#### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

RUTHY HARRIS, on behalf of herself and al	1
others similarly situated,	

Civil Case No.:\_\_\_\_\_

Plaintiff(s),

**CIVIL ACTION** 

-against-

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

OUTSOURCE RECEIVABLES MANAGEMENT, INC., and JOHN DOES 1-25.

Defendant(s).

Plaintiff, RUTHY HARRIS, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated (hereinafter "Plaintiff") by and through her undersigned attorney, alleges against the abovenamed Defendants, OUTSOURCE RECEIVABLES MANAGEMENT, INC. (hereinafter "OUTSOURCE"); and John Does 1-25, collectively ("Defendants") their employees, agents, and successors the following:

#### **PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

1. Plaintiff brings this action for damages and declaratory relief arising from the Defendant's violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692 *et seq.*, the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (hereinafter "FDCPA"), which prohibits debt collectors from engaging in abusive, deceptive and unfair practices.

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

2. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1331. This is an action for violations of 15 U.S.C. § 1692 *et seq*.

3. Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. §1391(b)(2) because the acts and transactions that give rise to this action occurred, in substantial part, in this district.

#### **DEFINITIONS**

4. As used in reference to the FDCPA, the terms "creditor," "communication" "consumer," "debt," and "debt collector" are defined in § 803 of the FDCPA and 15 U.S.C. § 1692a.

#### **PARTIES**

- 5. The FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 *et seq.*, which prohibits certain debt collection practices provides for the initiation of court proceedings to enjoin violations of the FDCPA and to secure such equitable relief as may be appropriate in each case.
- 6. Plaintiff is a natural person, a resident of Erie County, New York and is a "Consumer" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).
- 7. OUTSOURCE has a business location at 261 Main Street, Buffalo, New York 14009-1212.
- 8. Upon information and belief, Defendant, OUTSOURCE is a business that uses the mail, telephone, and facsimile and regularly engages in business the principal purpose of which is to attempt to collect debts alleged to be due another.
- 9. OUTSOURCE is a "debt collector" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692(a)(6).
- 10. 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 ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

- 11. Plaintiff brings this action as a class action, pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (hereinafter "FRCP"), on behalf of herself and all consumers and their successors in interest (the "Class"), who were sent debt collection letters and/or notices from the Defendant which are in violation of the FDCPA, as described in this Complaint.
- 12. This Action is properly maintained as a class action. The Class is initially defined as:

All New York consumers who were sent letters and/or notices from OUTSOURCE concerning a debt owed to GREAT LAKES MEDICAL IMAGING, which contained at least one of the alleged violations of 15 U.S.C. § 1692 *et seq.* herein.

The Class period begins one year to the filing of this Action.

The class definition may be subsequently modified or refined.

- 13. The Class satisfies all the requirements of Rule 23 of the FRCP for maintaining a class action:
  - Upon information and belief, the Class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable because there are hundreds and/or thousands of persons who were sent debt collection letters and/or notices from the Defendant that violate specific provisions of the FDCPA. Plaintiff is complaining of a standard form letter and/or notice that was sent to hundreds of persons (*See* Exhibit A, except that the undersigned attorney has, in accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 5.2 redacted the financial account numbers and/or personal identifiers in an effort to protect Plaintiff's privacy);

- There are questions of law and fact which are common to the Class and which
  predominate over questions affecting any individual Class member. These
  common questions of law and fact include, without limitation:
  - a. Whether Defendant violated various provisions of the FDCPA;
  - b. Whether Plaintiff and the Class have been injured by Defendant's conduct;
  - c. Whether Plaintiff and the Class have sustained damages and are entitled to restitution as a result of Defendant's wrongdoing and if so, what is the proper measure and appropriate statutory formula to be applied in determining such damages and restitution; and
  - d. Whether Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to declaratory and/or injunctive relief.
- Plaintiff's claims are typical of the Class, which all arise from the same operative facts and are based on the same legal theories.
- Plaintiff has no interest adverse or antagonistic to the interest of the other members of the Class.
- Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interest of the Class and has retained experienced and competent attorneys to represent the Class.
- A Class Action is superior to other methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the claims herein asserted. Plaintiff anticipates that no unusual difficulties are likely to be encountered in the management of this class action.
- A Class Action will permit large numbers of similarly situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum simultaneously and without

the duplication of effort and expense that numerous individual actions would engender. Class treatment will also permit the adjudication of relatively small claims by many Class members who could not otherwise afford to seek legal redress for the wrongs complained of herein. Absent a Class Action, class members will continue to suffer losses of statutory protected rights as well as monetary damages. If Defendant's conduct is allowed to proceed without remedy, they will continue to reap and retain the proceeds of their ill-gotten gains.

Defendant has acted on grounds generally applicable to the entire Class,
 thereby making appropriate final injunctive relief or corresponding
 declaratory relief with respect to the Class as a whole.

#### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

- 14. Plaintiff is at all times to this lawsuit, a "consumer" as that term is defined by 15U.S.C. § 1692a(3).
- 15. OUTSOURCE collects and attempts to collect debts incurred or alleged to have been incurred for personal, family or household purposes on behalf of creditors using the United States Postal Services, telephone and Internet.
- 16. On or before December 7, 2915, Plaintiff entered into an agreement with GREAT LAKES MEDICAL IMAGING, ("GREAT LAKES") for the purchase of goods and/or services.
  - 17. Such goods and/or services were for Plaintiff's personal use.
  - 18. Such goods and/or services were not for non-personal use.
  - 19. Such goods and/or services were not for business.
  - 20. Such goods and/or services were used for Plaintiff's personal use.

- 21. Such goods and/or services were not used for non-personal purposes.
- 22. Such goods and/or services were not used for business purposes.
- 23. OUTSOURCE is a "debt collector" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).
- 24. Sometime prior to September 8, 2016, Plaintiff incurred a financial obligation to GREAT LAKES.
- 25. Sometime after December 6, 2015, Plaintiff incurred a financial obligation to GREAT LAKES.
  - 26. The statue of limitation on the GREAT LAKES obligation is six (6) years.
  - 27. GREAT LAKES is a "creditor" as defined by 15. U.S.C. § 1692a(4).
- 28. Sometime prior to September 8, 2016, GREAT LAKES, either directly or through intermediate transactions referred, assigned, placed, or transferred the GREAT LAKES obligation to OUTSOURCE for the purpose of collection.
- 29. At the time the GREAT LAKES obligation was referred, assigned, placed, or transferred to OUTSOURCE, such obligation was in default.
- 30. OUTSOURCE, caused to be delivered to Plaintiff a letter dated September 8, 2016 concerning the alleged GREAT LAKES obligation, which seeking payment in the amount of \$4.71. A copy of said letter is annexed hereto as **Exhibit A** except that the undersigned attorney has, in accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 5.2 partially redacted the financial account numbers and/or personal identifiers in an effort to protect Plaintiff's privacy.
- 31. The statue of limitation on the GREAT LAKES obligation has not yet expired at the time OUTSOURCE sent Plaintiff the September 8, 2016 letter.
- 32. The September 8, 2016, letter was sent or caused to be sent by persons employed by OUTSOURCE as a "debt collector" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

- 33. The September 8, 2016, letter is a "communication" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(2).
  - 34. Upon receipt, Plaintiff read the September 8, 2016 letter.
- 35. The GREAT LAKES obligation arose out of a transaction in which money, property, insurance or services, which are the subject of the transaction, were primarily for personal, family or household purposes.
  - 36. The September 8, 2016 letter stated on the back:

Your creditor or debt collector believes that the legal time limit (statute of limitations) for suing you to collect this debt may have expired. It is a violation of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq., to sue to collect on a debt for which the statute of limitations has expired. However, if the creditor sues you to collect on this debt, you may be able to prevent the creditor from obtaining a judgment against you. To do so, you must tell the court that the statute of limitations has expired. Even if the statute of limitations has expired, you may choose to make payments on the debt. However, be aware: if you make a payment on the debt, admit to owing the debt, promise to pay the debt, or waive the statute of limitations on the debt, the time period in which the debt is enforceable in court may start again. If you would like to learn more about your legal rights and options, you can consult an attorney or a legal assistance or legal aid organization.

37. OUTSOURCE's September 8, 2016 letter that it sent to Plaintiff and others similarly situated does not comply with the FDCPA and constitutes abusive, deceptive and unfair collection practices.

#### POLICIES AND PRACTICES COMPLAINED OF

- 38. It is OUTSOURCE's policy and practice to send written collection communications, in the form annexed hereto as **Exhibit A**, which violate the FDCPA, by *inter alia*:
  - (a) Using false, deceptive or misleading representations or means in connection with the collection of a debt;
  - (b) Making false representations as to the legal status of a debt.
- 39. On information and belief, OUTSOURCE has sent written communications, in the form annexed hereto as Exhibit A to at least 40 natural persons in the State of New York.

#### **COUNT I**

#### VIOLATIONS OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

- 40. Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and others similarly situated, repeats and realleges all prior allegations as if set forth at length herein.
- 41. Collection letters and/or notices, such as those sent by the Defendant, are to be evaluated by the objective standard of the hypothetical "least sophisticated consumer."
- 42. The form, layout and content of Defendant's letter would cause the least sophisticated consumer to be confused about his or her rights.
- 43. OUTSOURCE engaged in false, deceptive, or misleading representations or means in violation of 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692e(2)(A), and 1692e(10).
- 44. Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e of the FDCPA in connection with its communications to Plaintiff and others similarly situated.
- 45. Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e of the FDCPA by using any false, deceptive or misleading representation or means in connection with its attempts to collect debts from Plaintiff and others similarly situated.
- 46. Section 1692e(10) of the FDCPA prohibits the use of any false representation or deceptive means to collect or attempt to collect any debt.
- 47. Section 1692(2)(A) prohibits the false representation of the legal status of any debt.
- 48. Defendant's statements on the back of the September 8, 2016 letter is a false representation of the legal status of GREAT LAKES obligation.
- 49. The statute of limitations on the GREAT LAKES obligation had not yet expired at the time Defendant sent the September 8, 2016 letter to Plaintiff.

- 50. Defendant's statements on the back of the September 8, 2016 letter is misleading and deceptive.
- 51. The least sophisticated consumer can read the September 8, 2016 letter to have more than one meaning.
- a.) The statute of limitation had already expired on the GREAT LAKES obligation.
- b.) The statute of limitation has not yet already expired on the GREAT LAKES.
- c.) Upon reading the September 8, 2016 letter, the least sophisticated consumer would believe that the statute of limitation had already expired and that she no longer has any legal obligation to pay the GREAT LAKES obligation.
- d.) Upon reading the September 8, 2016 letter, the least sophisticated consumer would believe that any payments after the date of the letter are strictly voluntary.
- 52. Congress enacted the FDCPA in part to eliminate abusive debt collection practices by debt collectors.
- 53. Plaintiff and others similarly situated have a right to free from abusive debt collection practices by debt collectors.
- 54. Plaintiff and others similarly situated were sent letters, which would have affected their decision-making with regard to the debt.
- 55. Plaintiff and others similarly situated have a right to receive proper notices mandated by the FDCPA
- 56. Plaintiff and others similarly situated have suffered harm as a direct result of the abusive, deceptive and unfair collection practices described herein.

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57. Plaintiff has and will continue to suffer actual damages and other damages as a

direct result of the Defendant's actions, conduct, omissions and violations of the FDCPA

described herein.

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff demands judgment against the Defendant as follows:

(a) Declaring that this action is properly maintainable as a Class Action and

certifying Plaintiff as Class representative and the attorneys, Joseph K. Jones, Esq., as

Class Counsel;

(b) Awarding Plaintiff and the Class statutory damages;

(c) Awarding Plaintiff and the Class actual damages;

(d) Awarding pre-judgment interest;

(e) Awarding post-judgment interest.

(f) Awarding Plaintiff costs of this Action, including reasonable attorneys'

fees and expenses; and

(g) Awarding Plaintiff and the Class such other and further relief as the Court

may deem just and proper.

Dated: September 3, 2017

s/ Joseph K. Jones

Joseph K. Jones, Esq.

JONES, WOLF & KAPASI, LLC

One Grand Central Place

60 East 42nd Street, 46th Floor

New York, New York 10017

(646) 459-7971 telephone

(646) 449-7973 facsimile

jkj@legaljones.com

#### **DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY**

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

/s/ Joseph K. Jones
Joseph K. Jones, Esq.

# Exhibit

A

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261 Main Street Arcade NY 14009-1212

Outsource Receivables Management, Inc.

(800) 325-2712

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

☐ Enclosed is payment in full.

Enclosed is my credit card information.

September 8, 2016

իրահոսնակիլիկից հանկիցի Միթիրի Միրևդի Միրիյի Միրինդիին Ruthy Harris

OUTSOURCE RECEIVABLES MANAGEMENT, INC. 261 Main Street Arcade NY 14009-1212 laallalalllaallaalalaanillalalaallalallaanillalla

Pay your bill online at: www.paydatacenter.com

Access Code	OUTSOURCE	
Account Number		
PIN Number	48686	

#### **Past Due Balance**

\*\*\*Detach Upper Portion and Return with Payment\*\*\*

Creditors Date of Service **Balance Due** Client Outsource Account # GREAT LAKES MEDICAL IMAGING 12/07/15 4.71

The above referenced account has been referred to our office for collection and requires your attention.

You may take advantage of this opportunity to resolve your debt by calling 1-800-325-2712 and speak directly to an account representative.

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, we 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 provide written request to this office within 30 days after receiving this notice, we will provide you the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor.

This account may be subject to credit reporting 30 days from the date it was received in our office.

This is an attempt by a debt collector to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

- All Major Credit Cards Accepted
- \$ Free Check By Phone Service Is Available
- There Will Be A \$20.00 Service Fee For All Returned Checks

If you wish to pay by credit card, fill in the information below and return the entire letter to us.

Account Number	Payment Amount	Expiration Date
Allow to tide the same of the second in	S y	r is ada safe as in <u>interpret</u>
		DE SERVICIO E CONTROL VICTORIO DE LA CONTROL DE LA CONTROL DE CONTROL DE LA CONTROL DE CONTROL DECENTROL DE CONTROL DE CO

Card Holder Name

Signature of Card Holder

Date

We are required by regulations issued by the New York State Department of Financial Services (NYSDFS) to notify you of the following information. This information is NOT legal advice.

Debt collectors, in accordance with the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act codified at 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et sequare prohibited from engaging in activities that are abusive or harassing (15 U.S.C. § 1692d), making false or misleading representations (15 U.S.C. § 1692e) and undertaking unfair debt collection efforts (15 U.S.C. § 1692f), including but not limited to:

- a) the use or threat of violence;
- b) the use of obscene or profane language;
- c) repeated phone calls made with the intent to annoy, abuse, or harass;
- d) the use of unfair or unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect any debt; and
- e) the use of any false, deceptive or misleading representations or means to collect or attempt to collect any debt.

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:

- Supplemental security income, (SSI);
- Social Security;
- Public assistance (welfare);
- Spousal support, maintenance (alimony) or child support;
- Unemployment benefits;
- Disability benefits;
- Workers' compensation benefits;
- Public or private pensions;
- Veterans' benefits;
- Federal student loans, federal student grants, and federal work study funds; and
- Ninety percent of your wages or salary earned in the last sixty days

Your creditor or debt collector believes that the legal time limit (statute of limitations) for suing you to collect this debt may have expired. It is a violation of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq., to sue to collect on a debt for which the statute of limitations has expired. However, if the creditor sues you to collect on this debt, you may be able to prevent the creditor from obtaining a judgment against you. To do so, you must tell the court that the statute of limitations has expired. Even if the statute of limitations has expired, you may choose to make payments on the debt. However, be aware: if you make a payment on the debt, admit to owing the debt, promise to pay the debt, or waive the statute of limitations on the debt, the time period in which the debt is enforceable in court may start again. If you would like to learn more about your legal rights and options, you can consult an attorney or a legal assistance or legal aid organization.

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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 purpose of initiating the civil de	t. This form, approved by the ocket sheet. (SEE INSTRUC	ne Judicial Conference of TIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF T	the Unit	ted States in September 1 <i>RM.</i> )	974, is requi	red for the use of	the Clerk of Cou	irt for the	e	
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFENDANTS							
RUTHY HARRIS, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated,			OUTSOURCE RECEIVABLES MANAGEMENT, INC., and JOHN DOES 1-25							
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Erie				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Erie						
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)				(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)  NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.						
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, JONES, WOLF & KAPAS	SI, LLC (646) 459-797	ĺ		Attorneys (If Known)						
One Grand Central Place New York, New York 101		i, 46th F100f								
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	ICTION (Place an "X" in O	ne Box Only)	I. CI	TIZENSHIP OF P	RINCIPA	L PARTIES	(Place an "X" in C	One Box fo	or Plaintif	
☐ 1 U.S. Government ☐ 3 Federal Question			(For Diversity Cases Only) and One Box for Defendant) PTF DEF PTF DEF							
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□ 110 Insurance □ 120 Marine □ 130 Miller Act □ 140 Negotiable Instrument □ 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment □ 151 Medicare Act □ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) □ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits □ 160 Stockholders' Suits □ 190 Other Contract □ 195 Contract Product Liability □ 196 Franchise     REAL PROPERTY   □ 210 Land Condemnation □ 220 Foreclosure □ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment □ 240 Torts to Land □ 245 Tort Product Liability □ 290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY  310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel & Slander 330 Federal Employers' Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 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 INJURY  365 Personal Injury - Product Liability 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERT 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERT 5370 Other Fraud 536 Property Damage Product Liability PRISONER PETITIONS Habeas Corpus: 463 Alien Detainee 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence 530 General 535 Death Penalty Other: 540 Mandamus & Other 550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition Conditions of Confinement	710	LABOR  O Fair Labor Standards Act O Labor/Management Relations O Railway Labor Act I Family and Medical Leave Act O Other Labor Litigation I Employee Retirement Income Security Act  IMMIGRATION 2 Naturalization Application 5 Other Immigration Actions	□ 422 Appe □ 423 With 28 U  PROPEI □ 820 Copy □ 830 Paten □ 840 Trade □ 861 HIA □ 862 Black □ 863 DIW □ 864 SSID □ 865 RSI (  FEDERA □ 870 Taxe: □ 871 IRS— □ 26 U	al 28 USC 158 Irawal SC 157  TY RIGHTS rights t t - Abbreviated Drug Application mark SECURITY (1395ff) L Lung (923) C/DIWW (405(g)) Title XVI 405(g))  L TAX SUITS (U.S. Plaintiff efendant)	375 False Clair   3729(a))   400 State Reag   410 Antitrust   430 Banks and   450 Commerc   460 Deportati   470 Racketeer   Corrupt O   480 Consumer   490 Cable/Sat   850 Securities   Exchange   890 Other Stat   891 Agricultur   893 Environme   895 Freedom   Act   896 Arbitratio   896 Arbitratio   896 Administration   897 Administration   897 Administration   898 Constitution   898 State   340 Constitution   340 Constitution	ims Act (31 USC) pportionm d Banking ee on r Influence organizatic r Credit TV s/Commode et tutory Act rarl Acts ental Matt of Informative Process w or App eccision ionality of	ed and ons dities/ tions ters ation cedure	
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#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- **I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
  - (b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
  - (c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. Jurisdiction. The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.
  - United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here. United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.
  - Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.
  - Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; **NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.**)
- **III. Residence** (citizenship) of Principal Parties. This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- **IV. Nature of Suit.** Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: <a href="Nature of Suit Code Descriptions">Nature of Suit Code Descriptions</a>.
- **V. Origin.** Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.
  - Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.
  - Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.
  - Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.
  - Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date. Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.
  - Multidistrict Litigation Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407
  - Multidistrict Litigation Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7.** Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statue.
- VI. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity. Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- VII. Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P. Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction. Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

**Date and Attorney Signature.** Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

## **ClassAction.org**

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Outsource Receivable Management Hit with FDCPA Suit Over Statute of Limitations Language</u>