

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
FORT WORTH DIVISION

DOYCE THOMPSON, individually and on  
behalf of all other persons similarly situated,

*Plaintiff,*

VS.

CAPELLA EDUCATION COMPANY d/b/a  
CAPELLA UNIVERSITY,

*Defendant*

CIVIL ACTION NO.

4:18-cv-790

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**PLAINTIFF’S ORIGINAL CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

DOYCE THOMPSON (“Plaintiff”), individually and on behalf of all other persons similarly situated, brings this Class Action Complaint and Demand for Jury Trial (“Complaint”) against Defendant CAPELLA EDUCATION COMPANY (referred herein as “Defendant”) to stop Defendant’s practice of making unsolicited telemarketing calls to the telephones of consumers nationwide, and to obtain redress for all persons injured by its conduct. Plaintiff, for her Complaint, alleges as follows upon personal knowledge as to herself and her own acts and experiences, and, as to all other matters, upon information and belief, including investigation conducted by her attorney.

**INTRODUCTION**

1. Defendant Capella Education Company d/b/a Capella University is a for-profit online institution of higher learning based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In an effort to solicit potential students, Defendant recruited, or employed call centers which began making telephone calls, *en masse*, to consumers across the country. On information and belief, Defendant and or its

agents purchase leads from multiple lead generators that obtain consumer contact and demographic information from a number of sources.

2. Defendant conducted wide scale telemarketing campaigns and repeatedly made unsolicited calls to consumers' telephones—whose numbers appear on the National Do Not Call Registry—without consent, all in violation of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. § 227 (the “TCPA”).

3. The TCPA was enacted to protect consumers from unsolicited telephone calls exactly like those alleged in this case. In response to Defendant's unlawful conduct, Plaintiff files the instant lawsuit and seek an injunction requiring Defendant to cease all unsolicited telephone calling activities to consumers registered on the National Do Not Call Registry (“DNC”), and an award of statutory damages to the members of the Class under the TCPA up to \$500.00 per violation, together with court costs, reasonable attorneys' fees, and treble damages (for knowing and/or willful violations).

4. By making the telephone calls at issue in this Complaint, Defendant caused Plaintiff and the members of a putative Class of consumers (defined below) actual harm, including the aggravation, nuisance, and invasion of privacy that necessarily accompanies the receipt of unsolicited and harassing telephone calls, as well as the monies paid to their carriers for the receipt of such telephone calls.

### **PARTIES**

5. Plaintiff DOYCE THOMPSON is a natural person and citizen of Arlington, Texas.

6. Defendant CAPELLA EDUCATION COMPANY is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware, with its headquarters located in Minnesota. Defendant may be served by serving its Chief Executive Officer, Kevin Gillman, at 225 South Sixth Street,

9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402

7. Plaintiff does not yet know the identity of Defendant's employees/agents that had direct, personal participation in or personally authorized the conduct found to have violated the statute, and were not merely tangentially involved. They will be named, as numerous District Courts have found that individual officers/principals of corporate entities may be personally liable (jointly and severally) under the TCPA if they had direct, personal participation in or personally authorized the conduct found to have violated the statute, and were not merely tangentially involved. *Texas v. American Blastfax, Inc.*, 164 F.Supp.2d 892, 899 (W.D. Tex. 2001) (“*American Blastfax*”); *Sandusky Wellness Center, LLC v. Wagner Wellness, Inc.*, 2014 WL 1333472, at \* 3 (N.D. Ohio March 28, 2014); *Maryland v. Universal Elections*, 787 F.Supp.2d 408, 415-16 (D.Md. 2011) (“*Universal Elections*”); *Baltimore-Washington Tel Co. v. Hot Leads Co.*, 584 F.Supp.2d 736, 745 (D.Md. 2008); *Covington & Burling v. Int'l Mktg. & Research, Inc.*, 2003 WL 21384825, at \*6 (D.C.Super Apr. 17, 2003); *Chapman v. Wagener Equities, Inc.* 2014 WL 540250, at \*16-17 (N.D.Ill. Feb. 11, 2014); *Versteeg v. Bennett, Deloney & Noyes, P.C.*, 775 F.Supp.2d 1316, 1321 (D.Wy.2011) (“*Versteeg*”). Upon learning of the identities of said individuals, Plaintiff will move to amend to name the individuals as Defendant.

8. Whenever in this complaint it is alleged that Defendant committed any act or omission, it is meant that the Defendant's officers, directors, vice-principals, agents, servants, or employees, subsidiaries, or affiliates committed such act or omission and that at the time such act or omission was committed, it was done with the full authorization, ratification or approval of Defendant, or was done in the routine normal course and scope of employment of the Defendant's officers, directors, vice-principals, agents, servants, or employees.

## **JURISDICTION & VENUE**

9. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1331, as this action arises under the TCPA, which is a federal statute.

10. The Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because it conducts significant business in this District, and the unlawful conduct alleged in this Complaint occurred in, was directed to, and/or emanated from this District.

11. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because the wrongful conduct giving rise to this case occurred in, was directed to, and/or emanated from this District.

## **LEGAL BASIS FOR THE CLAIMS**

12. In 1991, Congress enacted the TCPA to regulate the explosive growth of the telemarketing industry. In doing so, Congress recognized that “[u]nrestricted telemarketing...can be an intrusive invasion of privacy...” Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991, Pub. L. No. 102-243 § 2(5) (1991) (codified at 47 U.S.C. § 227).

13. Specifically, the TCPA restricts telephone solicitations (*i.e.*, telemarketing) and the use of automated telephone equipment. The TCPA limits the use of automatic dialing systems, artificial or prerecorded voice messages, SMS text messages, and fax machines. It also specifies several technical requirements for fax machines, autodialers, and voice messaging systems—principally with provisions requiring identification and contact information of the entity using the device to be contained in the message.

14. In its initial implementation of the TCPA rules, the FCC included an exemption to its consent requirement for prerecorded telemarketing calls. Where the caller could demonstrate an “established business relationship” with a customer, the TCPA permitted the caller to place pre-

recorded telemarketing calls to residential lines. The new amendments to the TCPA, effective October 16, 2013, eliminate this established business relationship exemption. Therefore, all pre-recorded telemarketing calls to residential lines and wireless numbers violate the TCPA if the calling party does not first obtain express written consent from the called party.

15. As of October 16, 2013, unless the recipient has given prior express written consent,<sup>1</sup> the TCPA and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules under the TCPA generally:

- Prohibits solicitors from calling residences before 8 a.m. or after 9 p.m., local time.
- Requires solicitors provide their name, the name of the person or entity on whose behalf the call is being made, and a telephone number or address at which that person or entity may be contacted.
- Prohibits solicitations to residences that use an artificial voice or a recording.
- Prohibits any call or text made using automated telephone equipment or an artificial or prerecorded voice to a wireless device or telephone.
- Prohibits any call made using automated telephone equipment or an artificial or prerecorded voice to an emergency line (e.g., “911”), a hospital emergency number, a physician’s office, a hospital/health care

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<sup>1</sup> Prior express written consent means “an agreement, in writing, bearing the signature of the person called that clearly authorizes the seller to deliver or cause to be delivered to the person called advertisements or telemarketing messages using an automatic telephone dialing system or an artificial or prerecorded voice, and the telephone number to which the signatory authorizes such advertisements or telemarketing messages to be delivered. 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(f)(8).”

facility/elderly room, a telephone, or any service for which the recipient is charged for the call.

- Prohibits autodialed calls that engage two or more lines of a multi-line business.
- Prohibits unsolicited advertising faxes.
- Prohibits certain calls to members of the Do-Not-Call Registry

16. Furthermore, in 2008, the FCC held that “a creditor on whose behalf an autodialed or prerecorded message call is made to a wireless number bears the responsibility for any violation of the Commission’s rules.” *In re Rules and Regulations Implementing the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, Declaratory Ruling on Motion by ACA International for Reconsideration*, 23 FCC Rcd. 559, 565, ¶ 10 (Jan. 4, 2008); *Birchmeier v. Caribbean Cruise Line, Inc.*, 2012 WL 7062748 (Dec. 31, 2012).

17. Accordingly, the entity can be liable under the TCPA for a call made on its behalf, even if the entity did not directly place the call. Under those circumstances, the entity is deemed to have initiated the call through the person or entity.

18. There are just a handful of elements need to be proven for violations of the Do Not Call provision of the TCPA.

**A. DO NOT CALL VIOLATIONS OF THE TCPA**

19. More Than One Call within Any 12 Month Period. 47 U.S.C. § 227(c) provides that any “person who has received more than one telephone call within any 12-month period by or on behalf of the same entity in violation of the regulations prescribed under this subsection may” bring a private action based on a violation of said regulations, which were promulgated to protect

telephone subscribers' privacy rights to avoid receiving telephone solicitations to which they object.

20. Calls to Residential Lines on the Do Not Call List. The TCPA's implementing regulation—47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(c)—provides that “[n]o person or entity shall initiate any telephone solicitation” to “[a] residential telephone subscriber who has registered her or her telephone number on the national do-not-call registry of persons who do not wish to receive telephone solicitations that is maintained by the federal government.” *See* 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(c).

21. Or, Wireless Lines on the Do Not Call List. Owners of wireless telephone numbers (aka mobile or cellular phones) receive the same protections from the Do Not Call provision as owners or subscribers of wireline (“landline”) phone numbers. 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(e), provides that 47 C.F.R. §§ 64.1200(c) and (d) “are applicable to any person or entity making telephone solicitations or telemarketing calls to wireless telephone numbers to the extent described in the Commission’s Report and Order, CG Docket No. 02-278, FCC 03-153, ‘Rules and Regulations Implementing the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991,’” which the Report and Order, in turn, provides as follows:

The Commission’s rules provide that companies making telephone solicitations to residential telephone subscribers must comply with time of day restrictions and must institute procedures for maintaining do-not-call lists. For the reasons described above, we conclude that these rules apply to calls made to wireless telephone numbers. We believe that wireless subscribers should be afforded the same protections as wireline subscribers.

22. The Affirmative Defense of Prior Express Consent. Defendant has the burden to prove it has obtained the subscriber’s prior express invitation or permission. Such permission must be evidenced by a signed, written agreement between the consumer and seller which states that the consumer agrees to be contacted by this seller and includes the telephone number to which the calls may be placed. 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(c)(2)(ii).

### **COMMON FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

23. Defendant Capella Education Company d/b/a Capella University is a for-profit online institution of higher learning based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In an effort to solicit potential students, Defendant recruited, or employed call centers which began making telephone calls, *en masse*, to consumers across the country. On information and belief, Defendant and or its agents purchase leads from multiple lead generators that obtain consumer contact and demographic information from a number of sources.

24. In Defendant's overzealous attempt to market its services, it placed phone calls to consumers who never provided consent to call and to consumers having no relationship with Defendant. Worse yet, Defendant placed repeated and unwanted calls to consumers whose phone numbers are listed on the National Do Not Call Registry. Consumers place their phone numbers on the Do Not Call Registry for the express purpose of avoiding unwanted telemarketing calls like those alleged here.

25. Defendant knowingly made these telemarketing calls without the prior express written consent of the call recipients, and knowingly continue to call them after requests to stop. As such, Defendant not only invaded the personal privacy of Plaintiff and members of the putative Class, but also intentionally and repeatedly violated the TCPA.

### **FACTS SPECIFIC TO PLAINTIFF THOMPSON**

26. Plaintiff is a doctoral candidate at University of Texas-Arlington.

27. On or about July 24, 2012, Plaintiff registered her cellular phone number with the area code (817) and ending in 2033 with the National Do Not Call Registry.

28. During the spring and summer of 2016, Plaintiff began to receive calls on her cellular telephone from the number (612) 977-5000, offering online education opportunities.



29. Plaintiff is the regular carrier and exclusive user of the telephone assigned the number ending in 2033. The number is assigned to a cellular telephone service for which Plaintiff is charged for incoming calls pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1).

30. Plaintiff never had a business relationship with Defendant.

31. Plaintiff never provided Defendant with prior consent written invitation to contact her on her phone via a text message or a telephone call.

32. Nonetheless, Defendant called Plaintiff dozens of times on her phone during a twelve-month period. Defendant always attempted to market its for-profit online education services to Plaintiff.

33. Plaintiff repeatedly told Defendant to stop calling, and that she “doesn’t deal with online universities because she doesn’t consider them to be legitimate.” Yet, the calls continued.

34. Defendant’s unsolicited telemarketing calls caused Plaintiff extreme aggravation and occupied her telephone line.

35. Plaintiff has reason to believe Defendant called thousands of telephone customers listed on the DNC to market their products and services.

36. Plaintiff’s overriding interest is ensuring Defendant ceases all illegal telemarketing practices and compensates all members of the Plaintiff Class for invading their privacy in the manner the TCPA was contemplated to prevent.

37. In order to redress injuries caused by Defendant’s violations of the TCPA, Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and a class of similarly situated individuals, brings suit under the TCPA, 47 U.S.C. § 227, *et seq.*, which prohibits certain unsolicited voice and text calls to cell phones.

38. On behalf of the Plaintiff Class, Plaintiff seeks an injunction requiring Defendant to cease all illegal telemarketing and spam activities and an award of statutory damages to the class members, together with costs and reasonable attorneys' fees.

### STANDING

39. Plaintiff has standing to bring this suit on behalf of herself and the members of the class under Article III of the United States Constitution because Plaintiff's claims states: (a) a valid injury in fact; (b) an injury which is traceable to the conduct of Defendant; and (c) is likely to be redressed by a favorable judicial decision. *See Spokeo v. Robins*, 578 U.S. \_\_\_ (2016) at 6; *Lujan v. Defenders of Wildlife*, 504 U.S. 555, 560 (1992).

#### A. INJURY IN FACT

40. Plaintiff has standing to bring this suit on behalf of herself and the members of the class under Article III of the United States Constitution because Plaintiff's claims states: (a) a valid injury in fact; (b) an injury which is traceable to the conduct of Defendant; and (c) is likely to be redressed by a favorable judicial decision. *See Spokeo v. Robins*, 578 U.S. \_\_\_ (2016) at 6; *Robins v. Spokeo*, 867 F.3d 1108 (9th Cir. 2017) (cert denied. 2018 WL 491554, U.S., Jan. 22 2018); *Lujan v. Defenders of Wildlife*, 504 U.S. 555, 560 (1992); and *Chen v. Allstate Inc. Co.*, 819 F.3d 1136 (9th Cir. 2016).

41. Plaintiff's injury must be both "concrete" and "particularized" in order to satisfy the requirements of Article III of the Constitution. (*Id.*)

42. For an injury to be concrete it must be a de facto injury, meaning it actually exists. In the present case, Plaintiff took the affirmative step of enrolling on the National Do-Not-Call Registry for the purpose of preventing marketing calls to her telephone. Such telemarketing calls are a nuisance, an invasion of privacy, and an expense to Plaintiff. *See Soppet v. enhanced*

*Recovery Co., LLC*, 679 F.3d 637, 638 (7<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2012). All three of these injuries are present in this case. (See also *Chen v. Allstate Inc. Co.*, 819 F.3d 1136 (9th Cir. 2016).)

43. Furthermore, the Third Circuit recently stated, Congress found that “[u]nsolicited telemarketing phone calls or text messages, by their nature, invade the privacy and disturb the solitude of their recipients,” *Van Patten*, 847 F.3d at 1043, and sought to protect the same interests implicated in the traditional common law cause of action. Put differently, Congress was not inventing a new theory of injury when it enacted the TCPA. Rather, it elevated a harm that, while “previously inadequate in law,” was of the same character of previously existing “legally cognizable injuries.” *Spokeo*, 136 S.Ct. at 1549. *Spokeo* addressed, and approved, such a choice by Congress. *Susinno v. Work Out World Inc.*, No. 16-3277, 2017 WL 2925432, at \*4 (3d Cir. July 10, 2017).

44. For an injury to be particularized means that the injury must affect the Plaintiff in a personal and individual way. See *Spokeo* at 7. Furthermore, Plaintiff is the individual who pays for the phone, and is the regular carrier and user of the phone. All of these injuries are particular to Plaintiff.

**B. TRACEABLE TO THE CONDUCT OF EACH SEPARATE DEFENDANT**

45. Plaintiff must allege at the pleading stage of the case facts to show that her injury is traceable to the conduct of Defendant. In this case, Plaintiff satisfies this requirement by alleging that Defendant, and/or agent of Defendant on behalf of Defendant, placed illegal calls to Plaintiff’s phone.

46. In the instant case, Defendant placed dozens of calls to Plaintiff’s wireless/cellular phone in 2016.

**C. INJURY LIKELY TO BE REDRESSED BY A FAVORABLE JUDICIAL OPINION**

47. The third prong to establish standing at the pleadings phase requires Plaintiff to allege facts to show that the injury is likely to be redressed by a favorable judicial opinion. In the present case, Plaintiff's Prayer for Relief includes a request for damages for each call made by Defendant, as authorized by statute in 47 U.S.C. § 227. The statutory damages were set by Congress and specifically redress the financial damages suffered by Plaintiff and the members of the putative class. Furthermore, Plaintiff's Prayer for Relief requests injunctive relief to restrain Defendant from the alleged abusive practices in the future. The award of monetary damages and the order for injunctive relief redress the injuries of the past, and prevent further injury in the future.

48. Because all standing requirements of Article III of the U.S. Constitution have been met, as laid out in *Spokeo, Inc. v. Robins*, 578 U.S. \_\_\_\_ (2016) and in the context of a TCPA claim, as explained by the Ninth Circuit in *Chen v. Allstate Inc. Co.*, 819 F.3d 1136 (9th Cir. 2016), Plaintiff have standing to sue Defendant on the stated claims.

**CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

**A. CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

49. Plaintiff brings this action pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(a), (b)(2), and (b)(3) on behalf of themselves and the following class defined as follows (the "Class"):

**"DNC<sup>2</sup> Class"**: All individuals in the United States who: (1) received more than one telephone call made by or on behalf of Defendant within a 12-month period; (2) to a telephone number that had been registered with the National Do Not Call Registry for at least 30 days.

50. The following individuals are excluded from the Class: (1) any Judge or Magistrate

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<sup>2</sup> "DNC" referenced herein refers to the National Do Not Call Registry, established pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 227(c) and the regulations promulgated by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC").

presiding over this action and members of their families; (2) Defendant, Defendant's subsidiaries, parents, successors, predecessors, and any entity in which Defendant or its parents have a controlling interest, and its current or former employees, officers, and directors; (3) Plaintiff's counsel and Defendant's counsel; (4) persons who properly execute and file a timely request for exclusion from the Class; (5) the legal representatives, successors or assigns of any such excluded persons; (6) persons whose claims against Defendant have been fully and finally adjudicated and/or released; and (7) persons for whom Defendant has proof of legally sufficient consent to call those persons.

51. This suit seeks only damages, statutory penalties, and injunctive relief for recovery of economic injury on behalf of the Class, and it expressly is not intended to request any recovery for personal injury and claims related thereto.

52. Plaintiff reserves the right to expand the Class definitions to seek recovery on behalf of additional persons as warranted as facts are learned in further investigation and discovery.

53. Plaintiff and members of the Class were harmed by Defendant's acts in at least the following ways: Defendant, either directly or through agents, illegally contacted Plaintiff and the Class members *via* their telephones, after Plaintiff and the Class members took the affirmative step of registering their numbers on the DNC, and/or contacted Plaintiff and members of the Class using a pre-recorded voice for telemarketing purposes without first obtaining prior express consent.

**B. NUMEROSITY**

54. The exact size of the Class is unknown and not available to Plaintiff at this time, but it is clear individual joinder is impracticable.

55. On information and belief, Defendant made telephone calls to thousands of

consumers who fall into the definition of the Class. Members of the Class can be easily identified through Defendant's records.

**C. COMMONALITY AND PREDOMINANCE**

56. There are many questions of law and fact common to the claims of Plaintiff and the Class, and those questions predominate over any questions that may affect individual members of the Class.

57. Common questions for the Class include, but are not necessarily limited to the following:

- (a) Whether Defendant's conduct violated the TCPA;
- (b) Whether Defendant systematically made telephone calls to consumers who did not previously provide Defendant and/or their agents with express written invitation;
- (c) Whether Defendant systematically made telephone calls to consumers whose telephone numbers were registered with the National Do Not Call Registry;
- (d) Whether members of the Class are entitled to treble damages based on the willfulness of Defendant's conduct;
- (e) Whether Defendant and its agents should be enjoined from engaging in such conduct in the future.

**D. TYPICALITY**

58. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the other members of the Class.

59. Plaintiff and the Class sustained damages as a result of Defendant's uniform wrongful conduct during transactions with Plaintiff and the Class.

**E. ADEQUATE REPRESENTATION**

60. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the Class, and has retained counsel competent and experienced in complex class actions.

61. Plaintiff has no interest antagonistic to those of the Class, and Defendant has no defenses unique to Plaintiff.

**F. POLICIES GENERALLY APPLICABLE TO THE CLASS**

62. This class action is appropriate for certification because the Defendant has acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the Class as a whole, thereby requiring the Court's imposition of uniform relief to ensure compatible standards of conduct toward the Class members, and making final injunctive relief appropriate with respect to the Class as a whole.

63. Defendant's practices challenged herein apply to and affect the Class' members uniformly, and Plaintiff's challenge of those practices hinges on Defendant's conduct with respect to the Class as a whole, not on facts or law applicable only to Plaintiff.

**G. SUPERIORITY**

64. This case is also appropriate for class certification because class proceedings are superior to all other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy given that joinder of all parties is impracticable.

65. The damages suffered by the individual members of the Class will likely be relatively small, especially given the burden and expense of individual prosecution of the complex litigation necessitated by Defendant's actions.

66. Thus, it would be virtually impossible for the individual members of the Class to obtain effective relief from Defendant's misconduct.

67. Even if members of the Class could sustain such individual litigation, it would still

not be preferable to a class action, because individual litigation would increase the delay and expense to all parties due to the complex legal and factual controversies presented in this Complaint.

68. By contrast, a class action presents far fewer management difficulties and provides the benefits of single adjudication, economy of scale, and comprehensive supervision by a single court. Economies of time, effort and expense will be fostered, and uniformity of decisions ensured.

**FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**  
**VIOLATION OF TCPA, 47 U.S.C. § 227**  
**(“DNC Claim”)**

69. Plaintiff re-allege and incorporates by reference each preceding paragraph as though set forth at length herein.

70. 47 U.S.C. § 227(c) provides that any “person who has received more than one telephone call within any 12-month period by or on behalf of the same entity in violation of the regulations prescribed under this subsection may” bring a private action based on a violation of said regulations, which were promulgated to protect telephone subscribers’ privacy rights to avoid receiving telephone solicitations to which they object.

71. The TCPA’s implementing regulation—47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(c)—provides that “[n]o person or entity shall initiate any telephone solicitation” to “[a] residential telephone subscriber who has registered her or her telephone number on the national do-not-call registry of persons who do not wish to receive telephone solicitations that is maintained by the federal government.” *See* 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(c).

72. 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(e), provides that 47 C.F.R. §§ 64.1200(c) and (d) “are applicable to any person or entity making telephone solicitations or telemarketing calls to wireless telephone numbers to the extent described in the Commission’s Report and Order, CG Docket No.



02-278, FCC 03-153, ‘Rules and Regulations Implementing the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991,’” which the Report and Order, in turn, provides as follows:

The Commission’s rules provide that companies making telephone solicitations to residential telephone subscribers must comply with time of day restrictions and must institute procedures for maintaining do-not-call lists. For the reasons described above, we conclude that these rules apply to calls made to wireless telephone numbers. We believe that wireless subscribers should be afforded the same protections as wireline subscribers.

73. Defendant violated 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(c) by initiating, or causing to be initiated, telephone solicitations to wireless and residential telephone subscribers such as Plaintiff and the DNC Class members who registered their respective telephone numbers on the National Do Not Call Registry, a listing of persons who do not wish to receive telephone solicitations that is maintained by the federal government. These consumers requested to not receive calls from Defendant, as set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(d)(3).

74. Defendant made more than one unsolicited telephone call to Plaintiff and members of the Class within a 12-month period without their prior express consent to place such calls. Plaintiffs and members of the DNC Class never provided any form of consent to receive telephone calls from Defendant.

75. Defendant violated 47 U.S.C. § 227(c)(5) because Plaintiff and the DNC Class members received more than one telephone call in a 12-month period made by or on behalf of Defendant in violation of 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200, as described above. As a result of Defendant’s conduct as alleged herein, Plaintiff and the DNC Class suffered actual damages and, under section 47 U.S.C. § 227(c), are each entitled, *inter alia*, to receive up to \$500 in damages for such violations of 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200.

76. To the extent Defendant's misconduct is determined to be willful and knowing, the Court should, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(c)(5), treble the amount of statutory damages recoverable by the members of the Class.

#### **ATTORNEY'S FEES**

77. Each and every allegation contained in the foregoing paragraphs is re-alleged as if fully rewritten herein.

78. Plaintiff is entitled to recover reasonable attorney fees under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and requests the attorneys' fees be awarded.

#### **JURY DEMAND**

79. Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of the Class, demands a jury trial on all issues triable to a jury.

#### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of the Class, prays for the following relief:

- (a) An order certifying the DNC Class as defined above, appointing Plaintiff as the representative of the Class, and appointing her counsel, HUGHES ELLZEY, LLP as lead Class Counsel;
- (b) An award of actual and statutory damages for each and every negligent violation to each member of the Class pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B);
- (c) An award of actual and statutory damages for each and every knowing and/or willful violation to each member of the Class pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B);
- (d) An injunction requiring Defendant and Defendant's agents to cease all

unsolicited telephone calling activities, and otherwise protecting the interests of the Class, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(A);

- (e) Pre-judgment and post-judgment interest on monetary relief;
- (f) An award of reasonable attorneys' fees and court costs; and
- (g) All other and further relief as the Court deems necessary, just, and proper.

Dated: September 24, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

**HUGHES ELLZEY, LLP**

/s/ Jarrett Ellzey

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*Counsel for Plaintiff and the Putative Class*

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

DOYCE THOMPSON, individually and on behalf of all other persons similarly situated

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Tarrant County (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) W. Craft Hughes & Jarrett L. Ellzey, Hughes Ellzey, LLP, 2700 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 1120, Houston, TX 77056, 713-554-2377

DEFENDANTS

CAPELLA EDUCATION COMPANY d/b/a CAPELLA UNIVERSITY

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff, 2 U.S. Government Defendant, 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party), 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

- Citizen of This State, Citizen of Another State, Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country, PTF DEF, Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State, Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State, Foreign Nation

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.

Table with 5 columns: CONTRACT, REAL PROPERTY, TORTS, CIVIL RIGHTS, PRISONER PETITIONS, FORFEITURE/PENALTY, LABOR, IMMIGRATION, BANKRUPTCY, SOCIAL SECURITY, FEDERAL TAX SUITS, OTHER STATUTES. Contains various legal categories and checkboxes.

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- 1 Original Proceeding, 2 Removed from State Court, 3 Remanded from Appellate Court, 4 Reinstated or Reopened, 5 Transferred from Another District (specify), 6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer, 8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity): 47 U.S.C. § 227

Brief description of cause: Violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P. DEMAND \$ CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: Yes No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions): JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER

DATE 09/24/2018 SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD /s/ Jarrett L. Ellzey

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # AMOUNT APPLYING IFP JUDGE MAG. JUDGE

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Case 4:18-cv-00790-O Document 1-1 Filed 09/24/18 Page 2 of 2 PageID 21  
**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 there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: [Nature of Suit Code Descriptions](#).
- 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 statute.
- 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.

# ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: [Capella University Facing Texas Woman's TCPA Lawsuit Over Telemarketing Calls](#)

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