UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS EASTERN DIVISION

MALAIKA COLEMAN, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

Case No.

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

-V.-

HALSTED FINANCIAL SERVICES, LLC, NATIONAL CREDIT ADJUSTERS, LLC and JOHN DOES 1-25,

Defendants.

Plaintiff Malaika Coleman (hereinafter, "Plaintiff" or "Coleman"), an Illinois resident, brings this Class Action Complaint by and through her attorneys, Stein Saks, PLLC, against Defendant Halsted Financial Services, LLC (hereinafter "Defendant Halsted") and Defendant National Credit Adjusters, LLC (hereinafter "Defendant NCA"), individually and on behalf of a class of all others similarly situated, pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, based upon information and belief of Plaintiff's counsel, except for allegations specifically pertaining to Plaintiff, which are based upon Plaintiff's personal knowledge.

INTRODUCTION/PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. Congress enacted the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act ("The FDCPA" or "The Act") in 1977 in response to the "abundant evidence of the use of abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection practices by many debt collectors." 15 U.S.C. §1692(a). At that time, Congress was concerned that "abusive debt collection practices contribute to the number of personal

bankruptcies, to material instability, to the loss of jobs, and to invasions of individual privacy." *Id.* Congress concluded that "existing laws...[we]re inadequate to protect consumers," and that "'the effective collection of debts" does not require "misrepresentation or other abusive debt collection practices." 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692(b) & (c).

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

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 3. The Court has jurisdiction over this class action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et. seq. The Court has pendent jurisdiction over the state law claims in this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).
- 4. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1) as this is the Defendant Halsted's primary place of business.
- 5. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) as this is where a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred.

NATURE OF THE ACTION

- 6. Plaintiff brings this class action on behalf of a class of Illinois consumers under § 1692 et seq. of Title 15 of the United States Code, commonly referred to as the Fair Debt Collections Practices Act ("FDCPA"), and
 - 7. Plaintiff is seeking damages and declaratory relief.

PARTIES

- 8. Plaintiff is a resident of the State of Illinois, County of Cook, residing at 8034 S. Elizabeth Street, Chicago, IL 60620.
- 9. Defendant Halsted is a "debt collector" as the phrase is defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692(a)(6) and used in the FDCPA with an address at 8001 Lincoln Avenue, Ste 500, Skokie, IL 60077.
- 10. Defendant NCA is a "debt collector" as the phrase is defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692(a)(6) and used in the FDCPA with an address at 327 West 4th, Hutchinson, KS 67504.
- 11. Upon information and belief, Defendants Halsted and NCA are companies that use the mail, telephone, and facsimile and regularly engage in business the principal purpose of which is to attempt to collect debts alleged to be due another.
- 12. John Does 1-25, are fictitious names of individuals and businesses alleged for the purpose of substituting names of Defendants whose identities will be disclosed in discovery and should be made parties to this action.

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

- 13. Plaintiff brings this claim on behalf of the following case, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a) and 23(b)(3).
 - 14. The Class consists of:
 - a. all individuals with addresses in the State of Illinois;
 - b. to whom Halsted sent a collection letter attempting to collect a consumer debt;
 - c. on behalf of Defendant National Credit Adjusters, LLC;
 - d. which letter offered settlement of the debt in less than 30 days from the date of the letter, overshadowing the Plaintiff's rights under the "G-Notice";

- e. which letter was sent on or after a date one (1) year prior to the filing of this action and on or before a date twenty-one (21) days after the filing of this action.
- 15. The identities of all class members are readily ascertainable from the records of Defendants and those companies and entities on whose behalf they attempt to collect and/or have purchased debts.
- 16. Excluded from the Plaintiff Class are the Defendants and all officer, members, partners, managers, directors and employees of the Defendants and their respective immediate families, and legal counsel for all parties to this action, and all members of their immediate families.
- 17. There are questions of law and fact common to the Plaintiff Class, which common issues predominate over any issues involving only individual class members. The principal issue is whether the Defendants' written communications to consumers, in the forms attached as Exhibits A, violate 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692g and 1692f.
- 18. The Plaintiff's claims are typical of the class members, as all are based upon the same facts and legal theories. The Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Plaintiff Class defined in this complaint. The Plaintiff has retained counsel with experience in handling consumer lawsuits, complex legal issues, and class actions, and neither the Plaintiff nor her attorneys have any interests, which might cause them not to vigorously pursue this action.
- 19. This action has been brought, and may properly be maintained, as a class action pursuant to the provisions of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure because there is a well-defined community interest in the litigation:

- a. <u>Numerosity:</u> The Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that the Plaintiff Class defined above is so numerous that joinder of all members would be impractical.
- b. <u>Common Questions Predominate:</u> Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Plaintiff Class and those questions predominance over any questions or issues involving only individual class members. The principal issue is whether the Defendants' written communications to consumers, in the forms **attached as Exhibit A** violate 15 § 1692e and § 1692f and § 1692g.
- c. <u>Typicality:</u> The Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the class members.
 The Plaintiff and all members of the Plaintiff Class have claims arising out of the Defendants' common uniform course of conduct complained of herein.
- d. Adequacy: The Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class members insofar as Plaintiff has no interests that are adverse to the absent class members. The Plaintiff is committed to vigorously litigating this matter. Plaintiff has also retained counsel experienced in handling consumer lawsuits, complex legal issues, and class actions. Neither the Plaintiff nor her counsel have any interests which might cause them not to vigorously pursue the instant class action lawsuit.
- e. <u>Superiority:</u> A class action is superior to the other available means for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy because individual joinder of all members would be impracticable. Class action treatment will permit a large number of similarly situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single

forum efficiently and without unnecessary duplication of effort and expense that individual actions would engender.

- 20. Certification of a class under Rule 23(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure is also appropriate in that the questions of law and fact common to members of the Plaintiff Class predominate over any questions affecting an individual member, and a class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy.
- 21. Depending on the outcome of further investigation and discovery, Plaintiff may, at the time of class certification motion, seek to certify a class(es) only as to particular issues pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(c)(4).

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 22. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs numbered above herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.
- 23. Some time prior to March 27, 2018, an obligation was allegedly incurred to CASHNET.
- 24. The CASHNET obligation arose out of a transaction involving a CASHNET loan the proceeds of which Plaintiff used to purchase items primarily for personal, family or household purposes.
 - 25. The alleged CASHNET obligation is a "debt" as defined by 15 U.S.C.\(\) 1692a(5).
 - 26. CASHNET is a "creditor" as defined by 15 U.S.C.\(\) 1692a(4).
- 27. CASHNET or Defendant NCA, the purported subsequent owner of the CASHNET debt, contracted with Defendant Halsted to collect the alleged debt.

28. Defendants collect and attempt to collect debts incurred or alleged to have been incurred for personal, family or household purposes on behalf of creditors using the United States Postal Services, telephone and internet.

Violation – March 27, 2018 Collection Letter

- 29. On or about March 27, 2018, Defendant Halsted sent Plaintiff a collection letter (the "Letter") regarding the alleged debt owed to Defendant NCA. See a true and correct copy of the Letter attached as Exhibit A.
- 30. The collection letter offers Plaintiff discounted settlement options if she makes payment by April 26, 2018, less than 30 days after the letter was sent.
- 31. When a debt collector solicits payment from a consumer, it must, within five days of an initial communication, provide the consumer with a written validation notice which must include the following information:
 - (1) the amount of the debt;
 - (2) the name of the creditor to whom the debt is owed;
 - (3) a statement that unless the consumer, within thirty days after receipt of the notice, disputes the validity of the debt, or any portion thereof, the debt will be assumed to be valid by the debt collector;
 - (4) a statement that if the consumer notifies the debt collector in writing within the thirtyday period that the debt, or any portion thereof, is disputed, the debt collector will obtain verification of the debt or a copy of the judgment against the consumer and a copy of such verification or judgment will be mailed to the consumer by the debt collector; and

(5) a statement that, upon the consumer's written request within the thirty-day period, the debt collector will provide the consumer with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor. 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a).

This is known as the "G Notice."

- 32. While the March 27, 2018 letter contains the requisite "G-Notice," it is completely overshadowed by the earlier offers of settlement in the letter.
- 33. Specifically, the letter allows Plaintiff less than 30 days to make a payment to receive the settlement offer which overshadows the fact that Plaintiff has thirty (30) days from the date of receipt of the letter to dispute and receive validation of the debt pursuant to the "G Notice."
- 34. Although a collection letter may track the statutory language, "the collector nonetheless violates the Act if it conveys that information in a confusing or contradictory fashion so as to cloud the required message with uncertainty." <u>Russel v. EQUIFAX A.R.S.</u>, 74 F.3d 30, 35 (2d Cir. 1996).
- 35. Requiring payment to accept a settlement plan in the same letter with the "G Notice" is confusing because the least sophisticated consumer would believe she had less than 30 days to receive the discounted settlement offers, which overshadows her right to validate or dispute the debt under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.
- 36. Plaintiff sustained an imminent risk of harm in that she was provided with false information about the alleged debt which prevented her from making reasonable decisions about whether to pay the debt.
- 37. As a result of Defendant's deceptive misleading and false debt collection practices, Plaintiff has been damaged.

COUNT I VIOLATIONS OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT 15 U.S.C. §1692e et seq.

- 38. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs above herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.
- 39. Defendants' debt collection efforts attempted and/or directed towards the Plaintiff violated various provisions of the FDCPA, including but not limited to 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.
- 40. Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692e, a debt collector may not use any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt.
 - 41. Defendant violated said section by:
 - a. Making a false and misleading representation in violation of §1692e(10).
- 42. By reason thereof, Defendants are liable to Plaintiff for judgment that Defendants' conduct violated Section 1692e et seq. of the FDCPA, actual damages, statutory damages, costs and attorneys' fees.

COUNT II VIOLATIONS OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT 15 U.S.C. §1692f et seq.

- 43. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs above herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.
- 44. Defendant's debt collection efforts attempted and/or directed towards the Plaintiff violated various provisions of the FDCPA, including but not limited to 15 U.S.C. § 1692f.
- 45. Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692f, a debt collector may not use any unfair or unconscionable means in connection with the collection of any debt.

- 46. Defendant violated this section by unfairly offering a settlement plan to Plaintiff which was only available for a period of time which was less than the thirty day validation and dispute period provided to consumers under the FDCPA.
- 47. By reason thereof, Defendant is liable to Plaintiff for judgment that Defendant's conduct violated Section 1692f et seq. of the FDCPA, actual damages, statutory damages, costs and attorneys' fees.

COUNT III VIOLATIONS OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT 15 U.S.C. §1692g et seq.

- 48. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs above herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.
- 49. Defendant's debt collection efforts attempted and/or directed towards the Plaintiff violated various provisions of the FDCPA, including but not limited to 15 U.S.C. § 1692g.
- 50. Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692g, any collection activities and communication during the 30-day period may not overshadow or be inconsistent with the disclosure of the consumer's right to dispute the debt or request the name and address of the original creditor.
- 51. Defendant violated this section by unfairly offering a settlement plan to Plaintiff which was available for less than thirty (30) days during the thirty day validation and dispute period provided by the FDCPA.
- 52. The settlement offer which required the consumer to accept before the 30 day dispute period expired overshadowed Plaintiff's right to dispute the debt during the entire 30 day window.

53. By reason thereof, Defendant is liable to Plaintiff for judgment that Defendant's

conduct violated Section 1692f et seq. of the FDCPA, actual damages, statutory damages, costs

and attorneys' fees.

DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY

54. Pursuant to Rule 38 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff hereby requests

a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Malaika Coleman, individually and on behalf of all others

similarly situated demands judgment from Defendant Halsted Financial Services, LLC and

Defendant National Credit Adjusters, LLC as follows:

1. Declaring that this action is properly maintainable as a Class Action and certifying

Plaintiff as Class representative, and Yaakov Saks as Class Counsel;

2. Awarding Plaintiff and the Class statutory damages;

3. Awarding Plaintiff and the Class actual damages;

4. Awarding Plaintiff costs of this Action, including reasonable attorneys' fees and

expenses;

5. Awarding pre-judgment interest and post-judgment interest; and

6. Awarding Plaintiff and the Class such other and further relief as this Court may deem

just and proper.

Dated: August 3, 2018 STEIN SAKS, PLLC

/s/ Yaakov Saks

Yaakov Saks, Esq. 285 Passaic Street Hackensack, NJ 07601 (201) 282-6500 (201) 282-6501 (fax) ysaks@steinsakslegal.com Attorneys For Plaintiff

EXHIBIT A

Halsted Financial Services, LLC PO Box 828, Skokie, IL 60076 8001 Lincoln Ave Sie, 500, Skokie IL 60077 *** Specific Same Specific Same | Specific Same | 12pm

Hours of Operation, M-TH 8am - 8pm / Fri 8am - 5pm / Sat 8am - 12pm Telephone: 855-221-4379 ext 701 Facsimile: 888-768-5812 Website: www.halstedfinancial.com

50% off your balance

March 27, 2018

Original Creditor: CASHNET Account Number: XXXXX09

Current Creditor To Whom The Debt Is Owed, National Credit Adjusters,

Our Reference Number: Balance Due: \$1,311.66

De r MALAIKA COLEMAN,

r account has been placed at our agency for collection. Please contact us at 855-221-4379 ext 701 to ve this matter.

'U DO HAVE OPTIONS!

- 1) During these difficult economic times, we are willing to extend a compromise offer of \$655.83 to resolve this debt. That's a savings of \$655.83!
- If you cannot take advantage of the above offer, we are prepared to resolve the debt by offering you a compromise of \$918.16 in three equal payments of \$306.05, for three consecutive months. That's a savings of \$393.50!

This office is not obligated to renew these offers after 4/26/2018. Please call us at 855-221-4379 ext 701 to secure either one of these payment arrangements.

This communication is from a debt collector. This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Unless you notify this office within 30 days after receiving this notice that you dispute the validity of the debt or any portion thereof, this office will assume this debt is valid. If you notify this office in writing within 30 days after 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 from 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 than the current creditor.

Sincerely, Garry Cutler Account Manager 855-221-4379 ext. 701

Our office is licensed under the name of Halsted Financial Services, LLC for the state of Illinois.

$_{\text{ILND 44}} \text{ (Rev. 06/16/17)} \text{ Case: 1:18-cv-05323 Document \# 1-2 Filed: } 28/03/18 \text{ Page 1 of 2 PageID \#:15}$

The ILND 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.)

of findading the civil docket sheet. (see instructions on next page of this form.)							
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDANTS			
Malaika Coleman, Individually and on behalf of all others similarl situated				Halsted Financial Services, LLC, National Credit Adjusters, LLC and John Does 1-25			
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Cook (Except in U.S. plaintiff cases) (c) Attorneys (firm name, address, and telephone number)				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)			
Yaakov Saks, Esq Stei 285 Passaic Street, Had		01-282-6500 x10)1				
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	ICTION (Check one box or	alv)	III. CITI	<u>I</u> ZENSHIP OF PRIN	NCIPAL PARTIES (For I	Diversity Cases Only)	
			(Check <u>one</u> box, only for plaintiff and <u>one</u> box for defendant.)				
U.S. Government Plaintiff	S Federal Question (U.S. Government not a party)		Citize	Citizen of This State PTF DEF I Incorporated or Principal Place 4 4 of Business in This State			
□ 2 U.S. Government □ 4 Diversity (Indicate citizenship of parties		parties in Item III.)	Citize	en of Another State	2 Incorporated and Proof Business in Anot		
				en or Subject of a reign Country	3 Foreign Nation	6	
IV. NATURE OF SUIT		RTS	Т	PRISONER PETITIONS	LABOR	OTHER STATUTES	
110 Insurance 120 Marine 130 Miller Act 140 Negotiable Instrument 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment 151 Medicare Act 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) 153 Recovery of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' Suits 190 Other Contract 195 Contract Product Liability 196 Franchise REAL PROPERTY 210 Land Condemnation 220 Foreclosure 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability 290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY 310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel & Slander 330 Federal Employers' Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle 355 Motor Vehicle 355 Motor Vehicle 360 Other Personal Injury 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice CIVIL RIGHTS 440 Other Civil Rights 441 Voting 442 Employment 443 Housing/ Accommodations 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other 448 Education	PERSONAL INJUR 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury - Product Liability 368 Asbestos Persona Product Liability 368 Asbestos Persona Product Liability 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage Product Liability 385 Property Damage Product Liability 422 Appeal 28 USC 1 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 1 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 1 463 Naturalization A 463 Habeas Corpus - Alien Detainee (Prisoner Petition 465 Other Immigrant Actions	Y 5: H y 5: 5: 5: 5: 5: 5: 5: 5: 5: 5: 5: 5: 5:	In Motions to Vacate Sentence In Motions to Vacate Sentence In Motions to Vacate Sentence In Motions (In Motion In Inc.) In Motions (In Motion In Inc.) In Motion In Inc. In Inc	TABUR	□ 375 False Claims Act □ 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729 (a)) □ 400 State Reapportionment □ 410 Antitrust □ 430 Banks and Banking □ 450 Commerce □ 460 Deportation □ 470 Racketeer Influenced and □ Corrupt Organizations □ 480 Consumer Credit □ 490 Cable/Sat TV □ 850 Securities/Commodities/ □ Exchange □ 890 Other Statutory Actions □ 891 Agricultural Acts □ 893 Environmental Matters □ 895 Freedom of Information Act □ 896 Arbitration □ 899 Administrative Procedure □ Act/Review or Appeal of □ Agency Decision □ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes	
V. ORIGIN (Check one box, one 1 Original 2 Ren Proceeding State	noved from 3 Rema	anded from [☐ 4 Reins Reop		her District Litigation	ict	
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION write a brief statement of cause.)			judge fo	1 0	Matters (For nature of suit 422 an natter previously adjudicated by a ju	nd 423, enter the case number and	
15 USC Sect. 1692 et seq. Fair Debt Collection Practices Act VIII. REQUESTED IN Check if this is a class action under 1				ule DEMAND \$ Check Yes only if demanded in complaint.			
COMPLAINT: IX. RELATED CASE(S)	23, F.R.CV (See instructions)	.P.			JURY DEMAND:	Yes No	
IF ANY Judge Docket Number							
X. This case (Check <u>one</u> box, on Date 8/3/2018	Signature	previously dismisse of attorney of record kov Saks		is a refiling of case number	ber previously dis	missed by Judge	

Case: 1:Nstrave015333360roouronentys:competentic0304036604enegree2rofornProge1D#:16

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 the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerk(s) in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.
- V. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the six 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. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.

- 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. Previous Bankruptcy Matters For nature of suit 422 and 423 enter the case number and judge for any associated bankruptcy matter previously adjudicated by a judge of this court. Use a separate attachment if necessary.
- VIII. 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.
- **IX. 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.
- **X. Refiling Information.** Place an "X" in one of the two boxes indicating if the case is or is not a refilling of a previously dismissed action. If it is a refiling of a previously dismissed action, insert the case number and judge.

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: <u>Halsted Financial Services</u>, <u>National Credit Adjusters Sued Over Alleged Debt Collection Law Violations</u>