 All Other Real Property | Accommodations 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - | ☐ 530 General ☐ 535 Death Penalty | IMMIGRATION | 1 | ☐ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes |
| 1 7 | Employment | Other: | ☐ 462 Naturalization Application | | |
| | ☐ 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other | ☐ 540 Mandamus & Other☐ 550 Civil Rights | ☐ 465 Other Immigration Actions | | |
| | ☐ 448 Education | ☐ 555 Prison Condition | | | |
| | | ☐ 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of | | | |
| | | Confinement | | | |
| | moved from 3 | Remanded from 4 Appellate Court | Reinstated or | r District Litigation | |
| | Cite the U.S. Civil Sta | tute under which you are fi | (specify) iling (Do not cite jurisdictional state on Practices Act | | Direct File |
| VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO | Brief description of ca | iuse: | activities of Debt Collect | | |
| VII. REQUESTED IN | | DEMAND \$ | CHECK YES only | if demanded in complaint: | |
| COMPLAINT: | UNDER RULE 2 | 3, F.R.Cv.P. | 500,000.00 | JURY DEMAND: | □ Yes 🗙 No |
| VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY (See instructions): JUDGE | | | DOCKET NUMBER | | |
| DATE 11/28/2016 | | signature of attor /s/ Daniel J. Myer | | | |
| FOR OFFICE USE ONLY | | | | | |
| RECEIPT # AM | MOUNT | APPLYING IFP | JUDGE | MAG. JUI | OGE |

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

| l. | Civil Categories: (Please check one category only). | | | | |
|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | 2. Admir | ral Civil histrative Review/Social Securit as Corpus Death Penalty | у | | |
| | *If under Title 28, §2255, name the | SENTENCING JUDGE: | | | |
| | | CASE NUMBER: | | | |
| II. | RELATED OR REFILED CASES. See LR 3.1 which provides in pertinent part: "If an action is filed or removed to this Court and assigned to a District Judge after which it is discontinued, dismissed or remanded to a State court, and subsequently refiled, it shall be assigned to the same Judge who received the initial case assignment without regardfor the place of holding court in which the case was refiled. Counsel or a party without counsel shall be responsible for bringing such cases to the attention of the Court by responding to the questions included on the Civil Cover Sheet." | | | | |
| | This action is RELATED to an | other PENDING civil case. This action is | REFILED pursuant to LR 3.1. | | |
| lf appli | icable, please indicate on page 1 in s | ection VIII, the name of the Judge and case | number. | | |
| II. | In accordance with Local Civil Rule 3.8 , actions involving counties in the Eastern Division shall be filed at any of the divisional offices therein. Actions involving counties in the Western Division shall be filed at the Toledo office. For the purpose of determining the proper division, and for statistical reasons, the following information is requested. | | | | |
| | ANSWER ONE PARAGRAPH ONLY. ANSWER PARAGRAPHS 1 THRU 3 IN ORDER. UPON FINDING WHICH PARAGRAPH APPLIES TO YOUR CASE, ANSWER IT AND STOP. | | | | |
| | county COUNTY: Cuyahoga | defendant resides in a county within this dist | | | |
| | it has its principal place of busines | | to be a resident of that county in which | | |
| | (2) <u>Non-Resident defendant</u> . If no defendant is a resident of a county in this district, please set forth the cour wherein the cause of action arose or the event complained of occurred. COUNTY: | | | | |
| | place of business within th | ant is a resident of this district, or if the defenda e district, and the cause of action arose or th n the county of the plaintiff's residence. | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | | |
| V. | The Counties in the Northern District of Ohio are divided into divisions as shown below. After the county is determined in Section III , please check the appropriate division. | | | | |
| | EASTERN DIVISION | | | | |
| | | (Counties: Carroll, Holmes, Portage, Stark, (Counties: Ashland, Ashtabula, Crawford, C Lorain, Medina and Richland) | | | |
| | YOUNGSTOWN | (Counties: Columbiana, Mahoning and Trum | bull) | | |
| | WESTERN DIVISION | | | | |
| | TOLEDO | (Counties: Allen, Auglaize, Defiance, Erie, Fu Huron, Lucas, Marion, Mercer, Ottawa, Pau VanWert, Williams, Wood and Wyandot) | | | |

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 the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerk(s) in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.
- **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.

THE HMC GROUP 29065 Clemens Rd. Suite 200

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Westlake, Ohio 44145-1179 (440) 892-2300 FAX (440) 892-3600 WEBSITE- WWW.HMCGRP.COM

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

COMPANY: PAYACACAM

DATE: 1-20-16

FROM: MARY JORDA

If you do not receive the following 2 pages including this cover sheet, please call.

This is an attempt by a debt collector to collect a debt; any information obtain will be used for that purpose.

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HMC GROUP 29065 CLEMENS RD, SUITE 200 WESTLAKE, OH 44145 440-892-2300 FAX: 440-892-3600

TO: PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT

RE: Summerall, Nyoke V.

SS #: 4

WOULD YOU PLEASE ADVISE US IF THE ABOVE NAMED INDIVIDUAL IS CURRENTLY ON YOUR PAYROLL?

CIRCLE ONE:

NO

EMPLOYED:

ULLTIME

PARTTIME

START DATE:

CURRENT POSITION: Assistant teacher Preschoul

HOME ADDRESS:

HOMB PHONE NUMBER:

440-789-6287

CURRENT PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT (IF NO LONGER EMPLOYED):

Ref. 13345701 THANKYOU, Maryfordar

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>The HMC Group, The SOS Group Hit with FLSA Class Action</u>