UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

CHRISTOPHER TABICK on behalf of himself and all other similarly situated consumers

Plaintiff,

-against-

REAL TIME RESOLUTIONS, INC.

Defendant.

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

Introduction

1. Plaintiff Christopher Tabick seeks redress for the illegal practices of Real Time Resolutions, Inc. concerning the collection of debts, in violation of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et *seq.* ("FDCPA").

Parties

- 2. Plaintiff is a citizen of the State of New York who resides within this District.
- 3. Plaintiff is a consumer as that term is defined by Section 1692(a)(3) of the FDCPA, in that the alleged debt that Defendant sought to collect from Plaintiff is a defaulted consumer debt.
- Upon information and belief, Defendant's principal place of business is located in Dallas, Texas.
- 5. Defendant is regularly engaged, for profit, in the collection of debts allegedly owed by consumers.

6. Defendant is a "debt collector" as that term is defined by the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. § 1692(a)(6).

Jurisdiction and Venue

- This Court has federal question jurisdiction under 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d) and 28 U.S.C. § 1331.
- 8. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), as the acts and transactions that give rise to this action occurred, in substantial part, in this district.

Allegations Particular to Christopher Tabick

- 9. Upon information and belief, on a date better known by Defendant, Defendant began to attempt to collect an alleged consumer debt from the Plaintiff.
- On or about January 21, 2017, Defendant sent the Plaintiff a collection letter seeking to collect a balance allegedly incurred for personal purposes.
- 11. The said collection letter was confusing to the Plaintiff and is likely to be misconstrued by the "least sophisticated consumer" since it is open to more than one reasonable interpretation, at least one of which is inaccurate. The Second Circuit stated in <u>Avila v</u>.

<u>Riexinger & Assocs., LLC</u>, 817 F.3d 72, 74 (2d Cir. 2016)

"The question presented is whether a collection notice that states a consumer's "current balance," but does not disclose that the balance <u>may</u> increase due to interest and fees, complies with this provision. We hold that Section 1692e requires debt collectors, when they notify consumers of their account balance, to disclose that the balance <u>may</u> increase due to interest and fees."

- 12. The holding of the Second Circuit is that Section 1692e of the FDCPA requires every debt collector in every collection letter "to disclose that the balance <u>may</u> increase due to interest and fees".
- 13. However if the "account balance" will never increase and the holder of the debt will

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<u>always</u> accept payment of the amount set forth in full satisfaction of the debt then the Second Circuit alternatively stated:

"We hold that a debt collector will not be subject to liability under Section 1692e for failing to disclose that the consumer's balance <u>may</u> increase due to interest and fees if the collection notice *either* accurately informs the consumer that the amount of the debt stated in the letter <u>will</u> increase over time, *or* clearly states that the holder of the debt <u>will</u> accept payment of the amount set forth in full satisfaction of the debt." Id. at 817.

The Second Circuit in Avila did not "hold that a debt collector must use any particular disclaimer" *Id.*

- 14. However the Second Circuit did address all the possible scenarios: 1) If the "current balance" <u>could</u> increase over time, then the collection notice must disclose that the "balance <u>might</u> increase due to interest and fees". *Id.* 2) If the "current balance" is <u>currently</u> increasing, then the collection notice must disclose that the amount of the debt stated, "in the letter <u>will</u> increase over time". *Id.* 3) If the "current balance" will never increase and the debt collector is always willing to accept this "specified amount" in "full satisfaction" of the debt, then the debt collector must state so clearly. However, if a debt collector is willing to accept a "specified amount" in full satisfaction of the debt only if payment is made by a specific date, then the debt collector must simplify the consumer's understanding by so stating, while advising that the amount due <u>could</u> increase by the accrual of additional interest or fees if payment is not received by that date.
- 15. In this case, the balance due was increasing due to interest per the creditor's contract. Nevertheless, the collection notice did not disclose that the amount of the debt stated in the letter "could" or "will" increase over time.

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- 16. The Plaintiff, as well as the "least sophisticated consumer" was unsure as to whether or not the said account was accruing interest.
- 17. The said letter fails to include the safe harbor language set out by the Second Circuit.
- 18. The balance due in this case was for an amount that included original principal, fees, and contractual interest.
- 19. The Plaintiff was left uncertain as to whether the balance due was accruing interest as there was no disclosure that indicated otherwise.
- 20. The Plaintiff was left unsure whether the balance due would accrue any type of fees, costs and/or disbursements as there was no disclosure that indicated otherwise.
- 21. A reasonable consumer could read the notice and be misled into believing that he or she could pay her debt in full by paying the amount listed on the notice.
- 22. In fact, however, since contractual interest is automatically accruing daily, and since there will be undisclosed fees that will accrue, a consumer who pays the balance due stated on the notice will not know whether the debt has been paid in full.
- 23. The debt collector could still seek the automatically accrued contractual interest that accumulated after the notice was sent but before the balance was paid, or sell the consumer's debt to a third party, which itself could seek the interest and undisclosed fees from the consumer.
- 24. The statement of a balance due, without notice that the amount <u>may</u> increase or is already increasing due to automatically accruing contractual interest, would mislead the least sophisticated consumer into believing that payment of the amount stated will clear his or her account.
- 25. The FDCPA requires debt collectors, when notifying consumers of their account

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balance, to disclose that the balance <u>may</u> increase due to interest and fees; failure to include such disclosures would harm consumers such as the Plaintiff who may hold the reasonable but mistaken belief, that timely payment will satisfy their debts and it would abrogate the Congressional purpose of full and fair disclosure to consumers that is embodied in Section 1692e.

- 26. The amount of the contractual interest automatically increases each day that the defaulted debt remains unpaid due to the automatically accrued interest.
- 27. Collection notices that state only the balance due, but do not disclose that the balance <u>might</u> increase due to interest and fees, are "misleading" within the meaning of Section 1692e.
- 28. To the extent that the Creditor or Defendant intended to waive the automatically accrued and accruing interest, it was required to disclose that in the most conspicuous of terms.
- 29. If the balance due, will never increase and the debt collector is always willing to accept this "specified amount" in "full satisfaction" of the debt, then the debt collector must clearly state that the holder of the debt will <u>always</u> accept payment of the amount set forth in "full satisfaction" of the debt.
- 30. Defendant was required to include a disclosure that the automatically accrued interest was accruing, or in the alternative, the Defendant was required to disclose that the creditor has made an intentional decision to waive the automatically accruing interest and will always accept this "specified amount" in "full satisfaction" of the debt nonetheless it did not make any of those disclosures in violation of 1692e.
- 31. If interest was waived, the letter would need to contain that disclosure and clearly state that no interest is accruing on this account in order to provide full and fair disclosure to

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consumers of the actual balance as is embodied in Section 1692e.

- 32. The Second Circuit adopted a safe harbor disclaimer stating "that requiring such disclosure best achieves the Congressional purpose of full and fair disclosure to consumers that is embodied in Section 1692e. It also protects consumers such as the Plaintiff, who may hold the reasonable but mistaken belief that timely payment will satisfy their debts."¹
- 33. Because the statement of the balance due that included original principal, fees, and contractual interest, without notice that the accruing interest was expressly waived can mislead the least sophisticated consumer into believing that payment of the amount stated will clear her account, the FDCPA requires debt collectors, when they notify consumers of their account balance, to expressly disclose that the amount of the debt stated in the letter <u>will</u> increase over time, *or* clearly state that the holder of the debt will always accept payment of the amount set forth in full satisfaction of the debt. Id. at 817.
- 34. Requiring such disclosure best achieves the Congressional purpose of full and fair disclosure to consumers that is embodied in Section 1692e. It also protects consumers such as the Plaintiff, who may hold the reasonable, but mistaken belief that timely payment will satisfy their debts and it protects them from other debt collectors seeking further interest on this debt in the future.
- 35. According to the Second Circuit's finding that the balance due must contain a full and fair disclosure, if a credit card account was being charged interest, pursuant to a contract and the interest was intended to be waived, disclosure of such a waiver is necessary or the consumer would not know what the balance is. "[i]n fact, however, if interest is

¹ Avila v. Riexinger & Assocs., LLC, 817 F.3d 72, 76 (2d Cir. 2016)

accruing daily, [or was not expressly waived] a consumer who pays the 'current balance' stated on the notice will not know whether the debt has been paid in full. The debt collector could still seek the [accruing or unwaived] interest and fees that accumulated after the notice was sent but before the balance was paid, or sell the consumer's debt to a third party, which itself could seek the interest and fees from the consumer." <u>Avila v.</u> *Riexinger & Assocs., LLC*, 817 F.3d 72, 76 (2d Cir. 2016)

- 36. The 8th Circuit in <u>Haney v. Portfolio Recovery Assocs.</u>, No. 15-1932, 2016 U.S. App. LEXIS 17287 (8th Cir. Sep. 21, 2016) clearly explains that merely not including interest in post charge off statements is not express waiver of interest, and the debt collector or creditor can seek the interest in the future.
- 37. In fact, in this case the Plaintiff is still not sure whether there was any intent to waive the interest. There was definitely no express waiver and disclosure of waiver is mandatory if interest was originally accruing per the contract. The consumer could not know what the real balance is.
- 38. The intent to waive a contractual right must be unmistakably manifested and may not be inferred from doubtful or equivocal acts.² A waiver of a contract right does not occur by negligence, oversight or thoughtlessness and cannot be inferred from mere silence.³
- 39. The 8th Circuit Court of Appeals found that the fact that the debt was charged off and that the creditor or debt buyer did not charge interest in its statements post charge off that alone does not constitute an express waiver and interest is still continuing to accrue and may be charged at a future time.
- 40. According to the Second Circuit in Avila, any debt that was accruing interest and fees

² <u>Navillus Tile, Inc. v. Turner Const. Co.</u>, 2 A.D.3d 209, 770 N.Y.S.2d 3 (1st Dep't 2003)

³ <u>Acumen Re Management Corp. v. General Sec. Nat. Ins. Co.</u>, 2012 WL 3890128, at *6 (S.D. N.Y. 2012), reconsideration denied, motion to certify appeal granted, 2012 WL 6053936 (S.D. N.Y. 2012).

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would need full and complete disclosure which would either clearly state that the balance "may" or "will" increase over time or clearly state that the debt is "static" and holder of the debt will always accept payment of the amount set forth in "full satisfaction" of the debt.⁴

- 41. Failure to disclose such a waiver of the automatically accruing interest is in of itself deceptive and "misleading" within the meaning of Section 1692e since Courts have held that <u>even</u> if the right to collect interest was waived by the creditor, debt collectors could still charge interest and they would not violate the FDCPA for charging interest if the original credit card agreement permitted the charging of interest on late payments.⁵
- 42. The Defendant knew that the balance would increase due to interest, fees and/or disbursements.
- 43. Since the balance due is for an amount that includes original principal, fees, and contractual interest, the collection notice must accurately inform the consumer that interest may accrue or that interest has stopped accruing. "Applying these principles, we hold that Plaintiffs have stated a claim that the collection notices at issue here are misleading within the meaning of Section 1692e... a consumer who pays the "current

⁴ <u>Haney v. Portfolio Recovery Assocs.</u>, No. 15-1932, 2016 U.S. App. LEXIS 17287 (8th Cir. Sep. 21, 2016). ("Nothing inherent in the process of charging off a debt precludes a claim for statutory interest, and [the states] prejudgment interest statute does not expressly preclude statutory prejudgment interest following a waiver of contractual interest...[The debtor] received monthly periodic statements from the original creditors prior to charge-off, and at least as to the *Wal-Mart* account, the charge-off statement itself is attached to the pleadings. [The debtor] received a demand for payment of his accounts when due. We conclude any demand requirement that exists as a precondition to the accrual of statutory prejudgment interest was satisfied by the original creditors' demands upon [the debtor].")

⁵ <u>Rice v. Resurgent Capital Servs., LP.</u>, No. 15 CV 6319 (KAM)(CLP), 2017 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 20932, at *19-20 (E.D.N.Y. Feb. 13, 2017). ("[C]ourts in other districts have held that <u>even</u> if the right to collect interest was waived by the creditor, debt collectors do not violate Section 1692(f)(1) if the original credit card agreement permitted the charging of interest on late payments.), <u>Simkus v. Cavalry Portfolio Servs., LLC</u>, 12 F. Supp. 3d 1103, 1110 (N.D. Ill. 2014). (granting summary judgment on the Section 1692(f)(1) claim and holding that, "even if *BOA* waived its right to collect [*20] interest, Defendants cannot have violated 1692f(1) if the original agreement between *Mr. Simkus* and *BOA* allowed for charging interest on late payments"), <u>Wilder v. J.C. Christensen & Assocs., Inc.</u>, No. 16 CV 1979, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 168440, 2016 WL 7104283, at *7 (N.D. Ill. Dec. 6, 2016). (granting the motion to dismiss and holding that, "Plaintiff's allegation that Defendant engaged in 'unfair' or 'unconscionable' conduct by claiming that interest 'may' be added to Plaintiff's account is not a violation of Section 1692f(1) even if she could demonstrate that Credit One waived its contractual right".), See also <u>Terech v. First Resolution Mgmt. Corp.</u>, 854 F. Supp. 2d 537, 544 (N.D. Ill. 2012). (granting the motion to dismiss the 1692(f)(1) claim and holding that, "[t]he Court agrees that § 1692f(1) appears to be directed at debt collectors who charge fees not contemplated by the original agreement, not debt collectors who seek to charge fees contemplated by the agreement but arguably waived thereafter".)

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balance" stated on the notice will not know whether the debt has been paid in full."⁶

- 44. The balance due is for an amount that includes original principal, fees, and contractual interest. If interest was waived or stopped accruing the collection notice must disclose that the debt is "static" and that the holder of the debt would accept payment of the amount set forth in full satisfaction of the debt. <u>McNamee v. Debski & Assocs., P.A.</u>, No. 8:16-cv-2272-T-33TBM, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 131912, at *8-9 (M.D. Fla. Sep. 27, 2016). ("The letters did not inform [the debtor] that *Capital One* had instructed [the debt collector] to cease collecting[] interest... i.e., that *Capital One* was willing to accept \$3,129.05 in full satisfaction of the debt. Because the letters did not "clearly state[] that the holder of the debt [would] accept payment of the amount set forth in full satisfaction of the debt. Decenters are complaint plausibly states a claim to relief under the FDCPA.") (citations omitted)
- 45. Since interest was accruing per the creditors contract the collection notice must inform the consumer that the amount of the debt stated in the letter will increase over time.
- 46. Collection letters failing to reference the accrual of interest or waiver of interest are subject to two different interpretations as to the accumulation of interest, rendering them deceptive under § 1692e(10). See <u>Sperber v. Central Credit Services LLC</u> No. CV 16-cv-05222 (ARR) (RLM), 2017 U.S. Dist. (E.D.N.Y. May. 1, 2017). ("This matter presents the question of whether failing to disclose [] interest, or failing to explicitly waive the right to collect it, constitutes a "false, deceptive, or misleading" practice under § 1692e... Plaintiff contends that the collection notice he received, which neither stated that [] interest was accruing nor waived the creditor's right to collect it, is deceptive or

⁶ <u>Avila v. Riexinger & Assocs., LLC</u>, Nos. 15-1584(L), 15-1597(Con), 2016 U.S. App. LEXIS 5327, at *10-11 (2d Cir. Mar. 22, 2016)

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misleading under *Avila v. Riexinger & Associates, LLC*, 817 F.3d 72 (2d Cir. 2016)... Having alleged that interest was accruing on his debt and that *CCS* failed to either <u>disclose this interest or otherwise disclaim its right to collect it</u>, *Sperber* has stated a plausible claim that the collection notices he received from *CCS* were misleading under Section 1692e of the FDCPA. *See Avila*, 817 F.3d at 76.")

- "None of the letters provided further detail regarding when or how the balance had been 47. calculated, whether it included interest, or whether interest continued to accrue. The court finds that the "least sophisticated consumer" could have read these letters in at least two different ways. On one hand, an unsophisticated consumer could reasonably conclude that the balance was a fixed amount that would not be subject to further interest, late fees, or other charges. On the other, an unsophisticated consumer could just as reasonably determine that the balance would continue to grow over time as interest accrued. One of those meanings would necessarily be inaccurate. Therefore, the court finds that Defendants' letters were deceptive as a matter of law. Courts in other districts have reached the same conclusion on similar facts. The court grants Ms. Snyder's motion for summary judgment on this issue." Snyder v. Gordon, No. C11-1379 RAJ, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 120659, at *8-9 (W.D. Wash. Aug. 24, 2012), Avila v. Riexinger & Assocs., LLC, 817 F.3d 72, 75 (2d Cir. 2016), ("[I]n considering whether a collection notice violates Section 1692e, we apply the "least sophisticated consumer" standard...Under this standard, a collection notice is misleading if it is "open to more than one reasonable interpretation, at least one of which is inaccurate.")
- 48. "The Court therefore finds that [the debt collectors] letters to [the debtor] are subject to two different interpretations as to the accumulation of interest, rendering them deceptive

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under § 1692e(10) ... The logic [applies] to stated outstanding debt and the need for consumers to be aware that this debt may be dynamic or static. They are concerned with a consumer's inability to discern whether an amount owed may grow with time, regardless of whether offers to settle are on the table or not. As [plaintiff] states, this information is relevant in a consumer's payment calculus, especially when some debts must be paid at the expense of others. And, of course, the existence of settlement offers would be entirely irrelevant to these considerations for the many consumers who are unable to take advantage of them...Plaintiff's claim is not that the stated balance was not itemized, but that it was unclear whether it was subject to future interest" *Michalek v. ARS Nat'l Sys.*, No. 3:11-CV-1374, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 142976, at *16-17 (M.D. Pa. Dec. 13, 2011)

- 49. The Plaintiff and the least sophisticated consumer could conclude from the said collection letter, that the balance due is static and that his or her payment of the amount due would satisfy the debt irrespective of when payment was remitted. However, absent a disclosure by the holder of the debt that clearly stated that the holder of the debt would accept payment of the amount set forth in "full satisfaction" of the debt then even if the debtor pays the balance due Defendant and or the creditor <u>could</u> still seek the automatic interest that accumulated after the breach of contract, or sell the consumer's debt to a third party, which itself could seek the automatic interest and from the consumer. (Avila, at *10-11.)
- 50. A waiver of interest, even when made explicitly, has not prevented debt collection agencies from continuing to illegally charge the waived interest. At the bare minimum a debt collection agency must clearly convey, even to the least sophisticated consumer

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that it intends to waive the automatically accruing interest, or clearly state that the holder of the debt would always accept payment of the amount set forth in "full satisfaction" of the debt.

- 51. At no point did the assignee or successor-in-interest waive its right to collect from the Plaintiff, interest, fees or other charges on any balance carried on the account.
- 52. The letter fails to inform Plaintiff whether the amount listed is the actual amount of the debt due.
- 53. The letter fails to inform Plaintiff whether the amount listed already includes accrued interest, late fees or other charges.
- 54. The letter fails to advise Plaintiff what portion of the amount listed is principal.
- 55. The letter fails to inform Plaintiff that the amount listed will increase.
- 56. The letter fails to inform Plaintiff if there is accrued interest, what the amount of the accrued interest will be.
- 57. The letter fails to inform Plaintiff if there is accrued interest, when such interest will be applied.
- 58. The letter fails to inform Plaintiff if there is accrued interest, what the interest rate is.
- 59. The letter fails to inform Plaintiff if there is accrued interest, the amount of money the amount listed will increase per any measurable period.
- 60. The letter fails to indicate the minimum amount Plaintiff owed at the time of the letter.
- 61. 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.
- 62. The letter fails to provide information that would allow the Plaintiff to determine what Plaintiff will need to pay to resolve the debt at any given moment in the future.

- 63. The letter, because of the aforementioned failures, would render the least sophisticated consumer unable to determine the amount of his or her debt.
- 64. The least sophisticated consumer could reasonably believe that the amount listed was accurate only on the date of the letter.
- 65. In order to induce payments from consumers that would not otherwise be made if the consumer knew the true amount due, Defendant does not inform the consumer whether the amount listed will increase.
- 66. Defendant failed to clearly and unambiguously state the amount of the debt, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1).
- 67. The Defendant's letter would likely make the least sophisticated consumer uncertain as to the amount of the debt, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1).
- 68. The letter would likely make the least sophisticated consumer confused as to the amount of the debt, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1).
- 69. Defendant's conduct constitutes a false, deceptive and misleading means and representation in connection with the collection of the debt, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.
- 70. The letter can reasonably be read by the least sophisticated consumer to have two or more meanings concerning the actual balance due, one of which must is inaccurate, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.
- 71. The Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(2)(A) for misrepresenting the amount of the debt owed by the Plaintiff.
- 72. Section 1692e of the FDCPA states:

A debt collector may not use any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt.

Without limiting the general application of the foregoing, the following conduct is a violation of this section:

(2) The false representation of --

(A) the character, amount, or legal status of any debt; or

(10) the use of any false representation or deceptive means to collect or attempt to collect any debt or to obtain information concerning a consumer.

- 73. The said letter is a standardized form letter.
- 74. Upon information and belief, the Defendant's letters, such as the said collection letter, number in the hundreds.
- 75. Defendant's January 21, 2017 letter is in violation of 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692e(2)(A), 1692e(10) and 1692g(a)(1) for the use of any false representation or deceptive means to collect or attempt to collect any debt and for misrepresenting the amount of the debt owed by the Plaintiff.
- 76. Plaintiff suffered injury in fact by being subjected to unfair and abusive practices of the Defendant.
- 77. Plaintiff suffered actual harm by being the target of the Defendant's misleading debt collection communications.
- 78. Defendant violated the Plaintiff's right not to be the target of misleading debt collection communications.
- 79. Defendant violated the Plaintiff's right to a truthful and fair debt collection process.
- 80. Defendant used materially false, deceptive, misleading representations and means in its attempted collection of Plaintiff's alleged debt.
- 81. Defendant's communications were designed to cause the debtor to suffer a harmful disadvantage in charting a course of action in response to Defendant's collection efforts.

- 82. 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 him of his right to enjoy these benefits, these materially misleading statements trigger liability under section 1692e of the Act.
- 83. These deceptive communications additionally violated the FDCPA since they frustrate the consumer's ability to intelligently choose his or her response.
- 84. As an actual and proximate result of the acts and omissions of Real Time Resolutions, Inc., Plaintiff has suffered, including but not limited to, fear, stress, mental anguish, emotional stress and acute embarrassment for which he should be compensated in an amount to be established by a jury at trial.

AS AND FOR A CAUSE OF ACTION

Violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act brought by Plaintiff on behalf of himself and the members of a class, as against the Defendant.

- 85. Plaintiff re-states, re-alleges, and incorporates herein by reference, paragraphs one (1) through eight four (84) as if set forth fully in this cause of action.
- 86. This cause of action is brought on behalf of Plaintiff and the members of a class.
- 87. The class consists of all persons whom Defendant's records reflect resided in the State of New York and who were sent a collection letter in substantially the same form letter as the letter sent to the Plaintiff on or about January 21, 2017; and (a) the collection letter was sent to a consumer seeking payment of a personal debt; and (b) the collection letter was not returned by the postal service as undelivered; (c) and the Plaintiff asserts that

the letter contained violations of 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692e(2)(A), 1692e(10) and 1692g(a)(1) of the FDCPA for the use of any false representation or deceptive means to collect or attempt to collect any debt and for misrepresenting the amount of the debt owed by the Plaintiff.

- 88. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23, a class action is appropriate and preferable in this case because:
 - A. Based on the fact that a form collection letter is at the heart of this litigation, the class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable.
 - B. There are questions of law and fact common to the class and these questions predominate over any questions affecting only individual class members. The principal question presented by this claim is whether the Defendant violated the FDCPA.
 - C. The only individual issue is the identification of the consumers who received such collection letters (*i.e.* the class members), a matter capable of ministerial determination from the records of Defendant.
 - D. The claims of the Plaintiff are typical of those of the class members. All are based on the same facts and legal theories.
 - E. The Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent the class members' interests. The Plaintiff has retained counsel experienced in bringing class actions and collection-abuse claims. The Plaintiff's interests are consistent with those of the members of the class.
- 89. A class action is superior for the fair and efficient adjudication of the class members' claims. Congress specifically envisions class actions as a principal means of enforcing

the FDCPA. 15 U.S.C. § 1692(k). The members of the class are generally unsophisticated individuals, whose rights will not be vindicated in the absence of a class action. Prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the classes would create the risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications resulting in the establishment of inconsistent or varying standards for the parties and would not be in the interest of judicial economy.

- 90. If the facts are discovered to be appropriate, the Plaintiff will seek to certify a class pursuant to Rule 23(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.
- 91. Collection attempts, such as those made by the Defendant are to be evaluated by the objective standard of the hypothetical "least sophisticated consumer."

Violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act

- 92. The Defendant's actions as set forth above in the within complaint violates the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.
- 93. Because the Defendant violated the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, the Plaintiff and the members of the class are entitled to damages in accordance with the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, respectfully requests preliminary and permanent injunctive relief, and that this Court enter judgment in his favor and against the Defendant and award damages as follows:

- A. Statutory damages provided under the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. § 1692(k);
- B. Attorney fees, litigation expenses and costs incurred in bringing this action; and
- C. Any other relief that this Court deems appropriate and just under the circumstances.

Dated: Woodmere, New York October 22, 2017

> /s/ Adam J. Fishbein Adam J. Fishbein, P.C. (AF-9508) Attorney At Law Attorney for the Plaintiff 735 Central Avenue Woodmere, New York 11598 Telephone: (516) 668-6945 Email: fishbeinadamj@gmail.com

Plaintiff requests trial by jury on all issues so triable.

/s/ Adam J. Fishbein Adam J. Fishbein (AF-9508)

REALTIME	Dept. 907565:17-cv-06227 Document 1 File PO Box 1259 Oaks, PA 19456 Return Mail Only - No Correspondence	d 1 0/25/17 Page 19 of 21 PageID #: 19 Original Account Number: 72 Date of Last Payment: Mar 1 2010 Payoff as of 01-21-2017: \$125,325.45
		Payoff Itemization:Principal Balance:\$125,325.45Interest Balance:\$0.00Fee Balance:\$0.00Misc Balance:\$0.00
	II-I-I-IIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIII	

01-21-2017

REAL TIME RESOLUTIONS, INC. File: 46

Regarding Property:

4107 5TH AVE HOLMES BEACH, FL 34217

RE: Notice of Servicing Transfer

Dear CHRISTOPHER J TABICK:

You are hereby notified that collection duty associated with the above referenced file, that is the right to collect payments from you, if applicable, is being transferred from Ditech Financial, LLC. to Real Time Resolutions, Inc. ("RTR"), effective Jan 9 2017. This transfer of collection rights associated with your account does not affect any terms or conditions of your contract documentation other than the terms directly related to the collection of your payments.

Please see the back of this page and the next page for additional important information regarding this account.

Real Time Resolutions, Inc. is a debt collector. This is an attempt to collect a debt, and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. However, if you are currently in bankruptcy or have received a discharge in bankruptcy, this communication is not an attempt to collect a debt from you personally to the extent it is included in your bankruptcy or has been discharged and is provided for informational purposes only.

THE FOLLOWING NOTICES APPLY TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE FOLLOWING STATES AS NOTED THIS LIST IS NOT A COMPLETE LIST OF RIGHTS CONSUMERS MAY HAVE UNDER STATE AND FEDERAL LAW.

NEW YORK RESIDENTS:

- New York City Department of Consumer Affairs License Number: 1077970.
- Original Creditor: CW HOME EQUITY (CWHEQ 2005-A)
- Total Due at Charge-Off: \$125,000.00
- Total Interest Since Charge-Off: \$0.00
- Total Non-Interest Charges or Fees Since Charge-Off: \$0.00
- Total Payments Made Since Charge-Off: \$0.00

As of today, we show your total loan balance as \$125,325.45. Any questions regarding this loan may be directed to Charles Rich by calling 1-855-879-7871.

Debt collectors, in accordance with the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq., are prohibited from engaging in abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection efforts, including but not limited to (i) the use or threat of violence; (ii) the use of obscene or profane language; and (iii) repeated phone calls made with the intent to annoy, abuse, or harass. If a creditor or debt collector receives a money judgment against you in court, state and federal laws may prevent the following types of income from being taken to pay the debt:

- Supplemental security income (SSI); 1.
- 2. Social security;
- Public assistance (welfare); 3.
- Spousal support, maintenance (alimony), or child support; 4.
- Unemployment benefits; 5.
- 6. Disability benefits;
- Workers' compensation benefits; 7.
- Public or private pensions; 8.
- 9. Veterans' benefits:
- Federal student loans, federal student grants, and federal work study funds; and 10.
- Ninety percent of your wages or salary earned in the last sixty days. 11.

ALL U.S. RESIDENTS:

If you would like mortgage counseling or assistance, you can find a list of counselors in your area by calling the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development at 1-800-569-4287 or visiting their website at www.hud.gov.

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.

- This Account's Current Creditor is THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON FKA THE BANK OF NEW YORK, AS SUCCESSOR TO JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR THE CERTIFICATEHOLDERS OF CWHEQ REVOLVING HOME EQUITY LOAN TRUST, SERIES 2005-A
- This Account's Original Creditor is CW HOME EQUITY (CWHEQ 2005-A)



01-21-2017

File Number:

Unless you notify this office within 30 days after receiving this notice that you dispute the validity of this debt or any portion thereof, this office will assume this debt is valid. If you notify this office in writing within 30 days of receiving this notice, this office will obtain verification of the debt or obtain a copy of a judgment if applicable and mail you a copy of such verification or judgment. If you make a written request to this office within 30 days after receiving this notice, this office will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor.

If you have mortgage life, disability, or any other type of optional insurance, please note that these types of insurance will NOT remain a part of your monthly payment, and you will need to make arrangements to pay the premium(s) for these services directly to the insurer to prevent cancellation.

Under federal law, during the 60-day period following the effective date of the transfer of account servicing, a payment received by your prior servicer on or before its due date may not be treated by RTR as late, and we may not impose a late fee in connection with such payment.

Effective Jan 9 2017, Ditech Financial, LLC. will not accept payments, correspondence, or calls from you about your account. If you are currently making your mortgage payment through preauthorized draft with Ditech Financial, LLC., please be advised that after Jan 9 2017 that service will be CANCELLED. Ditech Financial, LLC. can be reached at 1-877-835-6465 Mon - Thu 6:00am - 7:00pm, Fri 6:00am - 4:00pm Mountain.

Effective Jan 9 2017, your correspondence and payments made payable to Real Time Resolutions, Inc. should be directed to the following addresses:

Correspondence REAL TIME RESOLUTIONS, INC. P.O. Box 36655 Dallas, TX 75235-1655

Payments REAL TIME RESOLUTIONS, INC. Attn: Payment Processing P.O. BOX 731940 DALLAS, TX 75373-1940

If you would like to contact us at any time about your loan, you may call us toll free at 1-855-879-7871 between the hours of Mon - Thu 7:00am - 9:00pm, Fri 7:00am - 6:00pm Central.

Sincerely,

REAL TIME RESOLUTIONS, INC. P.O. Box 36655 Dallas, TX 75235-1655 Toll Free: 1-855-879-7871

2012 Corporate Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30AM - 5:30PM Central • realtimeresolutions.com/make-a-payment

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2 of 2

126633-70021-2

Case 1:17-cv-06227 Document 1-1 Filed 10/25/17 Page 1 of 2 PageID #: 22

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

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Eastern District of New York

)
)
CHRISTOPHER TABICK)
)
	- Ś
Plaintiff(s)	ý
V.	
))
)
REAL TIME RESOLUTIONS, INC.)
)
)
Defendant(s))

Civil Action No.

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address) REAL TIME RESOLUTIONS, INC. C/O CT CORP 111 EIGHTH AVENUE NEW YORK NY 10011

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: Adam J. Fishbein, P.C. 735 Central Avenue

Woodmere NY 11598

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

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) 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))

was re	ceived by me on (date)	·				
	□ I personally served	the summons on the individual a	tt (place)			
			on (date)	; or		
	□ I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with (<i>name</i>)					
		, a persor	n of suitable age and discretion who res	ides there	e,	
	on (date) , and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or					
	\Box I served the summo	ons on (name of individual)			, who is	
	designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of (name of organization)					
			on (date)	; or		
	\Box I returned the summer \Box	I returned the summons unexecuted because			; or	
	Other (<i>specify</i>):					
	My fees are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$	0.0	0	
	I declare under penalt	y of perjury that this information	is true.			
Date:						
			Server's signature			
			Printed name and title			

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

Server's address

JS 44 (Rev. 1/2013) Case 1:17-cv-06227 Document Cover Sile 10/25/17 Page 1 of 2 PageID #: 24

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	, ,		DEFENDANTS			
CHRISTOPHER TABICK			REAL TIME RESOLUTIONS, INC.			
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff KINGS (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)			County of Residence of First Listed Defendant <u>TEXAS</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, A Adam J. Fishbein 735 Central Avenue Woodmere, NY 11598	Address, and Telephone Number) fishbeinadamj@gmail.com 516 668 6945		Attorneys (If Known)			
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only,			RINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff	
X 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	 General Question (U.S. Government Not a Party) 		(For Diversity Cases Only) P1 en of This State			
2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties	in Item III)	en of Another State	of Business In		
			breign Country			
IV. NATURE OF SUIT	(Place an "X" in One Box Only) TORTS	F	ORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
 110 Insurance 120 Marine 130 Miller Act 140 Negotiable Instrument 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment 151 Medicare Act 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' Suits 190 Other Contract 195 Contract Product Liability 196 Franchise REAL PROPERTY 210 Land Condemnation 220 Foreclosure 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability 290 All Other Real Property 	PERSONAL INJURY PERSO 310 Airplane 365 Pers 315 Airplane Product Pro Liability 367 Hea 320 Assault, Libel & Pha Slander Pers 330 Federal Employers' Pro Liability 368 Asb 340 Marine Inju 345 Marine Product Lia Liability PERSON 350 Motor Vehicle 370 Tht 355 Motor Vehicle 371 Tru Product Liability 380 Oth 360 Other Personal Pro Injury 385 Pro Gac Personal Injury - Pro Medical Malpractice Pro CIVIL RIGHTS PRISONI 440 Other Civil Rights Habeas 441 Voting 463 Alice 441 Voting 510 Moi 443 Housing/ Sen Accommodations 535 Dece Employment 540 Mar Other 550 Civ 448 Education 555 Pris 560 Civ Con	DNAL INJURY 62 sonal Injury - 64 oduct Liability 69 alth Care/ 69 rmaceutical 69 sonal Injury 69 duct Liability 69 duct Liability 69 duct Liability 69 bility 70 valte Fraud 71 thin Lending 72 perty Damage 74 perty Damage 75 duct Liability 79 corpus: 79 en Detainee 79 tions to Vacate 10 tence 10 ath Penalty 40 ndamus & Other 40	25 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 00 Other LABOR		 375 False Claims Act 400 State Reapportionment 410 Antitrust 430 Banks and Banking 450 Commerce 460 Deportation 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations 480 Consumer Credit 490 Cable/Sat TV 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange 890 Other Statutory Actions 893 Environmental Matters 895 Freedom of Information Act 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes 	
		from 🗖 4 Rein		r District Litigation		
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	Inaccurate representation	COLLECTION PF	Do not cite jurisdictional state RACTICES ACT	utes unless diversity):		
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS IS A CLA UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.F		EMAND \$	CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND	y if demanded in complaint: : X Yes □ No	
VIII. RELATED CASI IF ANY	(See instructions): JUDGE			DOCKET NUMBER		
DATE 10/24/2017 FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		TURE OF ATTORNEY O DAM J. FISHBEI				
	APP	PLYING IFP	JUDGE	MAG. JU	DGE	

Case 1:17-cv-06227 Document 1-2 Filed 10/25/17 Page 2 of 2 PageID #: 25 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>ADAM J. FISHBEIN</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 CLASS ACTION

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:

NONE

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
- 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?

b) Did the events of 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? 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. X Yes No

Are you currently the subject of any disciplinary action (s) in this or any other state or federal court?

(If yes, please explain)

\mathbf{X}	No

I certify the accuracy of all information provided above.

Yes

Signature: /S/ ADAM J. FISHBEIN

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Real Time Resolutions Facing FDCPA Lawsuit</u>