UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN MILWAUKEE DIVISION

Pamela Hennings on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated,

Case No.: 16-cv-1561

Plaintiff,

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

Flaiit

V.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Alltran Financial, LP a/k/a J.C. Christensen and Associates, Inc.,

Defendant.

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. This is a consumer class action brought on behalf of Wisconsin consumers subjected to Defendant's violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq. ("FDCPA"). This law prohibits debt collectors from engaging in misleading and unfair collection practices. Defendant engaged in a misleading and unfair collection of debts by falsely stating they were licensed by the Division of Banking in the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions.

JURISDICTION

- 2. Jurisdiction of this Court arises out of events emanating from this District and this Court has jurisdiction pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692 *et seq.* and 28 U.S.C § 1331.
- 3. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because the conduct at issue occurred in this District, Plaintiff resides in this District, and Defendant conducts business in this district.

PARTIES

- 4. Plaintiff Pamela Hennings (hereinafter "Ms. Hennings") f/k/a Pamela Pagels is a natural person who resides in the City of Mequon, County of Ozaukee, State of Wisconsin, and is a "consumer" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).
- 5. Defendant Alltran Financial, LP a/k/a JC Christensen and Associates (hereinafter "Defendant JC Christensen") is a business with offices located at 200 14th Ave E, Sartell, MN 56377, and a registered agent of CT Corporation System Inc., 1010 Dale St N., St. Paul, MN 55117.
- 6. Defendant JC Christensen is a "debt collector" as that term is defined by the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS AS TO PLAINTIFF

- 7. Ms. Hennings incurred a consumer debt as that term is defined at 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5) to American General Finance.
- 8. Ms. Hennings filed for bankruptcy in 2011, and she received a discharge on the debt owed to American General Finance.
- 9. In 2014, LVNV Funding LLC sued her ex-husband regarding the debt to American General Finance.
- 10. Ms. Hennings was not named as a defendant on the action by LVNV Funding LLC.
- 11. LVNV Funding LLC was granted a judgment against Ms. Hennings' ex-husband only.
- 12. Defendant JC Christensen is attempting to collect on that judgment.
- 13. In an attempt to collect that judgment, they sent a collection letter to Ms. Hennings. See Exhibit A.
- 14. That letter states that "This collection agency is licensed by the Division of Banking in the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions, www.wdfi.org."

- 15. Upon information and belief, Defendant JC Christensen is not licensed with the Division of Banking.
- 16. It is within the state's general police powers to regulate collection agencies operating within the state.
- 17. Pursuant to the FDCPA, consumers have a right to be free from illegal and unpermitted collection actions.
- 18. All collection agencies operating within Wisconsin are regulated and licensed.
- 19. Pursuant to the FDCPA, consumers have a right to be free from contact from collection agencies that are operating outside the regulation, supervision, and compliance with state laws designed to protect the consumers.
- 20. Pursuant to the FDCPA, consumers have a right to receive truthful collection letters that do not contain false statements

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

21. Plaintiff brings this action individually and as a class action, pursuant to Rules 23(a) and 23(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, on behalf of the following class:

ALL CONSUMERS IN THE STATE OF WISCONSIN WHO RECEIVED LETTERS FROM DEFENDANT IN THE ONE YEAR PRIOR TO THE FILING OF THIS CASE THAT STATED THAT DEFENDANT WAS LICENSED BY THE DIVISION OF BANKING IN THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

- 22. Upon information and belief, the class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable. The precise number of Class members is known only to Defendant, but is believed to be above 100.
- 23. There are questions of law and fact common to the Class that predominate over any questions affecting only individual Class members. The principal questions are whether

- Defendant violated the FDCPA by sending out a letter stating that they were licensed with the state of Wisconsin, when they were not licensed.
- 24. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Class, which all arise from the same operative facts and are based on the same legal theories.
- 25. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class. Plaintiff is committed to vigorously litigating this matter and has retained counsel experienced in handling class actions and claims involving unlawful collection practices. Neither Plaintiff nor her counsel has any interests which might cause her not to vigorously pursue this claim.
- 26. This action should be maintained as a class action because 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 which would establish incompatible standards of conduct for the parties opposing the Class, as well as a risk of adjudications with respect to individual members which would as a practical matter be dispositive of the interests of other members not parties to the adjudications or substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their interests.
- 27. A class action is a superior method for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy. The interest of Class members in individually controlling the prosecution of separate claims against Defendants is slight because the maximum statutory damages are limited to \$1,000.00 under the FDCPA. Management of the Class claims is likely to present significantly fewer difficulties than those presented in many individual claims. The identities of the Class members may be obtained from Defendant's records.
- 28. This Class Action seeks statutory damages for the class based on the common injuries sustained by Plaintiff and the putative class.

TRIAL BY JURY

29. Plaintiff is entitled to and hereby demands a trial by jury. U.S. Const. Amend. 7; Fed. R. Civ. Pro. 38.

CAUSES OF ACTION

COUNT I. VIOLATIONS OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

- 30. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- The foregoing acts and omissions of Defendant JC Christensen constitute numerous and multiple violations of the FDCPA, including but not limited to 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692e(1), 1692e(2), 1692e(5), 1692e(10), and 1692f(1).
- 32. As a result of Defendant JC Christensen's violations of the FDCPA, Plaintiff is entitled to actual damages, statutory damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(2)(A); and, reasonable attorney's fees and costs pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(3) from Defendant.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully prays that relief be granted as follows:

- That judgment be entered against Defendant for statutory damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(2)(A) and (B);
- That the Court award costs and reasonable attorneys' fees, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(3);
- That an order be entered certifying the proposed Class under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and appointing Plaintiff and her counsel to represent the Class;
- That the Court grant declaratory and injunctive relief, in the form of finding Defendant's conduction to violate the law and prohibiting them from continuing their collection practices; and
- That the Court grants such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

Dated this 22nd day of November, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

By: s/ Heidi N. Miller

Nathan E. DeLadurantey, (WI #1063937)

Heidi N. Miller (WI # 1087696)

DELADURANTEY LAW OFFICE, LLC

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Milwaukee, WI 53233
Telephone: (414) 377-0515
Facsimile: (414) 755-0860
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Heidi@dela-law.com

Thomas J. Lyons, Jr., Esq. CONSUMER JUSTICE CENTER, P.A. 367 Commerce Court Vadnais Heights, MN 55127 Telephone: (651) 770-9707

Facsimile: (651) 704-0907

tommycjc@aol.com

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

VERIFICATION OF COMPLAINT AND CERTIFICATION

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I, Pamela Hennings, declare under penalty of perjury the following:

1. I am a Plaintiff in this civil proceeding.

I have read the above-entitled civil Complaint prepared by my attorneys and I
believe that all of the facts contained in it are true, to the best of my knowledge,
information and belief formed after reasonable inquiry.

3. I believe that this civil Complaint is well grounded in fact and warranted by existing law or by a good faith argument for the extension, modification, or

reversal of existing law.

4. I believe that this civil Complaint is not interposed for any improper purpose, such as to harass any Defendant(s), cause unnecessary delay to any Defendant(s), or create a needless increase in the cost of litigation to any Defendant(s), named in the Complaint.

5. I have filed this civil Complaint in good faith and solely for the purposes set forth

in it.

6. Each and every exhibit I have provided to my attorneys which has been attached

to this Complaint is a true and correct copy of the original.

7. Except for clearly indicated redactions made by my attorneys where appropriate, I have not altered, changed, modified, or fabricated these exhibits, except that some of the attached exhibits may contain some of my own handwritten notations.

Pamela Hennings

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet.

the civil docket sheet. (SEE IN			1 1 1		
Place an "X" in the appropri	riate box:	Division 🗷 Milwau	kee Division		
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS Pamela Hennings			DEFENDANTS Alltran Financial,	LP a/k/a J.C. Christense	en and Associates, Inc.
` '	of First Listed Plaintiff CA	Zaukee SES)	County of Residence	of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES (IN LAND CONDEMNATION C THE TRACT OF LAND INVOL	ASES, USE THE LOCATION OF
(c) Attomeys (Firm Name, DeLadurantey Law Of 735 W. Wisconsin Ave	Address, and Telephone Number fice, LLC e, Suite 720, Milwaukee	e, WI 53223	Attorneys (If Known)		
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X"	in One Box Only)	I. CITIZENSHIP OF P	RINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff)
□ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	■ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government)	Not a Party)		TF DEF 1	-
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenshi	p of Parties in Item III)	Citizen of Another State	2	_
			Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	3 🗖 3 Foreign Nation	□ 6 □ 6
IV. NATURE OF SUIT	•	* /			
CONTRACT 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 (Excl. 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 &	PERSONAL INJURY 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage 385 Property Damage Product Liability PRISONER PETITIONS 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence Habeas Corpus: 530 General 535 Death Penalty 540 Mandamus & Other 550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of	FORFEITURE/PENALTY 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 690 Other LABOR 710 Fair Labor Standards Act 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations 740 Railway Labor Act 751 Family and Medical Leave Act 790 Other Labor Litigation 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act IMMIGRATION 462 Naturalization Application 463 Habeas Corpus - Alien Detainee (Prisoner Petition) 465 Other Immigration	BANKRUPTCY □ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 □ 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS □ 820 Copyrights □ 830 Patent □ 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY □ 861 HIA (1395ff) □ 862 Black Lung (923) □ 863 DIWC/DIW W (405(g)) □ 864 SSID Title XVI □ 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS □ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) □ 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	OTHER STATUTES □ 375 False Claims Act □ 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
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	Cite the U.S. Civil State 15 U.S.C. § 1692 Brief description of cate Violation of the F CHECK IF THIS UNDER F.R.C.P.	Appellate Court utute under which you are find the second	Reopened another (specificational structure)	atutes unless diversity):	if demanded in complaint:
VIII. RELATED CASI	(See instructions):	JUDGE	NVEV OF REGOLD	DOCKET NUMBER	
11/22/2016		s/ Heidi N. Miller	RNEY OF RECORD		
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		·			

<u>мФахе 2:16-cv-01561-№ Fired 11/22/16 Pageo4 of 1 Documenta4-41 ра</u>

RECEIPT #

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Eastern District of Wisconsin

Pamela Hennings on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated, Plaintiff V. Alltran Financial, LP a/k/a J.C. Christensen and Associates, Inc.,)) Civil Action No. 16-cv-1561)
Defendant	,
SUMMONS	IN A CIVIL ACTION
To: (Defendant's name and address) Alltran Financial, LP a/k/200 14th Ave E. Sartell, MN 56377	'a JC Christensen and Associates
are the United States or a United States agency, or an or P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an	
If you fail to respond, judgment by default will You also must file your answer or motion with the cour	be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.
	CLERK OF COURT
Date:	Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Civil Action No. 16-cv-1561

PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))

	This summons for (nan	ne of individual and title, if any)			
was re	ceived by me on (date)	·			
	☐ I personally served	the summons on the individual at	t (place)		
			on (date)	; or	
	☐ I left the summons	at the individual's residence or us	sual place of abode with (name)		
		, a person of	f suitable age and discretion who resid	des there,	
	on (date)	, and mailed a copy to th	ne individual's last known address; or		
	☐ I served the summo	ons on (name of individual)		, wh	o is
	designated by law to a	accept service of process on behal	f of (name of organization)		
			on (date)	; or	
	☐ I returned the summ	nons unexecuted because			; or
	☐ Other (specify):				
	My fees are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$	0.00	
	I declare under penalty	y of perjury that this information i	s true.		
Date:					
			Server's signature		
			Printed name and title		
			Server's address		

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

NOTICE OF JUDGMENT COLLECTION

Dear Pamela G Pagels,

J.C. Christensen & Associates has been contracted to lead and represent in the collection of the judgment awarded on your Springleaf Financial Services Inc. account. This judgment, judgment number: 14-SC-576, was awarded on 08/20/2014 and holds a current balance of \$5,310.62.

THIS JUDGMENT MAY BE FORWARDED TO AN ATTORNEY FOR EXECUTION

We have been given authorization to negotiate SETTLEMENT terms for SATISFACTION OF THE JUDGMENT entered against you. Please review the following settlement opportunities to make voluntary resolution of your judgment a reality:

- Settle your judgment now for a lump-sum of \$3,982.97 on your outstanding judgment balance.
- Extend your time and settle your judgment in 12 payments of \$376.17 and you have the flexibility of paying the settlement over twelve months.
- Contact us to discuss your financial situation and a customized payment plan that may be available to you.

To resolve your debt online, please visit us at <u>www.JCCSecurePay.com</u>. Most payment options are free with no transaction charges.

Take advantage of this opportunity to settle your judgment and avoid the possibility of this judgment being forwarded to an attorney for execution. Call us at 866-648-8591.

To take advantage of this opportunity to settle your judgment, contact Robert Johnson at 866-648-8591. Please recognize that interest is accruing on your judgment. Because of interest being added, the amount due on the day you pay may be greater. As long as you haven't made other arrangements to repay this debt, you may be eligible for this offer. For accounting purposes, your first payment toward the settlement must be received within 40 calendar days after the date of this letter. If you wish to make a payment proposal-after that time, please-call us-to-discuss-it: We are not obligated to renew this offer. The opportunities listed above do not alter or amend your validation rights as contained in this document.

Please be aware that if the amount of debt forgiven as a result of settlement is equal to or greater than \$600.00, your current creditor may be required by Internal Revenue Code Section 6050P to report the forgiven debt to the IRS and issue a form 1099c. If you have any questions regarding your personal taxes, it is recommended you consult with a certified public accountant or other tax professional.

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 this debt or any portion thereof, this office will assume this debt is valid. If you notify this office in writing within 30 days from receiving this notice that you dispute the validity of this debt or any portion thereof, this office will obtain verification of the debt or obtain a copy of a judgment and mail you a copy of such judgment or verification. If you request this office in writing within 30 days after receiving this notice this office will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor.

This collection agency is licensed by the Division of Banking in the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions, www.wdfi.org.

	Cusic	OMER	SERVICE AND PAYMENT INFORMATION	
	Pay your bill online! Visit us at www.JCCSecurePay.com		Mon-Tues - 8am-8pm Wed - 8am-6pm	D MAIL AND/OR PAYMENT TO: Christensen and Associates, Inc. ox 519 Rapids, MN 56379
	Please deta	ach an	d return with payment in the enclosed envelope.	RCP17
	PO Box 1952 Southgate, MI 48195-0952		l authorize the following amour card shown.□ □	nt to be charged to my cred
			Cardholder name:	Exp. Date:
• •	07/19/16		Amount \$: Signatur File Number: 19905215 Balance Original Account #: XXXX7430	re: Due: \$5,310.62

regarding the personal information of customers and former customers.

Resurgent Capital Services L.P

LVNV Funding, LLC

Ashley Funding Services LLC

Sherman Acquisition L.L.C.

PYOD LLC

SFG REO, LLC

Resurgent Capital Services PR LLC Anson Street LLC

Pinnacle Credit Services, LLC

Information We May Collect. The Sherman Companies may collect the following personal information:

(1) information that we receive from your account file at the time we purchase or begin to service your account, such as your name, address, social security number, and assets; (2) information that you may give us through discussion with you, or that we may obtain through your transactions with us, such as your income and payment history; (3) information that we receive from consumer reporting agencies, such as your creditworthiness and credit history, and (4) information that we obtain from other third party information providers, such as public records and databases that contain publicly available data about you, such as bankruptcy and mortgage fitings. All of the personal information that we collect is referred to in this notice as "collected information".

Confidentiality and Security of Collected Information. At the Sherman Companies, we restrict access to collected information about you to individuals who need to know such collected information in order to perform certain services in connection with your account. We maintain physical safeguards (like restricted access), electronic safeguards (like encryption and password protection), and procedural safeguards (such as authentication procedures) to protect collected information about you.

Sharing Collected Information with Affiliates From time to time, the Sherman Companies may share collected information about customers and former customers with each other in connection with administering and collecting accounts to the extent permitted under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act or applicable state law.

Sharing Collected Information with Third Parties The Sherman Companies do not share collected information about customers or former customers with third parties, except as permitted in connection with administering and collecting accounts under the Fair Debt Collections Practices Act and applicable state law.

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Class Action Says J.C. Christensen and Associates Lied to Debtors</u>