BARSHAY SANDERS, PLLC

100 Garden City Plaza, Suite 500 Garden City, New York 11530 Tel: (516) 203-7600 Fax: (516) 706-5055 Email: ConsumerRights@BarshaySanders.com Attorneys for Plaintiffs Our File No.: 114361

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Jolman N. Umana, Cheryl Lyes, Gloria Greene, and Thomas E. Benincase, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated

Plaintiffs,

vs.

Docket No:

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

United Collection Bureau, Inc.,

Defendant.

Jolman N. Umana, Cheryl Lyes, Gloria Greene, and Thomas E. Benincase, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated (hereinafter referred to collectively as "*Plaintiffs*"), by and through the undersigned counsel, complain, state and allege against United Collection Bureau, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "*Defendant*"), as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. This action seeks to recover for violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, *et seq.* ("FDCPA").

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. This Court has federal subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1331 and 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d).

3. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. §1391(b) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred in this Judicial District.

BARSHAY | SANDERS PLLC 100 GARDEN CTTY PLAZA, SUTTE 500 GARDEN CTTY, NEW YORK 11530 4. At all relevant times, Defendant conducted business within the State of New York.

PARTIES

5. Plaintiff Jolman N. Umana is an individual who is a citizen of the State of New York residing in Suffolk County, New York.

6. Plaintiff Cheryl Lyes is an individual who is a citizen of the State of New York residing in Suffolk County, New York.

7. Plaintiff Gloria Greene is an individual who is a citizen of the State of New York residing in Suffolk County, New York.

8. Plaintiff Thomas E. Benincase is an individual who is a citizen of the State of New York residing in Suffolk County, New York.

9. Plaintiffs are "consumers" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).

10. On information and belief, Defendant United Collection Bureau, Inc., is an Ohio Corporation with a principal place of business in Lucas County, Ohio.

11. Defendant is regularly engaged, for profit, in the collection of debts allegedly owed by consumers.

12. Defendant is a "debt collector" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

ALLEGATIONS

13. Defendant alleges each of the Plaintiffs owe a debt ("the Debts").

14. The Debts were primarily for personal, family or household purposes and are therefore "debts" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5).

15. Sometime after the incurrence of the Debts, Plaintiffs fell behind on payments owed.

16. Thereafter, at an exact time known only to Defendant, the Debts were assigned or otherwise transferred to Defendant for collection.

17. In its efforts to collect the debt alleged owed by Plaintiff Umana, Defendant contacted Plaintiff Umana by letter ("the Umana Letter") dated May 19, 2017. ("<u>Exhibit 1</u>.")

18. In its efforts to collect the debt alleged owed by Plaintiff Lyes, Defendant contacted Plaintiff Lyes by letter ("the Lyes Letter") dated September 13, 2017. ("<u>Exhibit 1</u>.")

19. In its efforts to collect the debt alleged owed by Plaintiff Greene, Defendant

contacted Plaintiff Greene by letter ("the Greene Letter") dated October 23, 2017. ("<u>Exhibit 1</u>.")

20. In its efforts to collect the debt alleged owed by Plaintiff Benincase, Defendant contacted Plaintiff Benincase by letter ("the Benincase Letter") dated May 22, 2017. ("<u>Exhibit</u> <u>1</u>.")

21. The Letter was the initial communication Plaintiff Jolman N. Umana received from Defendant.

22. The Letter was the initial communication Plaintiff Cheryl Lyes received from Defendant.

23. The Letter was the initial communication Plaintiff Gloria Greene received from Defendant.

24. The Letter was the initial communication Plaintiff Thomas E. Benincase received from Defendant.

25. The Letters are "communications" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(2).

26. Plaintiff Umana's Debt was incurred on a Sears credit card underwritten by Citibank, N.A.

27. Plaintiff Lyes' Debt was incurred on a Sears credit card underwritten by Citibank, N.A.

28. Plaintiff Green's Debt was incurred on a Home Depot credit card underwritten by Citibank, N.A.

29. Plaintiff Benincase's Debt was incurred on a Wawa credit card underwritten by Citibank, N.A.

30. The Umana Letter sets forth a "New Balance" of \$636.38 and an "Minimum Payment Due" of \$260.00.

31. The Lyes Letter sets forth a "New Balance" of \$1,214.57 of a "Minimum Payment Due" of \$318.00.

32. The Greene Letter sets forth a "New Balance" of \$693.20 and a "Minimum Payment Due" of \$234.00.

33. The Benincase Letter sets forth a "New Balance" of \$649.72 and a "Minimum Payment Due" of \$264.33.

34. The subject Letters each state, "As of the date of this letter, you owe the above stated New Balance amount. Because of interest and/or other charges that may vary from day to day, the amount due on the day you pay may be greater. Hence, if you pay the amount shown above, an adjustment may be necessary after your payment is received. For further information, you may write to our office or call the telephone number within this communication."

35. The Letters fail to provide information that would allow Plaintiffs to determine what they will need to pay to resolve their respective Debts at the time the Letters are received.

36. The Letters fail to provide information that would allow the least sophisticated consumer to determine what he or she will need to pay to resolve any of the subject debts at the time the letter is received.

37. The Letters fail to provide information that would allow Plaintiffs to determine what they will need to pay to resolve the debt at any given moment in the future.

38. The Letters fail to provide information that would allow the least sophisticated consumer to determine what he or she will need to pay to resolve any of the subject debts at any given moment in the future.

39. The Letters fail to provide information that would allow the least sophisticated consumer to determine the amount of interest owed.

40. For instance, the Letters fail to indicate the applicable interest rate.

41. For instance, the Letters fail to indicate the date of accrual of interest.

42. For instance, the Letters fail to indicate the amount of interest during any measurable period.

43. The Letters fail to contain an explanation, understandable by the least sophisticated consumer, of "other charges" that may cause the amount stated to increase.

44. The Letters fail to state the nature of the "other charges."

45. The Letters fail to state what parts of the amounts stated are attributable to principal.

46. The Letters fail to state what parts of the amounts stated are attributable to interest.

47. The Letters fail to state what parts of the amounts stated are attributable to late fees.

48. The Letters fail to state what parts of the amounts stated are attributable to other fees.

49. The Letters fail to state that the creditor will accept payment of the amount set forth in full satisfaction of the debt if payment is made by a specified date.

50. The Letters, because of the aforementioned failures, would render the least sophisticated consumer unable to determine what she will need to pay to resolve the debt at any given moment in the future.

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

52. The Letters, because of the aforementioned failures, and especially because the use of the word "may," as it appears in the statement transcribed in Paragraph 34, *supra*, would render the least sophisticated consumer unable to determine the amount of her debt because the consumer would not know whether interest and fees would continue to accrue, or whether the amount of the debt was static.

53. The Letters, because of the aforementioned failures, did not convey "the amount of the debt" clearly from the perspective of the least sophisticated consumer.

54. The Letters, because of the aforementioned failures, did not convey "the amount of the debt" accurately from the perspective of the least sophisticated consumer.

55. The Letters, because of the aforementioned failures, did not convey "the amount of the debt" without ambiguity from the perspective of the least sophisticated consumer.

56. The Letters, because of the aforementioned failures, violate 15 U.S.C. § 1692e and 15 U.S.C. § 1692g. *See Balke v. Alliance One Receivables Management, Inc.*, No. 16-cv-5624(ADS)(AKT), 2017 WL 2634653 (E.D.N.Y. June 19, 2017).

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

57. Plaintiffs bring this action individually and as a class action on behalf of all persons similarly situated in the State of New York from whom Defendant attempted to collect a consumer debt using a form collection letter substantially similar to those at issue herein, from one year before the date of this Complaint to the present.

58. This action seeks a finding that Defendant's conduct violates the FDCPA, and asks that the Court award damages as authorized by 15 U.S.C. § 1692k.

59. Defendant regularly engages in debt collection.

60. The Class consists of more than 35 persons from whom Defendant attempted to collect delinquent consumer debts using a form collection letter substantially similar to those at issue herein.

61. Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of the Class. Common questions of law or fact raised by this class action complaint affect all members of the Class and predominate over any individual issues. Common relief is therefore sought on behalf of all members of the Class. This class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy.

62. The prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the Class would create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to the individual members of the Class, and a risk that any adjudications with respect to individual members of the Class would, as a practical matter, either be dispositive of the interests of other members of the Class not party to the adjudication, or substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their interests. Defendant has acted in a manner applicable to the Class as a whole such that declaratory relief is warranted.

63. Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect and represent the interests of the Class. The management of the class action proposed is not extraordinarily difficult, and the factual and legal issues raised by this class action complaint will not require extended contact with the members of the Class, because Defendant's conduct was perpetrated on all members of the Class and will be established by common proof. Moreover, Plaintiffs have retained counsel experienced in actions brought under consumer protection laws.

JURY DEMAND

64. Plaintiffs hereby demand a trial of this action by jury.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request judgment as follows:

a. Certify this action as a class action; and

b. Appoint Plaintiffs as Class Representatives of the Class, and Plaintiffs' attorneys as Class Counsel; and

c. Find that Defendant's actions violate the FDCPA; and

d. Grant damages against Defendant pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k; and

e. Grant Plaintiffs' attorneys' fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C. $\$ 1692k; and

- f. Grant Plaintiffs' costs; together with
- g. Such other relief that the Court determines is just and proper.

DATED: May 21, 2018

BARSHAY SANDERS, PLLC

By: <u>/s/ Craig B. Sanders</u> Craig B. Sanders, Esq. 100 Garden City Plaza, Suite 500 Garden City, New York 11530 Tel: (516) 203-7600 Fax: (516) 706-5055 csanders@barshaysanders.com *Attorneys for Plaintiffs* Our File No.: 114361 UNITED COLLE CHION 2498 AU 03010 Document 1-1 File 05/22/218 Page 1 of 8 Page ID #: 8 5620 SOUTHWYCK BLVD SUITE 206

1-877-305-3310

JOLMAN N UMANA **16 NELSON PL MASTIC NY 11950-2206**

TOLEDO OH 43614

Creditor: Regarding: Last Four Digits of Creditor Account Number: United Collection Bureau, Inc. Reference Number: New Balance: Minimum Payment Due:

CITIBANK, N.A. SEARS CARD XXXXXXXXXXXXX8522 8200 \$636.38 \$260.00

Dear JOLMAN N UMANA:

Unless you dispute the validity of this debt or any portion thereof, please make your payment of at least the minimum payment due. Please make your payments payable to Citibank at the remit address below or call our office for arrangements.

As of the date of this letter, you owe the above stated New Balance amount. Because of interest and/or other charges that may vary from day to day, the amount due on the day you pay may be greater. Hence, if you pay the amount shown above, an adjustment may be necessary after your payment is received. For further information, you may write to our office or call the telephone number within this communication.

When calling our office at 1-877-305-3310, please refer to reference number 8200.

Please scan the QR code below to be directed to our website to make a payment, or you can go to: www.ucbinc.com, click on "Make a Payment" and follow the prompts.



Sincerely, United Collection Bureau, Inc.

Business Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. ET Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. ET Friday

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

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 from receiving this notice that you dispute the validity of this debt or any portion thereof, 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 after receiving this notice, this office will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor.

In accordance with the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq., debt collectors 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. Ninety percent of your wages or salary earned in the last sixty days.

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION

PLEASE RETURN THIS PORTION WITH PAYMENT. DO NOT ATTACH CHECK TO STUB. PLEASE MAKE YOUR PAYMENT PAYABLE TO CITIBANK Creditor: CITIBANK, N.A. Regarding: SEARS CARD Last Four Digits of Creditor Acct. Number: XXXXXXXXXXXXXX8522 New Balance: \$636.38 Minimum Payment Due: <u>\$260.00</u> United Collection Bureau, Inc. Reference No: 82.00 United Collection Bureau, Inc. Telephone No: 1-877-305-3310 REMIT TO:

> United Collection Bureau, Inc. PO BOX 140310 **TOLEDO OH 43614**

24CU027000CDNE

30882717

PO BOX 140310 **TOLEDO OH 43614** ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

May 19, 2017

ŢĸĨŧŢŧĨŧĨŧĨŧĨĬĸĨĬĨĬĬŧĬŦĨĬĬĬŢĨ<u>ĬĬĬĬĬĬĬĬĬ</u>ĬĨŧĬĬŧĬĬŧ<u>ĬĬ</u>ĬĬĬĬĬĬĬ JOLMAN N UMANA **16 NELSON PL**

MASTIC NY 11950-2206

We are required under state and federal law.

When you provide a check as payment, you authorize us either to use information from your check to make a one-time electronic fund transfer from your account or to process the payment as a check transaction.

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 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 <u>www.ftc.gov</u>. Nonprofit credit counseling services may be available in the area.

COLORADO: FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE COLORADO FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, SEE <u>WWW.AGO.STATE.CO.US/CADC/CADCMAIN.CFM</u>. 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. Payments can be made in person at: Colorado Manager, Inc., Building B, 80 Garden Center, Suite 3, Broomfield, Colorado 80020, 303-920-4763.

IDAHO: Toll Free 1-866-209-0622 during normal business hours.

KANSAS: An investigative consumer report, which includes information as to your character, general reputation, personal characteristics and mode of living, has been requested. You have the right to request additional information, which includes the nature and scope of the investigation.

MAINE: Hours of operation (ET): Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

MASSACHUSETTS: **NOTICE OF IMPORTANT RIGHTS** You have the right to make a written or oral request that telephone calls regarding your debt not be made to you at your place of employment. Any such oral request will be valid for only ten days unless you provide written confirmation of the request postmarked or delivered within seven days of such request. You may terminate this request by writing to the debt collector. Hours of operation (ET): Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

MINNESOTA: This collection agency is licensed by the Minnesota Department of Commerce.

NEW YORK CITY: New York City Department of Consumer Affairs License Number 1004887.

NORTH CAROLINA: North Carolina Permit Numbers: 101866, 3843, 4022 and 4367.

TENNESSEE: This collection agency is licensed by the Collection Service Board of the Department of Commerce and Insurance.

WISCONSIN: This collection agency is licensed by the Division of Banking in the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions, <u>www.wdfi.org</u>.

If you have a concern about the way we are collecting this debt, please call our toll-free Consumer Service Hotline at 1-866-209-0622, email us at <u>UCBCompliance@ucbinc.com</u>, or mail us at United Collection Bureau, Inc., Compliance Department, 5620 Southwyck Blvd, Ste 206, Toledo, OH 43614. Please include your account number on all communication.

UCBV13 10.06.16

UNITED COLLECTION BUREAU DO DOCUMENT 1-1 Filed OF 2017 Page 3 of 8 PageID #: 10 TOLEDO OH 43614

1-877-305-3310

CHERYL A LYES 201 HOLLAND AVE **MEDFORD NY 11763-3108**

Creditor: Regarding: Last Four Digits of Creditor Account Number: United Collection Bureau, Inc. Reference Number: New Balance: Minimum Payment Due:

CITIBANK, N.A. SEARS GOLD MASTERCARD XXXXXXXXXXXX2906 4502 §1214.57 \$318.00

Dear CHERYL A LYES:

Unless you dispute the validity of this debt or any portion thereof, please make your payment of at least the minimum payment due. Please make your payments payable to Citibank at the remit address below or call our office for arrangements.

As of the date of this letter, you owe the above stated New Balance amount. Because of interest and/or other charges that may vary from day to day, the amount due on the day you pay may be greater. Hence, if you pay the amount shown above, an adjustment may be necessary after your payment is received. For further information, you may write to our office or call the telephone number within this communication.

When calling our office at 1-877-305-3310, please refer to reference number 502.

Please scan the QR code below to be directed to our website to make a payment, or you can go to: www.ucbinc.com, click on "Make a Payment" and follow the prompts.



Sincerely, United Collection Bureau, Inc.

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. ET Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. ET Friday **Business Hours:**

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

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 from receiving this notice that you dispute the validity of this debt or any portion thereof, 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 after receiving this notice, this office will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor.

In accordance with the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq., debt collectors 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. Ninety percent of your wages or salary earned in the last sixty days.

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION

PLEASE RETURN THIS PORTION WITH PAYMENT. DO NOT ATTACH CHECK TO STUB. PLEASE MAKE YOUR PAYMENT PAYABLE TO CITIBANK CITIBANK, N.A. Creditor: SEARS GOLD MASTERCARD Regarding: XXXXXXXXXXXX2906 Last Four Digits of Creditor Acct. Number: \$1214.57 New Balance: Minimum Payment Due: \$318.00 4502 United Collection Bureau, Inc. Reference No: United Collection Bureau, Inc. Telephone No: 1-877-305 -3310

REMIT TO:

24CU027000CDNE

523239983

United Collection Bureau, Inc. PO BOX 140310 **TOLEDO OH 43614**

PO BOX 140310 TOLEDO OH 43614 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

September 13, 2017

վեկնելու լինինին կինին կինին հետևելու կունին կեն CHERYL A LYES 201 HOLLAND AVE MEDFORD NY 11763-3108

We are required under state law to potify consumers of the following rights. This list does not contain a complete list of the rights consumers have under state and federal law.

When you provide a check as payment, you authorize us either to use information from your check to make a one-time electronic fund transfer from your account or to process the payment as a check transaction.

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 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 <u>www.ftc.gov</u>. Nonprofit credit counseling services may be available in the area.

COLORADO: FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE COLORADO FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, SEE <u>WWW.COAG.GOV/CAR</u>. 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. Payments can be made in person at: Colorado Manager, Inc., Building B, 80 Garden Center, Suite 3, Broomfield, Colorado 80020, 303-920-4763.

IDAHO: Toll Free 1-866-209-0622 during normal business hours.

KANSAS: An investigative consumer report, which includes information as to your character, general reputation, personal characteristics and mode of living, may have been requested. You have the right to request additional information, which includes the nature and scope of the investigation.

MAINE: Hours of operation (ET): Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

MASSACHUSETTS: **NOTICE OF IMPORTANT RIGHTS** You have the right to make a written or oral request that telephone calls regarding your debt not be made to you at your place of employment. Any such oral request will be valid for only ten days unless you provide written confirmation of the request postmarked or delivered within seven days of such request. You may terminate this request by writing to the debt collector. Hours of operation (ET): Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

MINNESOTA: This collection agency is licensed by the Minnesota Department of Commerce.

NEW YORK CITY: New York City Department of Consumer Affairs License Number 1004887.

NORTH CAROLINA: North Carolina Permit Numbers: 101866, 3843, 4022 and 4367.

TENNESSEE: This collection agency is licensed by the Collection Service Board of the Department of Commerce and Insurance.

WISCONSIN: This collection agency is licensed by the Division of Banking in the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions, <u>www.wdfi.org</u>.

If you have a concern about the way we are collecting this debt, please call our toll-free Consumer Service Hotline at 1-866-209-0622, email us at <u>UCBCompliance@ucbinc.com</u>, or mail us at United Collection Bureau, Inc., Compliance Department, 5620 Southwyck Blvd, Ste 206, Toledo, OH 43614. Please include your account number on all communication.

UCBV15 08.23.17

Case 2:18-cv-03010 Document 1-1 Filed 05/22/18 Page 5 of 8 PageID #: 12

UNITED COLLECTION BUREAU, INC. 5620 SOUTHWYCK BLVD SUITE 206 TOLEDO OH 43614 October 23, 2017

1-800-210-3534

GLORIA GREENE 32 HESTON RD SHIRLEY NY 11967-2720

Creditor: Regarding: Last Four Digits of Creditor Account Number: United Collection Bureau, Inc. Reference Number: New Balance: Minimum Payment Due: CITIBANK, N.A. THE HOME DEPOT XXXXXXXXXX7277 7800 \$693.20 \$234.00

Dear GLORIA GREENE:

Unless you dispute the validity of this debt or any portion thereof, please make your payment of at least the minimum payment due. Please make your payments payable to Citibank at the remit address below or call our office for arrangements.

As of the date of this letter, you owe the above stated New Balance amount. Because of interest and/or other charges that may vary from day to day, the amount due on the day you pay may be greater. Hence, if you pay the amount shown above, an adjustment may be necessary after your payment is received. For further information, you may write to our office or call the telephone number within this communication.

When calling our office at 1-800-210-3534, please refer to reference number 7800.

Please scan the QR code below to be directed to our website to make a payment, or you can go to: <u>www.ucbinc.com</u>, click on "Make a Payment" and follow the prompts.



Sincerely, United Collection Bureau, Inc.

Business Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. ET Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. ET Friday

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

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 from receiving this notice that you dispute the validity of this debt or any portion thereof, 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 after receiving this notice, this office will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor.

In accordance with the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq., debt collectors 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. Ninety percent of your wages or salary earned in the last sixty days.

Case 2:18-cv-03010 Document 1-1 Filed 05/22/18 Page 6 of 8 PageID #: 13

We are required under state law to notify consumers of the following rights. This list does not contain a complete list of the rights consumers have under state and federal law.

When you provide a check as payment, you authorize us either to use information from your check to make a one-time electronic fund transfer from your account or to process the payment as a check transaction.

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 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 <u>www.ftc.gov</u>. Nonprofit credit counseling services may be available in the area.

COLORADO: FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE COLORADO FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, SEE <u>WWW.COAG.GOV/CAR</u>. 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. Payments can be made in person at: Colorado Manager, Inc., Building B, 80 Garden Center, Suite 3, Broomfield, Colorado 80020, 303-920-4763.

IDAHO: Toll Frcc 1-866-209-0622 during normal business hours.

KANSAS: An investigative consumer report, which includes information as to your character, general reputation, personal characteristics and mode of living, may have been requested. You have the right to request additional information, which includes the nature and scope of the investigation.

MAINE: Hours of operation (ET): Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

MASSACHUSETTS: **NOTICE OF IMPORTANT RIGHTS** You have the right to make a written or oral request that telephone calls regarding your debt not be made to you at your place of employment. Any such oral request will be valid for only ten days unless you provide written confirmation of the request postmarked or delivered within seven days of such request. You may terminate this request by writing to the debt collector. Hours of operation (ET): Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

MINNESOTA: This collection agency is licensed by the Minnesota Department of Commerce.

NEW YORK CITY: New York City Department of Consumer Affairs License Number 1004887.

NORTH CAROLINA: North Carolina Permit Numbers: 101866, 3843, 4022 and 4367.

TENNESSEE: This collection agency is licensed by the Collection Service Board of the Department of Commerce and Insurance.

WISCONSIN: This collection agency is licensed by the Division of Banking in the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions, <u>www.wdfi.org</u>.

If you have a concern about the way we are collecting this debt, please call our toll-free Consumer Service Hotline at 1-866-209-0622, email us at <u>UCBCompliance@ucbinc.com</u>, or mail us at United Collection Bureau, Inc., Compliance Department, 5620 Southwyck Blvd, Ste 206, Toledo, OH 43614. Please include your account number on all communication.

UCBV15 08.23.17

UNITED COLLECTION BUREAU, INC. 5620 SOUTHWYCASH 2118 07403010 Document 1-1 Filed 05/22/18 Page 7 of 8 PageID #: 14 **TOLEDO OH 43614**

May 22, 2017 1-800-210-3534

THOMAS E BENINCASE SR 200 MASTIC BLVD **MASTIC NY 11950-3339**

Creditor: Regarding: Last Four Digits of Creditor Account Number: United Collection Bureau, Inc. Reference Number: New Balance: Minimum Payment Due:

CITIBANK, N.A. WAWA, INC. XXXXXXXXXXXXXX1032 9773 \$694.72 \$264.33

9773.

Dear THOMAS E BENINCASE SR:

Unless you dispute the validity of this debt or any portion thereof, please make your payment of at least the minimum payment due. Please make your payments payable to Citibank at the remit address below or call our office for arrangements.

As of the date of this letter, you owe the above stated New Balance amount. Because of interest and/or other charges that may vary from day to day, the amount due on the day you pay may be greater. Hence, if you pay the amount shown above, an adjustment may be necessary after your payment is received. For further information, you may write to our office or call the telephone number within this communication.

When calling our office at 1-800-210-3534, please refer to reference number

Please scan the QR code below to be directed to our website to make a payment, or you can go to: www.ucbinc.com, click on "Make a Payment" and follow the prompts.



Sincerely, United Collection Bureau, Inc.

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. ET Monday - Thursday Business Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. ET Friday

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

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 from receiving this notice that you dispute the validity of this debt or any portion thereof, 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 after receiving this notice, this office will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor.

In accordance with the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq., debt collectors 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. Ninety percent of your wages or salary earned in the last sixty days.

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION

24CU027000CDNE

43184849

PLEASE RETURN THIS PORTION WITH PAYMENT. DO NOT ATTACH PLEASE MAKE YOUR PAYMENT PAYABLE TO	CHECK TO STUB. CITIBANK
Creditor:	CITIBANK, N.A.
Regarding:	WAWA, INC.
Last Four Digits of Creditor Acct. Number:	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
New Balance:	\$694.72
Minimum Payment Due:	\$264.33
United Collection Bureau, Inc. Reference No:	9773
United Collection Bureau, Inc. Telephone No:	1-800-210-3534

REMIT TO:

United Collection Bureau, Inc. PO BOX 140310 **TOLEDO OH 43614**

PO BOX 140310 TOLEDO OH 43614 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

May 22, 2017

あたたまた

վելինեներիայնդերութեննդուրինիներինեններութենին THOMAS E BENINCASE SR 200 MASTIC BLVD MASTIC NY 11950-3339

We are required under state law to notify consumers of the following rights. This list does not contain a complete list of the rights conservers 2 tal - and - and

When you provide a check as payment, you authorize us either to use information from your check to make a one-time electronic fund transfer from your account or to process the payment as a check transaction.

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 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 <u>www.ftc.gov</u>. Nonprofit credit counseling services may be available in the area.

COLORADO: FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE COLORADO FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, SEE <u>WWW.AGO.STATE.CO.US/CADC/CADCMAIN.CFM</u>. 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. Payments can be made in person at: Colorado Manager, Inc., Building B, 80 Garden Center, Suite 3, Broomfield, Colorado 80020, 303-920-4763.

IDAHO: Toll Free 1-866-209-0622 during normal business hours.

KANSAS: An investigative consumer report, which includes information as to your character, general reputation, personal characteristics and mode of living, has been requested. You have the right to request additional information, which includes the nature and scope of the investigation.

MAINE: Hours of operation (ET): Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

MASSACHUSETTS: **NOTICE OF IMPORTANT RIGHTS** You have the right to make a written or oral request that telephone calls regarding your debt not be made to you at your place of employment. Any such oral request will be valid for only ten days unless you provide written confirmation of the request postmarked or delivered within seven days of such request. You may terminate this request by writing to the debt collector. Hours of operation (ET): Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

MINNESOTA: This collection agency is licensed by the Minnesota Department of Commerce.

NEW YORK CITY: New York City Department of Consumer Affairs License Number 1004887.

NORTH CAROLINA: North Carolina Permit Numbers: 101866, 3843, 4022 and 4367.

TENNESSEE: This collection agency is licensed by the Collection Service Board of the Department of Commerce and Insurance.

WISCONSIN: This collection agency is licensed by the Division of Banking in the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions, <u>www.wdfi.org</u>.

If you have a concern about the way we are collecting this debt, please call our toll-free Consumer Service Hotline at 1-866-209-0622, email us at <u>UCBCompliance@ucbinc.com</u>, or mail us at United Collection Bureau, Inc., Compliance Department, 5620 Southwyck Blvd, Ste 206, Toledo, OH 43614. Please include your account number on all communication.

UCBV1310.06.16

JS 44 (Rev. 11/27/17) Case 2:18-cv-03010 Dequment 10 Files 15/22/18 Page 1 of 2 PageID #: 16

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					
JOLMAN N. UM	IANA				LECTION BUREA	U, INC.			
(b) County of Residence of <i>(E.</i>)	First Listed Plaintiff XCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF C.	SUFFOLK ASES)		County of Residence NOTE: IN LAND CON THE TRACT	(IN U.S. PLAINTIH	FF CASES ON			
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, A	Address. and Telephone Numbe	er)		Attorneys (If Known)					
BARSHAY SAND									
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an "X" in (One Box Only)		TIZENSHIP OF P	RINCIPAL PAI	RTIES (Pi			
O 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	• 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government)	Not a Party)		Diversity Cases Only) P On of This State O	1	orated or Prino usiness In Thi	cipal Place	ox for Defend PIF O 4	lant) DEF O 4
O 2 U.S. Government Defendant	O 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenshi	ip of Parties in Item III)	Citize	en of Another State O	1	orated and Pri usiness In An		O 5	O 5
IV. NATURE OF SUIT	(DL (022): 0 D 0			en or Subject of a O oreign Country	3 O 3 Foreign	n Nation		0 6	O 6
CONTRACT		ly) DRTS	FC	ORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPT	CY	OTHER	STATUTE	ES
 0 110 Insurance 0 120 Marine 0 130 Miller Act 0 140 Negotiable Instrument 0 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment 0 151 Medicare Act 0 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) 0 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits 0 160 Stockholders' Suits 0 190 Other Contract 0 196 Franchise REAL PROPERTY 0 210 Land Condemnation 220 Foreclosure 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability 290 All Other Real Property 	 PERSONAL INJURY O 310 Airplane O 315 Airplane Product Liability O 320 Assault, Libel & Slander O 330 Federal Employers' Liability O 340 Marine Product Liability O 345 Marine Product Liability O 350 Motor Vehicle O 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability O 360 Other Personal Injury O 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice CIVIL RIGHTS O 440 Other Civil Rights O 441 Voting O 442 Employment O 443 Housing/ Accommodations O 455 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment O 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other O 448 Education 	PERSONAL INJUR O 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability O 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability O 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPER O 370 Other Fraud O 371 Truth in Lending O 380 Other Personal Property Damage O 385 Property Damage Product Liability PRISONER PETITION Habeas Corpus: O 463 Alien Detainee O 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence O 530 General O 535 Death Penalty Other: O 540 Mandamus & Other O 550 Civil Rights O 560 Civil Detainee Conditions of Confinement	0 690 TY 0 710 0 720 0 740 0 790 5 0 791 0 462 0 462 0	 brug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 b Other c Construction of the series of the s	 0 422 Appeal 28 USC 0 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIG 0 820 Copyrights 0 830 Patent 0 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECUI 0 861 HIA (1395ff) 0 862 Black Lung (9: 0 863 DIWC/DIWW 0 864 SSID Title XV 0 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX 0 870 Taxes (U.S. Pla or Defendant) 0 871 IRS—Third Pa 26 USC 7609 	GHTS RITY 23) (405(g)) 1 SUITS aintiff rty	 480 Consum 490 Cable/S 850 Securiti Exchar 890 Other S 891 Agricul 893 Environ 895 Freedor Act 896 Arbitra 899 Adminis Act/Re 	eapportion: st and Bankin; erce ation er Influence t Organizat er Credit Sat TV es/Common age tatutory Ac tural Acts imental Ma n of Inform tion strative Pro view or Ap y Decision ationality of	g eed and tions dities/ ctions atters nation ocedure opeal of
V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in ● 1 Original O 2 Remo Proceeding Con	oved from State O 3 Ren Int Con	urt) 4 Reinsta Reop	ened Another I (specify)	District Lit	ltidistrict tigation – ansfer	Li D	ultidistrict itigation – irect File	
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO		atute under which you ard use: 15 USC §1692 I	-	Construction of the constr		15 USC §I	1092		
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	• CHECK IF THIS I UNDER RULE 2	S A CLASS ACTION 3, F.R.Cv.P.	D	EMAND \$	CHEC JURY DE	-	if demanded in • Yes	-	nt:
VIII. RELATED CASE IF ANY	C(S)	(See Instructions) JUDGE			DOCKET NU	JMBER			
DATE May 22, 2018		SIGNATURE OF ATT /s Cra		of record Sanders					
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		/5 CI	<u>,</u> D.	Sandon D					
RECEIPT # AM	IOUNT	APPLYING IFP		JUDGE		MAG. JUDO	GE		

Case 2:18-cv-03010 Document 1-2 Filed 05/22/18 Page 2 of 2 PageID #: 17 CERTIFICATION OF ARBITRATION ELIGIBILITY

Local Arbitration Rule 83.10 provides that with certain exceptions, actions seeking money damages only in an amount not in excess of \$150,000, exclusive of interest and costs, are eligible for compulsory arbitration. The amount of damages is presumed to be below the threshold amount unless a certification to the contrary is filed.

- I, <u>Craig B. Sanders</u>, counsel for <u>Plaintiff</u>, do hereby certify that the above captioned civil action is ineligible for compulsory arbitration for the following reason(s):
 - □ monetary damages sought are in excess of \$150,000, exclusive of interest and costs,
 - \Box the complaint seeks injunctive relief,
 - \Box the matter is otherwise ineligible for the following reason

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT - FEDERAL RULES CIVIL PROCEDURE 7.1

Identify any parent corporation and any publicly held corporation that owns 10% or more or its stocks:

RELATED CASE STATEMENT (Section VIII on the Front of this Form)

Please list all cases that are arguably related pursuant to Division of Business Rule 50.3.1 in Section VIII on the front of this form. Rule 50.3.1 (a) provides that "A civil case is "related" to another civil case for purposes of this guideline when, because of the similarity of facts and legal issues or because the cases arise from the same transactions or events, a substantial saving of judicial resources is likely to result from assigning both cases to the same judge and magistrate judge." Rule 50.3.1 (b) provides that "A civil case shall not be deemed "related" to another civil case merely because the civil case: (A) involves identical legal issues, or (B) involves the same parties." Rule 50.3.1 (c) further provides that "Presumptively, and subject to the power of a judge to determine otherwise pursuant to paragraph (d), civil cases shall not be deemed to be "related" unless both cases are still pending before the court."

NY-E DIVISION OF BUSINESS RULE 50.1(d)(2)

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

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

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

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

If your answer to question 2 (b) is "No," does the defendant (or a majority of the defendants, if there is more than one) reside in Nassau or Suffolk County, or, in an interpleader action, does the claimant (or a majority of the claimants, if there is more than one) reside in Nassau or Suffolk County? $\underline{\blacksquare}$ Yes $\underline{\square}$ No

(Note: A corporation shall be considered a resident of the County in which it has the most significant contacts).

BAR ADMISSION

I am currently admitted in the Eastern District of New York and currently a member in good standing of the bar of this court. Yes
No

Are you currently the subject of any disciplinary action (s) in this or any other state or federal court? Yes (If yes, please explain) No

I certify the accuracy of all information provided above.

Signature: <u>/s Craig B. Sanders</u>

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

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

)

Civil Action No.

Jolman N. Umana, Cheryl Lyes, Gloria Greene, and Thomas E. Benincase, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated

Plaintiff(s)

v.

United Collection Bureau, Inc.

Defendant(s)

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address) United Collection Bureau, Inc. C/O CORPORATION SERVICE COMPANY 80 STATE STREET ALBANY, NEW YORK, 12207-2543 A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) – or 60 days if you are the United States, or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) – you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

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

If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

CLERK OF COURT

Date: _____

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Four Plaintiffs File Class Action Against United Collection Bureau</u>