UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

NATALYA TEPLITSKAYA, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

-against-

ALLTRAN FINANCIAL, LP

Defendant.

Plaintiff NATALYA TEPLITSKAYA (hereinafter, "Plaintiff"), a New York resident, brings this class action complaint by and through her attorneys, Cohen & Mizrahi LLP, against Defendant ALLTRAN FINANCIAL, LP ("Defendant"), individually and on behalf of a class of all others similarly situated, pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, based upon information and belief of Plaintiff's counsel, except for allegations specifically pertaining to Plaintiff, which are based upon Plaintiff's personal knowledge.

INTRODUCTION/PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. Congress enacted § 1692 *et seq.* of Title 15 of the United States Code, commonly referred to as the Fair Debt Collections Practices Act ("FDCPA") in 1977 in response to the "abundant evidence of the use of abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection practices by many debt collectors." 15 U.S.C. § 1692(a). At that time, Congress was concerned that "abusive debt collection practices contribute to the number of personal bankruptcies, to marital instability, to the loss of jobs, and to invasions of individual privacy." *Id.* Congress concluded that "existing laws... [we]re inadequate to protect consumers," and that "the effective collection of debts" does not require "misrepresentation or other abusive debt collection practices." 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692(b) & (c).

2. Congress explained that the purpose of the FDCPA was not only to eliminate abusive debt collection practices, but also to "insure that those debt collectors who refrain from using abusive debt collection practices are not competitively disadvantaged." *Id.*; § 1692(e). After determining that the existing consumer protection laws were inadequate, Congress gave consumers a private cause of action against debt collectors who fail to comply with the Act. *Id.*; § 1692k.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 3. The Court has jurisdiction over this class action under 28 U.S.C. § 1331, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 *et seq.* and 28 U.S.C. § 2201. If applicable, the Court also has pendent jurisdiction over the state law claims in this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).
 - 4. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2).

NATURE OF THE ACTION

- 5. Plaintiff brings this class action on behalf of a class of New York consumers seeking redress for Defendant's actions of using a misleading, deceptive, unfair and unconscionable means to collect a debt.
- 6. Defendant's actions violated § 1692 *et seq.*, of the FDCPA, which prohibits debt collectors from engaging in abusive, deceptive and unfair practices.
 - 7. Plaintiff is seeking damages, and declaratory and injunctive relief.

PARTIES

- 8. Plaintiff is a natural person and a resident of the State of New York and is a "Consumer" as defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(3).
 - 9. Defendant is a collection agency with its principal office located in Houston, Texas.
- 10. Defendant is a company that uses the mail, telephone, and facsimile, and regularly engages in business, the principal purpose of which is to attempt to collect debts alleged to be due another.

11. Defendant is a "debt collector" as defined under the FDCPA under 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

- 12. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the allegations contained in paragraphs numbered "1" through "11" herein with the same force and effect as if set forth at length herein.
- 13. Plaintiff brings claims, pursuant to the Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a) and 23(b)(3), individually and on behalf of the following consumer class (the "Class").
- 14. The Class consists of (a) all individuals with addresses in Queens County in the State of New York (b) to whom Defendant (c) sent a collection letter attempting to collect a consumer debt (d) failing to clearly state the amount of the debt which is due and owing, by implying that a payment sooner rather than later will be more economical for the consumer and by employing false, deceptive and misleading representations in connection with the collection of the debt (e) which letter was sent on or after a date one year prior to filing this action and on or before a date 21 days after filing this action.
- 15. The identities of all Class members are readily ascertainable from Defendant's records and those companies and entities on whose behalf they attempt to collect and/or have purchased debts.
- 16. Excluded from the Class are the Defendants and all officers, members, partners, managers, directors, and employees of the Defendants and their respective immediate families, and legal counsel for all parties to this action and all members of their immediate families.
- 17. There are questions of law and fact common to the Class, which common issues predominate over any issues involving only individual class members. The principal issue is whether the Defendant's written communications to consumers, in the form attached as **Exhibit A**, violate 15 U.S.C. § 1962e.

- 18. The Plaintiff's claims are typical of the Class members, as all are based upon the same facts and legal theories.
- 19. The Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class defined in this complaint. The Plaintiff has retained counsel with experience handling in consumer lawsuits, complex legal issues, and class actions, and neither the Plaintiff nor his attorneys have any interests, which might cause them not to vigorously pursue this action.
- 20. This action has been brought, and may properly be maintained, as a class action pursuant to the provisions of Fed. R. Civ. P. 23 because there is a well-defined community interest in the litigation:
 - a. <u>Numerosity:</u> The Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that the Class defined above are so numerous that joinder of all members would be impractical.
 - b. <u>Common Questions Predominate:</u> Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Class and those questions predominate over any questions or issues involving only individual class members. The principal issue is whether the Defendant's written communications to consumers, in the form attached as **Exhibit A**, violate 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.
 - c. <u>Typicality:</u> The Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Class members. The Plaintiff and all members of the Class have claims arising out of the Defendant's common uniform course of conduct complained of herein.
 - d. <u>Adequacy:</u> The Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class members insofar as Plaintiff has no interest that are adverse to the

absent Class members. Plaintiff is committed to vigorously litigating this matter. Plaintiff has also retained counsel with experience in handling consumer lawsuits, complex legal issues, and class actions. Neither the Plaintiff nor his counsel have any interests which might cause them not to vigorously pursue the instant class action lawsuit.

- e. <u>Superiority:</u> A class action is superior to the other available means for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy because individual joinder of all members would be impractical. Class action treatment will permit a large number of similarly situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum efficiently and without unnecessary duplication of effort and expense.
- 21. Certification of a class under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3) is also appropriate in that the questions of law and fact are common to all members of the Class and predominate over any questions affecting an individual member, and a class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy.
- 22. Depending on the outcome of further investigation and discovery, Plaintiff may, at the time of class certification motion, seek to certify a class(es) only as to particular issues pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(c)(4).

ALLEGATIONS PARTICULAR TO NATALYA TEPLITSKAYA

- 23. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the allegations contained in paragraphs numbered "1" through "22" herein with the same force and effect as if set forth at length herein.
- 24. Defendant collects and attempts to collect debts incurred or alleged to have been incurred for personal, family or household purposes on behalf of creditors using the United States Postal Services, telephone, facsimile, and Internet.

- 25. Upon information and belief, within the last year Defendant commenced efforts to collect an alleged consumer "debt" as defined by 15 U.S.C. 1692a(5), when it mailed a collection letter to Plaintiff seeking to collect on an unpaid account originally owed to American Express.
- 26. On or about February 16, 2018, Defendant sent Plaintiff a collection letter (the "Collection Letter") seeking to collect a balance allegedly incurred for personal purposes. A copy of the Collection Letter is attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit A**.
- 27. The Collection Letter was sent or caused to be sent by persons employed by Defendant as a "debt collector" as defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(6).
 - 28. The Collection Letter is a "communication" as defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(2).
 - 29. Upon information and belief, Defendant's Collection Letter is a form letter.
- 30. Upon information and belief, the Defendant's Collection Letter is identical to other collection letters sent to consumers, which number in the hundreds.
- 31. Defendant's Collection Letter provides, in pertinent part, as follows: "As of the date of this letter, you owe \$788.25."
 - 32. As a result of the following counts Defendant violated the FDCPA.

First Count Violation of 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692e(2), 1692e(10) and 1692e(5) False or Misleading Representations

- 33. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the allegations contained in paragraphs numbered "1" through "32" herein with the same force and effect as if set forth at length herein.
 - 34. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e provides, in pertinent part, as follows:

"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."
- 35. Defendant's Collection Letter provides, in pertinent part, as follows: "As of the date of this letter, you owe \$788.25." This phrase implies that the balance may increase at a later stage. See *Chuway v. Nat'l Action Fin., Servs*, 362 F.3d 944 (7th Cir. 2004) (Letter stating the balance but inviting the debtor to call to obtain "the most current balance information" creates doubt as to whether the balance stated is increasing and violates the FDCPA unless an explanation is provided).
- 36. Plaintiff was left uncertain as to whether the balance would increase as there was no disclosure that indicated otherwise.
- 37. The Collection Letter does not clearly state either that the amount will or will not increase. See *Avila v. Riexinger & Associates, LLC*, 817 F.3d 72 (2d Cir. 2016).
- 38. While it is typical for a collection letter to state an "amount due" or an "account balance", it is not typical for a collection letter to state that the amount owed is as of a specific date, as such language implies that the balance will increase at a different date. See *Islam v. Am. Recovery Serv.*, No.: 17-cv-4228-BMC, 2017 WL 4990570 (E.D.N.Y. Oct. 31, 2017) (Language such as the "current balance" or "as of the date of this letter" is insufficient disclosure to a debtor that her balance is either dynamic or static and such ambiguity violates the framework of *Avila*). See also, *Medzhidzade v. Kirschenbaum & Phillips, P.C.*, No.: 17-cv-6452-BMC, 2018 WL 2093116 (E.D.N.Y. May 3, 2018).

- 39. The FDCPA requires debt collectors, when notifying consumers of their account balance, to disclose that the balance may increase due to interest and fees; failure to include such disclosures harms the consumer such as Plaintiff.
- 40. Collection letters that state only the "Current Balance Due", "As of the date of this letter you owe [amount due]", The Amount Due above reflects the total balance due as of the date of this letter", or "As of the date of this notice you owe [amount due]", but do not disclose that the balance might increase due to interest and fees, are misleading within the meaning of § 1692e.
- 41. If Defendant is not authorized by the current creditor to collect interest, late fees, or non-interest charges or fees, by stating "As of the date of this letter, you owe \$788.25," such language leads a debtor to believe that her debt is accruing interest when it actually is not may be materially misleading because it could induce the debtor may pay that debt in lieu of another debt she knows is accruing interest at some lower rate. See *Islam v. Am. Recovery Serv.*, No.: 17-cv-4228-BMC, 2017 WL 4990570 (E.D.N.Y. Oct. 31, 2017) (Language such as the "current balance" or "as of the date of this letter" is insufficient disclosure to a debtor that her balance is either dynamic or static and such ambiguity violates the framework of *Avila*). See also, *Medzhidzade v. Kirschenbaum & Phillips, P.C.*, No.: 17-cv-6452-BMC, 2018 WL 2093116 (E.D.N.Y. May 3, 2018).
- 42. The Collection Letter falsely implies that the debt is dynamic and not static, leading the consumer to believe that the debt may accrue interest and late fees at a later date.
 - 43. Defendant never intended to add any charges and fees to Plaintiff's account.
- 44. Defendant misrepresented the character of the alleged debt in violation of 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e and 1692e(2)(a), when it falsely implied charges and fees could accrue on the account.

- 45. Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e(2)(A) and 1692e(10) by misrepresenting the amount of debt owed by Plaintiff.
- 46. Because the Collection Letters can reasonably be read by the least sophisticated consumer to have two or more meanings, one of which is inaccurate, as described, they are deceptive under 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.
- 47. For these reasons, Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692e(2), and 1692e(10). See *Taylor v. Fin. Recovery Servs., Inc.*, 886 F.3d 212, 215 (2d Cir. 2018) (citing *Chuway v. Nat'l Action Fin. Servs., Inc.*, 362 F.3d 944, 949 (7th Cir. 2004)); see also *Thomas v. Midland Credit Mgmt., Inc.*, No. 2:17-CV-00523(ADS)(ARL), 2017 WL 5714722, at *4 (E.D.N.Y. Nov. 27, 2017); *Islam v. American Recovery Service Incorporated*, 17-CV-4228 (BMC), 2017 WL 4990570, at *2 (E.D.N.Y. Oct. 30, 2017); and *Medzhidzade v. Kirschenbaum & Phillips, P.C.*, No.: 17-cv-6452-BMC, 2018 WL 2093116 (E.D.N.Y. May 3, 2018).
 - 48. At all relevant times, Plaintiff was being contacted by more than one debt collector.
- 49. Plaintiff attempted to prioritize paying off his debts by focusing foremost on those debts with the highest interest rates.
- 50. However, Plaintiff was hampered from prioritizing his debts due to Defendant's dunning collection letter which implied that interest and fees may accrue in the future.
- 51. Defendant's implication that the subject debt may accrue interest and fees materially harmed Plaintiff in his ability to properly allocate his limited funds.
- 52. As a result, Plaintiff was unsure which debts to prioritize, thereby damaging him in the process. As a result, Plaintiff was materially harmed by Defendant's actions.
- 53. Plaintiff suffered an injury in fact by being subjected to unfair and abusive practices of the Defendant.

- 54. Plaintiff suffered actual harm by being the target of the Defendant's misleading debt collection communications.
- 55. Defendant violated the Plaintiff's right not to be the target of misleading debt collection communications.
 - 56. Defendant violated the Plaintiff's right to a truthful and fair debt collection process.
- 57. Defendant used materially false, deceptive, misleading representations and means in its attempted collection of Plaintiff's alleged debt.
- 58. 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.
- 59. The FDCPA ensures that consumers are fully and truthfully apprised of the facts and of their rights. The FDPCA enables consumers to understand, make informed decisions about, and participate fully and meaningfully in the debt collection process. One purpose of the FDPCA, among others, is to provide information that helps consumers choose intelligently. The Defendant's false representations misled the Plaintiff in a manner that deprived her of her right to enjoy these benefits. As a result, Defendant's materially misleading statements trigger liability under § 1692e of the FDCPA.
- 60. Defendant's deceptive communications additionally violate the FDPCA since they frustrate the consumer's ability to intelligently choose his or her response.
- As an actual and proximate result of the acts and omissions of Defendant, Plaintiff has suffered, including, without limitation, fear, stress, mental anguish, emotional stress and acute embarrassment for which he should be compensated in an amount to be established by a jury.
 - 62. As a result of the foregoing Count, Defendant violated the FDCPA.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendants as follows:

- (a) Declaring that this action is properly maintainable as a Class Action and certifying Plaintiff as Class representative and Cohen & Mizrahi LLP, as Class Counsel;
- (b) Awarding Plaintiff and the Class statutory damages;
- (c) Awarding Plaintiff and the Class actual damages;
- (d) Awarding Plaintiff costs of this Action, including reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses;
- (e) Awarding pre-judgment interest and post-judgment interest; and
- (f) Awarding Plaintiff and the Class such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

COHEN & MIZRAHI LLP

Dated: Brooklyn, New York

October 22, 2018

By: /s/ Daniel C. Cohen

Daniel C. Cohen, Esq. Cohen & Mizrahi LLP

300 Cadman Plaza W, 12th floor Brooklyn, New York 11201

Phone: (929) 575-4175 Fax: (929) 575-4195

Email: dan@cml.legal *Attorneys for Plaintiff*

DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY

Pursuant to Rule 38 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff hereby requests a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

/s/ Daniel C. Cohen

Daniel C. Cohen, Esq.

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	<u> </u>		DEFENDANTS	DEFENDANTS				
NATALYA TEPLITSKAY others similarly situated	A, on behalf of herself	and all	ALLTRAN FINA	ALLTRAN FINANCIAL, LP,				
(b) County of Residence of	of First Listed Plaintiff	Kings	County of Residence	County of Residence of First Listed Defendant				
(E.	XCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CA		(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			Attorneys (If Known)					
OHEN & MIZRAHI LLP, 30 29) 575-4175	0 Cadman Plaza West,	12th FI, Brooklyn NY 1	1201					
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	ICTION (Place an "X" in O	ne Box Only)	I. CITIZENSHIP OF P (For Diversity Cases Only)	RINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plainti <u>f</u> and One Box for Defendant)			
☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	`			IF DEF 1 □ 1 Incorporated <i>or</i> Pr of Business In T	PTF DEF incipal Place			
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	•			2				
			Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	3	□ 6 □ 6			
IV. NATURE OF SUIT		ely) PRTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	Click here for: Nature of BANKRUPTCY	of Suit Code Descriptions. 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 □ 310 Airplane □ 315 Airplane Product Liability □ 320 Assault, Libel & Slander □ 330 Federal Employers' Liability □ 340 Marine □ 345 Marine Product Liability □ 350 Motor Vehicle □ 355 Motor Vehicle □ roduct Liability □ 360 Other Personal Injury □ 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice CIVIL RIGHTS □ 440 Other Civil Rights □ 442 Employment □ 443 Housing/ Accommodations □ 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment □ 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other □ 448 Education	PERSONAL INJURY 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage Product Liability PRISONER PETITIONS Habeas Corpus: 463 Alien Detainee 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence 530 General 535 Death Penalty Other: 540 Mandamus & Other 550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition	□ 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 □ 690 Other □ 710 Fair Labor Standards Act □ 720 Labor/Management Relations □ 740 Railway Labor Act □ 751 Family and Medical Leave Act □ 790 Other Labor Litigation □ 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act □ IMMIGRATION □ 462 Naturalization Application □ 465 Other Immigration Actions	□ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 □ 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS □ 820 Copyrights □ 830 Patent □ 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application □ 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY □ 861 HIA (1395ff) □ 862 Black Lung (923) □ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) □ 864 SSID Title XVI □ 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS □ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) □ 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	□ 375 False Claims Act □ 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) □ 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 □ 891 Agricultural Acts □ 893 Environmental Matters □ 895 Freedom of Information Act □ 896 Arbitration □ 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision □ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes			
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	Cite the U.S. Civil Sta 15 USC 1692	tute under which you are fi	ling (Do not cite jurisdictional stat					
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION	Brief description of ca	use:						
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:		IS A CLASS ACTION	DEMAND \$	CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND:	if demanded in complaint: X Yes □No			
VIII. RELATED CASI	E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE		DOCKET NUMBER	· ·			
DATE		SIGNATURE OF ATTOR	NEY OF RECORD					
10/22/18 FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		/s/ Daniel Cohen						
RECEIPT#AN	MOUNT	APPLYING IFP	JUDGE	MAG. JUD	OGE			

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.

-,	iel Cohen	sory arbitration for the f		ounsel for PLAINTIFF			, do hereby certify that the above captioned civil action	
F	is ineligible for compulsory arbitration for the following reason(s): monetary damages sought are in excess of \$150,000, exclusive of interest and costs,							
Ī		complaint seeks injuncti		ess of \$130,000, exc	usive of filteres	anu '	cosis,	
Ī	<u> </u>	matter is otherwise inelig	•	ne following reason	Question of	law ra	ather than questions of fact predominates	
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		DISCLOSURE	SIAII	EMENI - FEDE	KAL KULI	<u> </u>	CIVIL PROCEDURE 7.1	
NONE	E	Identify any parent	corporation	on and any publicly h	eld corporation	that o	wns 10% or more or its stocks:	
		RELATED CA	ASE ST	ATEMENT (Se	ection VIII o	n th	ne Front of this Form)	
to another substantia deemed "r "Presumpt	civil case for purpul saving of judicial related" to another	poses of this guideline wher I resources is likely to result r civil case merely because	n, because of from assig the civil cas	of the similarity of facts a ning both cases to the s se: (A) involves identical	and legal issues of ame judge and m legal issues, or (l	or becar agistra B) invo	ont of this form. Rule 50.3.1 (a) provides that "A civil case is "related" use the cases arise from the same transactions or events, a te judge." Rule 50.3.1 (b) provides that "A civil case shall not be lives the same parties." Rule 50.3.1 (c) further provides that shall not be deemed to be "related" unless both cases are still	
			NY-E	DIVISION OF BU	SINESS RU	LE 5	0.1(d)(2)	
1)	lo the civil s	nation boing filed in	the Fee	torn Diatrict roma	wad from a	Naw	Varie State Court leasted in Neasen or Suffalle	
1.)	County?	Yes	ine Eas	No No	oved from a i	inew	York State Court located in Nassau or Suffolk	
2.)		rered "no" above: events or omissions Yes	giving r	ise to the claim o	or claims, or	a sul	ostantial part thereof, occur in Nassau or Suffolk	
	b) Did the e District?	events or omissions Yes	giving r	rise to the claim o	or claims, or	a sul	ostantial part thereof, occur in the Eastern	
c) If this is a Fair Debt Collection Practice Act case, specify the County in which the offending communication was received: KINGS COUNTY .								
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? Yes No								
Ourion (_		resident of the Co	unty in which	it has	the most significant contacts).	
BAR ADMISSION								
	I am currentl	y admitted in the Eas	tern Disti	rict of New York an	d currently a	meml	per in good standing of the bar of this court.	
			Yes				No	
	Are you cui	rently the subject o	f any dis	sciplinary action	(s) in this or	any c	other state or federal court?	
			Yes	(If yes, please	explain	V	No	
					·			
	I certify the	accuracy of all info	rmation	provided above.				
	Signature:	/s/ Daniel Co	ohen					

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Eastern District of New York						
NATALYA TEPLITSKAYA, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated, Plaintiff(s) V. ALLTRAN FINANCIAL, LP))) ()) () () () () () () () () () ()					
Defendant(s))					
SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION						
To: (Defendant's name and address) ALLTRAN FINANCIAL, LP C/O CT CORPORATION SYSTEM 111 EIGHTH AVENUE NEW YORK, NEW YORK 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: COHEN & MIZRAHI LLP 300 CADMAN PLAZA WEST, 12 FLOOR BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11201						
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.						
	DOUGLAS C. PALMER 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))

		ne of individual and title, if ar	ny)						
was re	ceived by me on (date)		·						
	☐ I personally served	the summons on the ind	lividual at (place)						
		on (date)							
	☐ I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with (name), a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there, on (date), and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or ☐ I served the summons on (name of individual), who designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of (name of organization)								
	designated by law to	accept service of process		; or					
		on (date)							
	☐ I returned the summ	nons unexecuted because	e	; or					
	☐ Other (<i>specify</i>):								
	My fees are \$	for travel and S	for services, for a total of \$	0.00					
	I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.								
Date:		-							
			Server's signature						
		_	Printed name and title						
		_	Server's address						

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

Case 1:18-cv-05904 Document 1-3 Filed 10/22/18 Page 1 of 2 PageID #: 16

PO BOX 4043 CONCORD CA 94524-4043 Alltran Financial, LP

I JARNE 1811 JARNE 1815 JANE HARE HARE HARE HARE BENE BEREIT BARE BENEFA BENEFA BENEFA BENEFA FARRE

February 16, 2018

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Creditor: American Express Co. Account: XXXXXXXXXXX81003

Alltran ID

Balance Due as of February 16, 2018: \$788.00 Partial Account Number for Your Security

ել Մեն Մել ել ԻՄ իլիունի կինի համանականի հինդին հիման

Natalya Teplitskaya

REGO PARK NY 11374-3647

374-3647

Please detach at perforation and return with your payment.

Dear Natalya Teplitskaya,

This agency has been retained by American Express Co. to help collect your balance. As of the letter date above, you owe \$788.00.

As of the date of this letter, you owe \$788.00. For further information, write the undersigned or call 866-740-3108, extension 3063.

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

Please see the reverse side of this letter for important notices concerning your rights.

Sincerely,

LAUREN LAMBUS Alltran Financial, LP P.O. Box 722929 HOUSTON TX 77272-2929

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.

Looking for a secure and more convenient way to pay your account? Make payments with your Debit Card using your mobile phone or other electronic device at www.alltranfinancialpay.com to take advantage of this simple and free service available 24 hours a day.

Office Hours (all times Central)

Monday-Thursday: 8 AM to 9 PM • Friday: 8 AM to 4 PM • Saturday: 7 AM to 11 AM

If you write to us and ask us to stop communicating with you about this debt, we will, but if you owe this debt, you will still owe it and the debt may still be collected from you. If you have a complaint about the way we are collecting this debt, you may write to our Contact Center, 5800 North Course Drive, Houston, TX 77072 or call our toll-free Complaint Hotline at (800) 326-8040 between 7 AM and 4 PM (Central Time) Monday-Friday.

State Disclosures

California

The State Rosenthal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and the Federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act require that, except under unusual circumstances, collectors may not contact you before 8 A.M. or after 9 P.M. They may not harass you by using threats of violence or arrest or by using obscene language. Collectors may not use false or misleading statements or call you at work if they know or have a reason to know that you may not receive personal calls at work. For the most part, collectors may not tell another person, other than your attorney or spouse, about your debt. Collectors may contact another person to confirm your location or enforce a judgment. For more information about debt collection activities, you may contact the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877- FTC-HELP or WWW.FTC.GOV.

Colorado

A consumer has the right to request in writing that a debt collector or collection agency cease further communication with the consumer. A written request to cease communication will not prohibit the debt collector or collection agency from taking any other action authorized by law to collect the debt. FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE COLORADO FAIR DEBT COLLECTIONS PRACTICES ACT, SEE WWW.COAG.GOV/CAR.

Colorado Manager, Inc., BUILDING B, 80 Garden Center STE 3, Broomfield, CO 80020 - (303) 920-4763

Massachusetts

If you notify this office within 30 days after receiving this notice that the debt or any portion thereof is disputed, this office will obtain verification of the debt and provide to you or your attorney, additional information described in 940 CMR 7.08(2).

Minnesota

THIS COLLECTION AGENCY IS LICENSED BY THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

New York

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:

- 1. Supplemental security income, (SSI);
- 2. Social security;
- 3. Public assistance (welfare);
- 4. Spousal support, maintenance (alimony) or child support;
- 5. Unemployment benefits;
- 6. Disability benefits;

- 7. Workers' compensation benefits;
- 8. Public or private pensions;
- 9. Veterans' benefits;
- 10. Federal student loans, federal student grants, and federal work study funds; and
- 11. Nincty percent of your wages or salary carned in the last sixty days.

New York City

NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS LICENSE NUMBER 1304511, 1304544, 1304538.

North Carolina

Alltran Financial, LP holds North Carolina Department of Insurance Permit Numbers 103199, 103166, 103195.

Tennessee

THIS COLLECTION AGENCY IS LICENSED BY THE COLLECTION SERVICE BOARD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE.

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Alltran Financial 'Misrepresented' Debt Amount, Consumer Alleges</u>