## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA ATLANTA DIVISION

HORMOZDI LAW FIRM, LLC, a	)
Georgia Limited Liability Company, on	)
behalf of itself and all others similarly	) Case No.
situated,	)
	) CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
Plaintiff,	)
	) JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
V.	)
GLAZER-KENNEDY INSIDER'S	)
CIRCLE, LLC d/b/a GKIC,	)
	)
Defendant.	)

### **CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff, HORMOZDI LAW FIRM, LLC, ("Plaintiff"), brings this action against Defendant, GLAZER-KENNEDY INSIDER'S CIRCLE, LLC *d/b/a* GKIC ("Defendant"), on behalf of itself and all others similarly situated, and complains and alleges upon personal knowledge as to itself and its own acts and experiences, and, as to all other matters, upon information and belief, including investigation conducted by its attorneys.

## **INTRODUCTION**

- 1. This case challenges Defendant's policy and practice of sending unsolicited facsimiles.
- 2. The Telephone Consumer Protection Act ("TCPA"), 47 USC § 227, prohibits

- a person or entity from faxing or having an agent fax advertisements without the recipient's prior express invitation or permission. The TCPA provides a private right of action and provides statutory damages of \$500 per violation.
- 3. Unsolicited faxes damage their recipients. A junk fax recipient loses the use of its fax machine, paper, and ink toner. An unsolicited fax wastes the recipient's valuable time that would have been spent on something else. A junk fax interrupts the recipient's privacy. Unsolicited faxes prevent fax machines from receiving authorized faxes, prevent their use for authorized outgoing faxes, cause undue wear and tear on the recipients' fax machines, and require additional labor to attempt to discern the source and purpose of the unsolicited message.
- 4. On behalf of itself and all others similarly situated, Plaintiff brings this case as a class action asserting claims against Defendant under the TCPA to recover declaratory relief, statutory damages for violations of the TCPA, and an injunction prohibiting Defendant from future TCPA violations.

## **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

5. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 47 U.S.C. §227.

6. Venue is proper in the Northern District of Georgia because Defendant does or transacts business within this District, and a material portion of the events at issue occurred in this District.

#### **PARTIES**

- 7. Plaintiff, Hormozdi Law Firm, LLC, is, and at all times mentioned herein, was a Georgia limited liability company located in Norcross, Gwinnett County, Georgia
- 8. Plaintiff is, and at all times mentioned herein, a "person" as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153(10).
- 9. Defendant, GLAZER-KENNEDY INSIDER'S CIRCLE, LLC d/b/a GKIC, is a limited liability company that specializes in small business marketing. It has a principal place of business in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois, and is organized under the laws of Illinois.
- 10.Defendant is, and at all times mentioned herein, a "person," as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153(10).

## **FACTS**

11.On or about June 29, 2017, Defendant transmitted by facsimile machine a two-page unsolicited advertisement to Plaintiff. The fax advertises "Info-SUMMIT," an information marketing program offered by Defendant. A copy of this fax is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

- 12.Defendant created or made Exhibit A, which Defendant knew or should have known is a good or service which Defendant intended to, and did in fact, distribute to Plaintiff and the other members of the class.
- 13.Exhibit A is part of Defendant's work or operations to market Defendant's goods or services which were performed by Defendant and on behalf of Defendant. Therefore, Exhibit A constitutes material furnished in connection with Defendant's work or operations.
- 14.Upon information and belief, Plaintiff has received multiple fax advertisements from Defendant similar to Exhibit A.
- 15.Defendant did not have Plaintiff's prior express invitation or permission to send advertisements to Plaintiff's fax machine.
- 16.Whiling receiving Defendant's unsolicited faxes, Plaintiff and the class members lost the use of their fax machine, paper, and ink toner. The unsolicited faxes wasted Plaintiff's and the class members' valuable time that would have been spent on something else. The unsolicited faxes interrupted Plaintiff's and the class members' privacy. The unsolicited faxes prevented Plaintiff's and the class members' fax machines from receiving authorized faxes, prevented their use for authorized outgoing faxes, caused undue wear and tear on their fax machines, and required additional labor to attempt to discern the source and purpose of the unsolicited messages.

#### **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

- 17.Plaintiff incorporates the preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 18. In accordance with FRCP 23, Plaintiff brings this action pursuant to the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. § 227, on behalf of the following class of persons:

All persons who (1) on or after four years prior to the filing of this action, (2) were sent telephone facsimile messages of material advertising the commercial availability of any property, goods, or services by or on behalf of Defendant, (3) from whom Defendant did not obtain prior express permission or invitation to send those faxes, and (4) with whom Defendant did not have an established business relationship.

- 19.Plaintiff reserves the right to modify or amend the definition of the proposed Class before the Court determines whether certification is proper, as more information is gleaned in discovery.
- 20.Excluded from the Class are Defendant, any parent, subsidiary, affiliate, or controlled person of Defendant, as well as the officers, directors, agents, servants, or employees
- 21. Numerosity [Fed R. Civ. P. 23(a)(1)]. The Members of the Class are so numerous that joinder is impractical. Upon information and belief, Defendant

has sent illegal fax advertisements to hundreds if not thousands of other recipients.

- 22. Commonality [Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(2)]. Common questions of law and fact apply to the claims of all Class Members and include (but are not limited to) the following:
  - a. Whether Defendant sent faxes promoting the commercial availability or quality of property, goods, or services;
  - b. The manner and method Defendant used to compile or obtain the list(s) of fax numbers to which it sent the fax attached as Exhibit A to Plaintiff's Class Action Complaint and other unsolicited fax advertisements;
  - c. Whether Defendant faxed advertisements without first obtaining the recipient's express permission or invitation;
  - d. Whether Defendant's advertisements contained the opt out notices required by the law;
  - e. Whether Defendant sent fax advertisements knowingly or willfully;
  - f. Whether Defendant violated 47 U.S.C. § 227;
  - g. Whether Plaintiff and the other Class members are entitled to statutory damages;
  - h. Whether the Court should award treble damages; and

- i. Whether Plaintiff and the other Class Members are entitled to declaratory, injunctive, or other equitable relief.
- 23. Typicality [Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(3)]. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of all Class Members. Plaintiff received unsolicited faxes advertisement from Defendant during the Class Period. Plaintiff makes the same claims that it makes for the Class Members and seeks the same relief that it seeks for the Class Members. Defendant has acted in the same manner toward Plaintiff and all Class Members.
- 24. Fair and Adequate Representation [Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(4)]. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the Class. It is interested in this matter, has no conflicts, and has retained experienced class counsel to represent the Class.
- 25. Need for Consistent Standards and Practical Effect of Adjudication [Fed R. Civ. P. 23(B)(1)]: Class certification is appropriate because the prosecution of individual actions by class members would: a) create the risk of inconsistent adjudications that could establish incompatible standards of conduct for Defendant, and/or b) as a practical matter, adjudication of the Plaintiff's claims will be dispositive of the interests of class members who are not parties.

- 26. Common Conduct [Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(B)(2)]: Class certification is also appropriate because Defendant has acted and refused to act in the same or similar manner with respect to all class members thereby making injunctive and declaratory relief appropriate. Plaintiff demands such relief as authorized by 47 U.S.C. §227.
- 27. <u>Predominance and Superiority [Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(B)(3)]:</u> Common questions of law and fact predominate and a class action is superior to other methods of adjudication:
  - a. Proof of the claims of the Plaintiff will also prove the claims of the class without the need for separate or individualized proceedings;
  - b. Evidence regarding defenses or any exceptions to liability that the
     Defendants may assert and prove will come from Defendant's records
     and will not require individualized or separate inquiries or proceedings;
  - c. Defendant has acted and is continuing to act pursuant to common policies or practices in the same or similar manner with respect to all class members;
  - d. The amount likely to be recovered by individual class members does not support protested individual litigation. A class action will permit a large number of relatively small claims involving virtually identical facts and legal issues to be resolved efficiently in one (1) proceeding

based upon common proofs;

- e. This case is inherently managed as a class action in that:
  - Defendant identified persons or entities to receive the fax transmissions and it is believed that Defendant's computer and business records will enable Plaintiff to readily identify class members and establish liability and damages;
  - ii. Liability and damages can be established for the Plaintiff and the class with the same common proofs;
  - iii. Statutory damages are provided for in the statute and are the same for all class members and can be calculated in the same or a similar manner;
  - iv. A class action will result in an orderly and expeditious administration of claims and it will foster economics of time, effort, and expense;
  - v. A class action will contribute to uniformity of decisions concerning Defendant's practices; and
  - vi. As a practical matter, the claims of the class are likely to go unaddressed absent class certification.

#### **CLAIMS FOR RELIEF**

- 28.Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference each of the preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 29. The TCPA provides strict liability for sending fax advertisements in a manner that does not comply with the statute. Recipients of fax advertisements have a private right of action to seek an injunction or damages for violations of the TCPA and its implementing regulations. 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3).
- 30. The TCPA makes it unlawful to send any "unsolicited advertisement" via fax unless certain conditions are present. 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(C). "Unsolicited advertisement" is defined as "any material advertising the commercial availability or quality of any property, goods, or services which is transmitted to any person without that person's prior express invitation or permission, in writing or otherwise." 47 U.S.C. § 227(a)(5).
- 31.Unsolicited faxes are illegal if the sender and recipient do not have an "established business relationship." 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(C)(i). "Established business relationship" is defined as "a prior or existing relationship formed by a voluntary two-way communication between a person or entity and a business or residential subscriber with or without an exchange of consideration, on the basis of an inquiry, application, purchase or transaction by the business or residential subscriber regarding products or services offered

- by such person or entity, which relationship has not been previously terminated by either party." 47 U.S.C. § 227(a)(2); 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(f)(6).
- 32.Regardless of whether the sender and recipient have an established business relationship, and regardless of whether the fax is unsolicited, a faxed advertisement is illegal unless it includes an opt-out notice on its first page that complies with the TCPA's requirements. *See* 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(C)(iii); 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(a)(4)(iv). To comply with the law, an opt-out notice must (1) inform the recipient that the recipient may opt out of receiving future faxes by contacting the sender; (2) provide both a domestic telephone number and a facsimile machine number—one of which must be cost-free—that the recipient may contact to opt out of future faxes; and (3) inform the recipient that the sender's failure to comply with an opt-out request within thirty days is a violation of law. *See* 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(2)(D); 47 CFR § 64.1200(a)(4)(iii).
- 33.Defendant faxed unsolicited advertisements to Plaintiff in violation of 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(C).
- 34.Defendant knew or should have known (a) that Plaintiff had not given express invitation or permission for Defendant to fax advertisements about its products or services; and (b) that Exhibit A is an advertisement.

- 35.Defendant's actions caused actual damage to Plaintiff and the Class Members.

  Defendant's junk faxes caused Plaintiff and the Class Members to lose paper,
  toner, and ink consumed in the printing of Defendant's faxes through
  Plaintiff's and the Class Members' fax machines. Defendant's faxes cost
  Plaintiff and the Class Members time that otherwise would have been spent
  on Plaintiff's and the Class Members' business activities.
- 36.In addition to statutory damages (and the trebling thereof), Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to declaratory and injunctive relief under the TCPA.

#### **REQUEST FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, respectfully requests that this Court:

- a. Determine that this action may be maintained as a class action under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure;
- b. Declare Defendant's conduct to be unlawful under the TCPA;
- c. Award \$500 in statutory damages under the TCPA for each violation, and if the Court determines the violations were knowing or willful then treble those damages;
- d. Enjoin Defendant from additional violations;
- e. Award Plaintiff and the Class their attorney's fees and costs;
- f. Grant such other legal and equitable relief as the Court may deem

## appropriate.

## **JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiff and the Members of the Class hereby request a trial by jury.

DATED: August 2, 2017 RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

By:/s/ Charles M. Clapp\_

Charles M. Clapp GA Bar No. 101089 5 Concourse Parkway NE Suite 3000

Atlanta, Georgia 30328 Tel: 404.585.0040 Fax: 404.393.8893

charles@lawcmc.com
Attorney for Plaintiff

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JS44 (Rev. 6/2017 NDGA)

#### **CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS44 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 is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket record. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ATTACHED)

I. (a) PLAINTIFF(S)		DEFENDANT(S)		
Hormozdi Law Firm, LLC, a Georgia Limited Liability Company, on behalf of itself and others similarly situated,		Glazer-Kennedy Insider's Circle, LLC d/b/a GKIC		
(b) COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED PLAINTIFF Gwinnett County (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)		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		
(c) ATTORNEYS (FIRM NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE N E-MAIL ADDRESS)  Charles Clapp 5 Concourse Pkwy NE, Suite 3000 Atlanta, Tel: 404-585-0040 Fax: 404-393-8893 charles@lawcmc.com		ATTORNEYS (IF KNOWN)		
II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY)		III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES  (PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX FOR PLAINTIFF AND ONE BOX FOR DEFENDANT)  (FOR DIVERSITY CASES ONLY)		
1 U.S. GOVERNMENT J3 FEDERAL QUESTION (U.S. GOVERNMENT NOT A PARTY)  2 U.S. GOVERNMENT U.S. GOVERNMENT NOT A PARTY)  4 DIVERSITY (INDICATE CITIZENSHIP OF PARTIES IN ITEM III)	PLF DEF  1 CITIZEN OF THIS STATE  4 INCORPORATED OR PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS IN THIS STATE  2 CITIZEN OF ANOTHER STATE  5 INCORPORATED AND PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS IN ANOTHER STATE  1 CITIZEN OR SUBJECT OF A  6 FOREIGN NATION			
IV. ORIGIN (PLACE AN "X "IN ONE BOX ONLY)  1 ORIGINAL 2 REMOVED FROM 3 REMANDED FROM APPELLATE COURT  MULTIDISTRICT BLITTIGATION-DIRECT FILE		OR TRANSFERRED FROM MULTIDISTRICT APPEAL TO DISTRICT JUDGE 6 LITIGATION - 7 FROM MAGISTRATE JUDGE TRANSFER JUDGMENT		
V. CAUSE OF ACTION (CITE THE U.S. CIVIL STATUTE U.S		U ARE FILING AND WRITE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF CAUSE - DO NOT CITE		
(IF COMPLEX, CHECK REASON BELOW)  1. Unusually large number of parties.  2. Unusually large number of claims or defenses.  3. Factual issues are exceptionally complex  4. Greater than normal volume of evidence.  5. Extended discovery period is needed.	<ul> <li>6. Problems locating or preserving evidence</li> <li>7. Pending parallel investigations or actions by government.</li> <li>8. Multiple use of experts.</li> <li>9. Need for discovery outside United States boundaries.</li> <li>0. Existence of highly technical issues and proof.</li> </ul>			
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VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:  CHECK IF CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.Civ.P. 23 DEMAND S  JURY DEMAND VES NO (CHECK YES ONLY IF DEMANDED IN COMPLAINT)				
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VIII. RELATED/REFILED CASE(S) IF ANY JUDGE DOCKET NO.				
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	S AND ISSUES IN THIS CASE WERE PREVIOUSLY INVOIT (check one box) SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME CASE.	OLVED IN CASE NO. , WHICH WAS		
	di	12017		
SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD	DATE			

# **ClassAction.org**

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Law Firm Claims Glazer-Kennedy Insider's Circle Sends Illegal Fax Advertisements</u>