	Case 2:17-cv-02886-JJT Document 1 Filed 08/25/17 Page 1 of 18	
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Russell S. Thompson IV (029098) Joseph Panvini (028359) Thompson Consumer Law Group, PLLC 5235 E. Southern Ave., D106-618 Mesa, AZ 85206 Telephone: (602) 388-8898 Facsimile: (866) 317-2674 rthompson@consumerlawinfo.com Attorneys for Plaintiff UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA Traci Brown, on behalf of herself and all) Case No.	
<ol> <li>10</li> <li>11</li> <li>12</li> <li>13</li> <li>14</li> <li>15</li> <li>16</li> </ol>	others similarly situated, Plaintiff, VS. Shapiro, Van Ess & Sherman, LLP, Defendant.	)
17	NATURE OF ACTION	
18 19	1. Plaintiff Traci Brown ("Plaintiff") brings this putative class action agains	st
20	Defendant Shapiro, Van Ess & Sherman, LLP ("Defendant") pursuant to the Fair Deb	٥t
21	Collection Practices Act ("FDCPA"), 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq., on behalf of herself and al	1
22	others similarly situated.	
23 24	JURISDICTION, VENUE, AND STANDING	
25	2. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d) and 28 U.S.C	1 ~•
26	§ 1331.	
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3. Venue is proper before this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), where the
 acts and transactions giving rise to Plaintiff's action occurred in this district, where Plaintiff
 resides in this district, and where Defendant transacts business in this district.

4. "In determining whether an intangible harm constitutes injury in fact, both 5 history and the judgment of Congress play important roles." Spokeo, Inc. v. Robins, 136 6 7 S. Ct. 1540, 1549, 194 L. Ed. 2d 635 (2016), as revised (May 24, 2016). Congress is "well 8 positioned to identify intangible harms that meet minimum Article III requirements," thus 9 "Congress may 'elevat[e] to the status of legally cognizable injuries concrete, de 10 11 facto injuries that were previously inadequate in law." Id. (quoting Lujan v. Defs of 12 Wildlife, 504 U.S. 555, 578 (1992)). 13

5. "Without the protections of the FDCPA, Congress determined, the 14 15 '[e]xisting laws and procedures for redressing these injuries are inadequate to protect 16 consumers." Lane v. Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC, No. 15 C 10446, 2016 WL 3671467, 17 at \*3 (N.D. Ill. July 11, 2016) (quoting 15 U.S.C. § 1692(b)). Thus, a failure to honor a 18 19 consumer's right under the FDCPA constitutes an injury in fact for Article III standing. See 20 *id.* at \*3 (holding that a consumer "has alleged a sufficiently concrete injury because he 21 alleges that [Defendant] denied him the right to information due to him under the 22 23 FDCPA."); see also Church v. Accretive Health, Inc., No. 15-15708, 2016 WL 3611543, 24 at \*3 (11th Cir. July 6, 2016) (holding that consumer's § 1692g claim was sufficiently 25 concrete to satisfy injury-in-fact requirement). 26

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6. "[E]ven though actual monetary harm is a sufficient condition to show
concrete harm, it is *not* a necessary condition." *Lane*, 2016 WL 3671467 at \*4 (emphasis
in original).

## THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

7. Congress enacted the FDCPA in order to eliminate "abusive debt collection practices by debt collectors [and] to insure that those debt collectors who refrain from using abusive debt collection practices are not competitively disadvantaged." *Clark v. Capital Credit & Collection Servs., Inc.*, 460 F.3d 1162, 1179-80 (9th Cir. 2006) (citing 15 U.S.C.
§ 1692(e)).

<sup>12</sup>
8. To protect consumers and ensure compliance by debt collectors, "the FDCPA
<sup>13</sup>
<sup>14</sup> is a strict liability statute." *McCollough v. Johnson, Rodenburg & Lauinger, LLC*, 637 F.3d
<sup>15</sup> 939, 948 (9th Cir. 2011).

9. Strict liability enhances "the remedial nature of the statute," and courts are
"to interpret it liberally" to protect consumers. *Clark*, 460 F.3d at 1176.

<sup>19</sup> 10. "In addition, by making available to prevailing consumers both statutory damages and attorneys' fees, Congress 'clearly intended that private enforcement actions would be the primary enforcement tool of the Act." *Tourgeman v. Collins Fin. Servs., Inc.*,
<sup>23</sup> 755 F.3d 1109, 1117-18 (9th Cir. 2014) (quoting *Baker v. G.C. Servs. Corp.*, 677 F.2d 775, 780-81 (9th Cir. 1982)).

11. Violations of the FDCPA are assessed under the least sophisticated consumer
 standard which is "designed to protect consumers of below average sophistication or
 intelligence,' or those who are 'uninformed or naïve,' particularly when those individuals

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are targeted by debt collectors." *Gonzales v. Arrow Fin. Servs., LLC*, 660 F.3d 1055, 1061 (9th Cir. 2011) (quoting *Duffy v. Landberg*, 215 F.3d 871, 874-75 (8th Cir. 2000)).

12. "An FDCPA Plaintiff need not even have actually been misled or deceived by the debt collector's representation; instead, liability depends on whether the *hypothetical* 'least sophisticated debtor' likely would be misled." *Tourgeman*, 755 F.3d at 1117-18 (9th Cir. 2014) (emphasis in original).

13. "[B]ecause the FDCPA is a remedial statute aimed at curbing what Congress 9 considered to be an industry-wide pattern of and propensity towards abusing debtors, it is 10 11 logical for debt collectors—repeat players likely to be acquainted with the legal standards 12 governing their industry—to bear the brunt of the risk." *Clark*, 460 F.3d at 1171-72; *see* 13 also FTC v. Colgate–Palmolive Co., 380 U.S. 374, 393 (1965) ("[I]t does not seem unfair 14 15 to require that one who deliberately goes perilously close to an area of proscribed conduct 16 shall take the risk that he may cross the line.") (internal quotations omitted).

## PARTIES

<sup>19</sup> 14. Plaintiff is a natural person who at all relevant times resided in the State of
 <sup>20</sup> Arizona, County of Maricopa, and City of Phoenix.

15. Plaintiff is a "consumer" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).

16. Defendant is an entity who at all relevant times was engaged, by use of the
 mails and telephone, in the business of attempting to collect a "debt" from Plaintiff, as
 defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5).

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

## **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

18. Plaintiff is a natural person allegedly obligated to pay a debt asserted to be 2 3 owed or due a creditor other than Defendant.

19. Plaintiff's alleged obligation arises from a transaction in which the money, 5 property, insurance, or services that are the subject of the transaction were incurred 6 primarily for personal, family, or household purposes—namely, a mortgage loan for 8 Plaintiff's personal residence (the "Debt").

- 20. Defendant uses instrumentalities of interstate commerce or the mails in a 10 11 business the principal purpose of which is the collection of any debts.
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- 21. Defendant regularly collects or attempts to collect, directly or indirectly, 13 debts owed or due, or asserted to be owed or due, another. 14
- 15 22. In connection with the collection of the Debt, Defendant sent Plaintiff a letter 16 dated November 9, 2016.
- 23. A true and correct copy of Defendant's November 9, 2016 letter is attached 18 19 to this complaint as Exhibit A.

20 Defendant's November 9, 2016 letter was its initial communication with 24. 21 Plaintiff with respect to the Debt. 22

25. As the initial communication, Defendant's November 9, 2016 letter 23 24 purported to contain the disclosures required by the FDCPA at 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a).

- 26. Among the required disclosures is "the amount of the debt." 15 U.S.C. § 26 1692g(a)(1). 27
- 28

27. Defendant's November 9, 2016 letter states: "As of October 28, 2016 our 1 2 client has advised that the amount of the debt is \$66,927.27." Exhibit A. 3 28. Defendant's letter also states that: "Because of interest, late charges and other 4 charges that may vary from day to day, the amount due on the day you pay may be greater." 5 Exhibit A. 6 7 By its own terms, Defendant's letter therefore provides Plaintiff with a figure 29. 8 less than the actual amount due on the Debt. 0 30. By failing to state the amount of the Debt as of the date Defendant sent its 10 11 letter, Defendant failed to meaningfully convey the correct amount of the Debt to the 12 consumer. 13 31. Included in the disclosures under § 1692g(a) is "a statement that if the 14 15 consumer notifies the debt collector in writing within the thirty-day period that the debt, or 16 any portion thereof, is disputed, the debt collector will obtain verification of the debt or a 17 copy of a judgment against the consumer and a copy of such verification or judgment will 18 19 be mailed to the consumer by the debt collector." 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(4). 20 32. Also included in the disclosures under  $\S$  1692g(a) is "a statement that, upon 21 the consumer's written request within the thirty-day period, the debt collector will provide 22 23 the consumer with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the 24 current creditor." 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(5). 25 33. Defendant's November 9, 2016 letter states that if Plaintiff disputed the Debt 26 in writing: 27 28

If you notify us in writing within (30) days of the date you receive this notice that you are disputing the debt or any portion thereof, or if you notify us in writing within thirty (30) days of the date you receive this notice that you want to know the name of the original creditor if that creditor is different from the name above, then the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act requires us to suspend our efforts to foreclose the mortgage on your property until we obtain and mail to you verification of the debt and/or the name and address of the original creditor even if we have already initiated foreclosure proceedings.

# Exhibit A.

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35. Second, Defendant's letter does not state that it *will* obtain and mail the consumer verification of the debt.

<sup>15</sup> 36. Third, Defendant's representation that the FDCPA requires it to suspend its
 <sup>16</sup> efforts to foreclose is false.

37. While a written dispute of the Debt would require Defendant to suspend its 18 19 debt collection efforts, it would not require Defendant to suspend non-judicial foreclosure 20 proceedings. See Mansour v. Cal-W. Reconveyance Corp., 618 F. Supp. 2d 1178, 1182 21 (D. Ariz. 2009) ("Courts also have held that a non-judicial foreclosure proceeding is not 22 the collection of a 'debt' for purposes of the FDCPA."); Hulse v. Ocwen Fed. Bank, 195 23 24 F.Supp.2d 1188, 1204 (D. Or. 2002) (distinguishing foreclosure of interest in property from 25 efforts to collect funds from debtor). 26

38. Therefore, Defendant's November 9, 2016 letter falsely represents Plaintiff's
 rights under the FDCPA.

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1	39. Defendant's November 9, 2016 letter also purported to contain the disclosure
2	required by the FDCPA at 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(11). 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(11) (This subsection
3	of § 1692e requires a statement "that the debt collector is attempting to collect a debt and
4 5	that any information will be used for that purpose").
6	40. Defendant's November 9, 2016 letter states:
7 8 9	PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, YOU ARE ADVISED THAT <b>THIS OFFICE MAY BE DEEMED TO BE</b> <b>A DEBT COLLECTOR</b> . ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
10 11	Exhibit A (emphasis added) (all-caps in original).
12	41. Defendant's November 9, 2016 letter fails to properly convey the disclosure
13	required by the FDCPA, including by failing to state that Defendant that "defendant is
14 15	attempting to collect a debt" 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(11).
16	42. Nor does Defendant's statement make clear for what purpose any
17	information obtained will be used—i.e. for the purpose of attempting to collect a debt.
18	43. Additionally, the November 9, 2016 letter only stated that Defendant <i>may</i> be
19 20	a debt collector when Defendant knows or should know that it is a debt collector.
21	44. Certainly, if Defendant purports to be unsure whether it is a debt collector,
22	the least sophisticated consumer would not understand whether Defendant is, in fact, a debt
23 24	collector.
25	CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS
26	45. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges all factual allegations above.
27	46. The November 9, 2016 letter is based on a form or template (the "Template").
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	Class Action Complaint - 8

1	47.	Defendant regularly sends letters based on the Template as its initial
2	communicatio	on to a consumer.
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4	48.	The Template states an amount that Plaintiff owes as of a date prior to the
5	date that Defe	endant sent the letter.
6	49.	The Template further states that Defendant "may be deemed to be a debt
7	collector."	
8 9	50.	The Template does not clearly disclose that the consumer has the right to
10	request the na	me and address of the original creditor.
11	51.	The Template also states that Plaintiff's written dispute of the Debt would
12	require Defen	dant, under the FDCPA, to suspend its foreclosure of Plaintiff's property.
13		
14	52.	Defendant has sent more than 40 collection letters based upon the Template
15	to individuals	in the State of Arizona in the year prior to the filing of this action.
16 17	53.	Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of herself and all others similarly
18	situated. Spec	cifically, Plaintiff seeks to represent the following class:
19	All	individuals with an Arizona address to whom Defendant sent a
20		er based on the Template, within one year before the date of this nplaint and in connection with the collection of a consumer debt.
21	5.4	
22	54.	The proposed class specifically excludes the United States of America, the
23	State of Arizo	ona, counsel for the parties, the presiding United States District Court Judge,
24	the Judges of	the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and the Justices
25 26	of the United	States Supreme Court, all officers and agents of Defendant, and all persons
27	related to wit	hin the third degree of consanguinity or affection to any of the foregoing
28	persons.	

55. The class is averred to be so numerous that joinder of members is 1 2 impracticable. 3 56. The exact number of class members is unknown to Plaintiff at this time and 4 can be ascertained only through appropriate discovery. 5 The class is ascertainable in that the names and addresses of all class 57. 6 7 members can be identified in business records maintained by Defendant. 8 58. There exists a well-defined community of interest in the questions of law and 9 fact involved that affect the parties to be represented. These common questions of law and 10 11 fact predominate over questions that may affect individual class members. Such issues 12 include, but are not limited to: (a) the existence of Defendant's identical conduct particular 13 to the matters at issue; (b) Defendant's violations of 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq.; (c) the 14 15 availability of statutory penalties; and (d) attorney's fees and costs. 16 59. The claims of Plaintiff are typical of the claims of the class she seeks to 17 represent. 18 19 60. The claims of Plaintiff and of the class originate from the same conduct, 20 practice, and procedure on the part of Defendant. Thus, if brought and prosecuted 21 individually, the claims of each class member would require proof of the same material 22 23 and substantive facts. 24 61. Plaintiff possesses the same interests and has suffered the same injuries as 25 each class member. Plaintiff asserts identical claims and seeks identical relief on behalf of 26 the unnamed class members. 27 28

62. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class and has
 no interest adverse to or which directly and irrevocably conflicts with the interests of other
 class members.

63. Plaintiff is willing and prepared to serve this Court and the proposed class.

6 64. The interests of Plaintiff are co-extensive with and not antagonistic to those
7 of the absent class members.

<sup>9</sup>
 <sup>65.</sup> Plaintiff has retained the services of counsel who are experienced in
 <sup>10</sup> consumer protection claims, as well as complex class action litigation, will adequately
 <sup>11</sup> prosecute this action, and will assert, protect and otherwise represent Plaintiff and all absent
 <sup>12</sup> class members.

66. Class certification is appropriate under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(1)(A) and
 23(b)(1)(B). The prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the class would,
 as a practical matter, be dispositive of the interests of other members of the class who are
 not parties to the action or could substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their
 interests.

<sup>20</sup>
 67. The prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the class would
 create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual members of
 the class, which would establish incompatible standards of conduct for the parties opposing
 the class. Such incompatible standards of conduct and varying adjudications, on what
 would necessarily be the same essential facts, proof and legal theories, would also create
 and allow the existence of inconsistent and incompatible rights within the class.

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68. Class certification is appropriate under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(2) in that
 Defendant has acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the class, making
 final declaratory or injunctive relief appropriate.

69. Class certification is appropriate under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3) in that the
 questions of law and fact that are common to members of the class predominate over any
 questions affecting only individual members.

70. Moreover, a class action is superior to other methods for the fair and efficient 9 adjudication of the controversies raised in this Complaint in that: (a) individual claims by 10 11 the class members will be impracticable as the costs of pursuit would far exceed what any 12 one plaintiff or class member has at stake; (b) as a result, very little litigation has been 13 commenced over the controversies alleged in this Complaint and individual members are 14 15 unlikely to have an interest in prosecuting and controlling separate individual actions; and 16 (c) the concentration of litigation of these claims in one forum will achieve efficiency and 17 promote judicial economy. 18

## COUNT I VIOLATION OF 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(10)

71. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each factual allegation above.

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73. Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(10) for making false, deceptive, and
 misleading statements, including by ambiguously stating that it "may be deemed to be a
 debt collector" where a consumer could reasonably interpret that Defendant is, or is not, a
 debt collector.

74. Defendant further violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(10) for falsely stating that
 Plaintiff's written dispute would require Defendant to suspend its foreclosure proceedings.
 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief and judgment, as follows:

- a) Determining that this action is a proper class action, certifying Plaintiff as a class representative under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and designating this Complaint the operable complaint for class purposes;
  - b) Adjudging that Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(10) with respect to Plaintiff and the class she seeks to represent;
    - c) Awarding Plaintiff and the class she seeks to represent actual damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1);
  - d) Awarding Plaintiff such additional damages as the Court may allow in the amount of \$1,000, pursuant to \$1692k(a)(2)(B)(i);

e) Awarding all other class members such amount as the Court may allow, without regard to a minimum individual recovery, not to exceed the lesser of \$500,000 or one percent of the net worth of the debt collector, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(2)(B)(ii);

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1	f) Awarding Plaintiff and the class she seeks to represent, reasonable attorneys'
2	fees and costs incurred in this action pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(3) and
3	Rule 23;
4 5	g) Awarding Plaintiff and the class she seeks to represent, pre-judgment and
6	post-judgment interest as permissible by law; and
7	h) Awarding such other and further relief as the Court may deem proper.
8 9	COUNT II
10	VIOLATION OF 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(11)
11	75. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each factual allegation above.
12	76. Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(11) by failing to clearly state in its
13	initial communication that it is attempting to collect a debt and that any information will
14	be used for that purpose.
15	WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief and judgment, as follows:
16	
17 18	a) Determining that this action is a proper class action, certifying Plaintiff as a
10	class representative under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure,
20	and designating this Complaint the operable complaint for class purposes;
21	b) Adjudging that Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(11) with respect to
22	Plaintiff and the class she seeks to represent;
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25	pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1);
26	d) Awarding Plaintiff such additional damages as the Court may allow in the
27 28	amount of \$1,000, pursuant to \$ 1692k(a)(2)(B)(i);
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1	e) Awarding all other class members such amount as the Court may allow,
2	without regard to a minimum individual recovery, not to exceed the lesser of
3	\$500,000 or one percent of the net worth of the debt collector, pursuant to 15
4	U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(2)(B)(ii);
5	f) Awarding Plaintiff and the class she seeks to represent, reasonable attorneys'
6 7	
8	fees and costs incurred in this action pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(3) and
9	Rule 23;
10	g) Awarding Plaintiff and the class she seeks to represent, pre-judgment and
11	post-judgment interest as permissible by law; and
12	h) Awarding such other and further relief as the Court may deem proper.
13	COUNT III
14 15	VIOLATION OF 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)
16	77. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each factual allegation above.
17	78. A key provision of the FDCPA is § 1692g, which requires a debt collector to
18	send, within five days of its initial communication with a consumer, a written notice which
19	provides information regarding the debt and informs the consumer of his or her right to
20 21	dispute the validity of the debt, and/or request the name and address of the original creditor,
21	
23	within 30 days of receipt of the notice. See 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a).
24	79. "To satisfy section 1692g's requirements, the notice Congress required must
25	be conveyed effectively to the debtor." Terran v. Kaplan, 109 F.3d 1428, 1432 (9th Cir.
26	1997) (quoting Swanson v. Southern Oregon Credit Serv., Inc., 869 F.2d 1222, 1227 (9th
27	Cin 1099) (intermal attations amittad), see also Investos y Eulton Erichman & Cullass
28	Cir. 1988)) (internal citations omitted); see also Janetos v. Fulton Friedman & Gullace,

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*LLP*, 825 F.3d 317, 321 (7th Cir. 2016) ("When § 1692g(a) requires that a communication
 include certain information, compliance demands more than simply including that
 information in some unintelligible form.").

80. "It is not enough that the dunning letter state the amount of the debt that is
due. It must state it clearly enough that the recipient is likely to understand it." *Chuway v. Nat'l Action Fin. Servs., Inc.*, 362 F.3d 944, 948 (7th Cir. 2004).

81. A debt collection letter does not comply with 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1) by 9 providing the consumer with an amount that is actually less than the amount due as of the 10 11 date of the letter. Gesten v. Phelan Hallinan, PLC, 57 F. Supp. 3d 1381, 1387 (S.D. Fla. 12 2014) ("Defendant's letters state the amount of the debt 'as of 01/13/2014.' But the 13 Defendant sent the letters on February 21, 2014. As the letter observes, 'interest and other 14 15 items will continue to accrue.' By its own terms, the letter therefore provides Plaintiff with 16 a figure less than his actual amount due.").

Befendant violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1) by failing to meaningfully
 convey the amount of the alleged debt to Plaintiff in its November 9, 2016 letter.

<sup>20</sup>
83. Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(5) by failing to meaningfully
<sup>21</sup>
<sup>22</sup> convey the consumer's right to request the name and address of the original creditor in its
<sup>23</sup> November 9, 2016 letter.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief and judgment, as follows:

a) Determining that this action is a proper class action, certifying Plaintiff as a
 class representative under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure,
 and designating this Complaint the operable complaint for class purposes;

1	b) Adjudging that Defendants violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a) with respect to
2	Plaintiff and the class she seeks to represent;
3	c) Awarding Plaintiff and the class she seeks to represent actual damages
4	pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1);
5 6	d) Awarding Plaintiff such additional damages as the Court may allow in the
7	amount of \$1,000, pursuant to \$ 1692k(a)(2)(B)(i);
8	amount of $\psi$ 1,000, pursuant to $\psi$ 10)2 $K(a)(2)(B)(1)$ ,
9	e) Awarding all other class members such amount as the Court may allow,
10	without regard to a minimum individual recovery, not to exceed the lesser of
11	\$500,000 or one percent of the net worth of the debt collector, pursuant to 15
12 13	U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(2)(B)(ii);
13	f) Awarding Plaintiff and the class she seeks to represent, reasonable attorneys'
15	fees and costs incurred in this action pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(3) and
16	Rule 23;
17	
18	g) Awarding Plaintiff and the class she seeks to represent, pre-judgment and
19	post-judgment interest as permissible by law; and
20	h) Awarding such other and further relief as the Court may deem proper.
21 22	TRIAL BY JURY
23	84. Plaintiff is entitled to and hereby demands a trial by jury.
24	Dated: August 22, 2017
25	Respectfully submitted,
26	s/ Russell S. Thompson IV
27	Russell S. Thompson IV (029098)
28	Thompson Consumer Law Group, PLLC 5235 E. Southern Ave., D106-618
	Class Action Complaint - 17

	Case 2:17-cv-02886-JJT Document 1 Filed 08/25/17 Page 18 of 18
1	Mesa, AZ 85206
2	Telephone: (602) 388-8898 Facsimile: (866) 317-2674
3	rthompson@consumerlawinfo.com
4	<u>s/ Joseph Panvini</u>
5	Joseph Panvini (028359) Thompson Consumer Law Group, PLLC
6	5235 E. Southern Ave., D106-618
7	Mesa, AZ 85206 Telephone: (602) 388-8875
8	Facsimile: (866) 317-2674 jpanvini@consumerlawinfo.com
9	
10	Attorneys for Plaintiff
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13 14	
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# Exhibit "A"

# Shapiro, Van Ess and Sherman, LLP

# ATTORNEYS AT LAW

GERALD M. SHAPIRO LICENSED IN ILLINOIS AND FLORIDA ONLY DAVID S. KREISMAN LICENSED IN ILLINOIS ONLY DAVID A. VAN ESS LICENSED IN WISCONSIN ONLY JASON P. SHERMAN MANAGING PARTNER LYDIA R. TULIN ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY

Traci Brown 417 E Wikieup Ln Phoenix, AZ 85024 16-025060

November 9, 2016

Loan Number: Property Address: Our File Number: 0000311043 417 E Wikieup Ln, Phoenix. AZ 85024 16-025060

#### NOTICE REQUIRED BY THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTIONS PRACTICES ACT, 15 USC 1692, ET SEQ.

The following information is provided as required by the Federal Fair Debt Collections Practices Act:

1. As of October 28, 2016 our client has advised that the amount of the debt is \$66,927.27.

2. The name of the creditor to whom the debt is owed is: Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC as Servicer for Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company.

3. The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act entitles you to dispute the debt, or any portion thereof, within thirty (30) days of your receipt of this notice. If you do not dispute the debt within this period, it will be assumed to be valid by this office.

4. If you notify us in writing within (30) days of the date you receive this notice that you are disputing the debt or any portion thereof, or if you notify us in writing within thirty (30) days of the date you receive this notice that you want to know the name of the original creditor if that creditor is different from the name above, then the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act requires us to suspend our efforts to foreclose the mortgage on your property until we obtain and mail to you verification of the debt and/or the name and address of the original creditor even if we have already initiated foreclosure proceedings.

5. The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act does not require that we wait until thirty (30) days from the date you receive this notice before initiating a foreclosure proceeding on your mortgage/deed of trust. In the event we do initiate a foreclose proceeding, within thirty (30) days from the date you receive this notice, you still retain the right to dispute the debt, or any portion thereof and you also retain the right to request the name of the original creditor if the original creditor.

Because of interest, late charges and 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 we receive your check, in which event we will inform you before depositing the check for collection. For further information, call (602)222-5711, or write to the Fair Debt Attorney at the address provided below.

3636 N. CENTRAL AVE., SUITE #400, PHOENIN, AZ 85012 VOICE: (602)222-5711 • FACSIMILE: (602)222-5701 AND (847) 627-8802 • EMAIL: <u>AZNOTICES@LOGS.COM</u> Any written request should be addressed to:

Shapiro, Van Ess & Sherman, LLP 3636 N. Central Ave. Suite #400 Phoenix, AZ 85012 Attention: Fair Debt Attorney

If your personal liability for this debt has been modified or extinguished by a discharge in bankruptcy, this Notice is provided solely to foreclose the mortgage remaining on your property and is not an attempt to collect the discharged personal obligation

Be advised that no attorney with this firm has personally reviewed the particular circumstances of your account at the time of this notice.

Shapiro, Van Ess & Sherman, LLP

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS OFFICE MAY BE DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

# **Civil Cover Sheet**

This automated JS-44 conforms generally to the manual JS-44 approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974. The data is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. The information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law. This form is authorized for use <u>only</u> in the District of Arizona.

# The completed cover sheet must be printed directly to PDF and filed as an attachment to the Complaint or Notice of Removal.

#### **Plaintiff**(s): **Traci Brown**

County of Residence: Maricopa County Where Claim For Relief Arose: Maricopa

Plaintiff's Atty(s):

Russell S Thompson IV Thompson Consumer Law Group, PLLC 5235 E Southern Ave, #D106-618 Mesa, Arizona 85206 602-388-8898 Defendant(s): Shapiro, Van Ess & Sherman, LLP

County of Residence: Maricopa

Defendant's Atty(s):

Joseph Panvini Thompson Consumer Law Group, PLLC 5235 E Southern Ave, #D106-618 Mesa, Arizona 85206 602-388-8875

II. Basis of Jurisdiction:

**3. Federal Question (U.S. not a party)** 

<u>III. Citizenship of Principal</u> <u>Parties</u> (Diversity Cases Only) Plaintiff:- N/A Defendent: N/A

Defendant:-N/A

IV. Origin :

**1. Original Proceeding** 

V. Nature of Suit:

**890 Other Statutory Actions** 

VI.Cause of Action:

15 U.S.C. § 1692 violation of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act

<u>VII. Requested in Complaint</u> Class Action: **Yes** Dollar Demand: VIII. This case is not related to another case.

## Signature: s/Russell S. Thompson, IV

## Date: <u>08/25/2017</u>

If any of this information is incorrect, please go back to the Civil Cover Sheet Input form using the *Back* button in your browser and change it. Once correct, save this form as a PDF and include it as an attachment to your case opening documents.

Revised: 01/2014

# **ClassAction.org**

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: Lawsuit: Law Firm's Collection Letter Not FDCPA-Compliant