UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT SEATTLE

SHELBY KRUSE, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

CASE NO. 2:17-cv-1199

Plaintiff(s),

COMPLAINT—CLASS ACTION

AUDIT & ADJUSTMENT COMPANY, INC. d/b/a EVERGREEN BILLING

SPECIALISTS,

v.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Defendant(s).

Plaintiff SHELBY KF

Plaintiff SHELBY KRUSE (hereinafter, "Plaintiff"), a Washington resident, brings this class action complaint by and through her undersigned counsel, against Defendant AUDIT & ADJUSTMENT COMPANY, INC., and EVERGREEN BILLING SPECIALISTS (hereinafter "Defendant"), 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.

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JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 1. The Court has jurisdiction over this action under 28 U.S.C. § 1331, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 *et seq.* and 28 U.S.C. § 2201. If applicable, the Court also has pendent jurisdiction over the state law claims in this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).
- 2. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2).

NATURE OF THE ACTION

- 3. Plaintiff brings this class action on behalf of a class of Washington consumers seeking redress for Defendant's actions of using false, deceptive, and misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of an alleged debt.
- 4. Defendant's actions violated § 1692 et seq. of Title 15 of the United States Code, commonly referred to as the Fair Debt Collections Practices Act ("FDCPA") which prohibits debt collectors from engaging in abusive, deceptive and unfair practices.
- 5. Plaintiff is seeking damages, and declaratory and injunctive relief.

PARTIES

- 6. Plaintiff is a natural person and a resident of the State of Seattle, Washington, and is a "Consumer" as defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692(a)(3).
- 7. Defendant, AUDIT & ADJUSTMENT COMPANY, INC. is a corporation incorporated in the State of Washington, specializing in debt collection, with its principal place of business located at 20700 44th Ave W # 100, Lynnwood, WA 98036.
- 8. Defendant, EVERGREEN BILLING SPECIALISTS is a collection agency with its principal place of business located at 20700 44th Ave W # 100, Lynnwood, WA 98036.

- Upon information and belief, EVERGREEN BILLING SPECIALISTS is merely one department within AUDIT & ADJUSTMENT COMPANY, INC., and is a registered d/b/a of that entity.
- 10. Upon information and belief, Defendants are companies 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.
- 11. Defendants are "debt collectors," as defined under the FDCPA under 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

- 12. Plaintiff brings this claim on behalf of the following classes, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a) and 23(b)(3).
 - Class A: The Class consists of: (a) all individuals with addresses in the state of Washington (b) to whom Defendant Evergreen Billing Specialists (c) sent a collection letter in an attempt to collect a medical debt (d) which states that "This Letter is to notify you that XXXXX has contracted Evergreen Billing Specialists to send you a final notice on your account before sending it to an outside collection agency" (e) which letter was sent on or after a date one year prior to the filing of this action and on or before a date 21 days after the filing of this action.
 - Class B: The Class consists of: (a) all individuals with addresses in the state of Washington (b) to whom Defendant Evergreen Billing Specialists (c) sent a collection letter in an attempt to collect a medical debt (d) which falsely states that "Your account has not been disputed with any credit reporting agency" (e) which letter was sent on or after a date one year prior to the filing of this action and on or before a date 21 days after the filing of this action.

- 13. 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.
- 14. Excluded from the Plaintiff Classes are the Defendants and all officers, 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.
- 15. There are questions of law and fact common to the Plaintiff Classes, 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 form attached as *Exhibit A*, violate 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e.
- 16. The Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the class members, as all are based upon the same facts and legal theories.
- 17. The Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Plaintiff Classes defined in this complaint. The Plaintiffs have retained counsel with experience in handling consumer lawsuits, complex legal issues, and class actions, and neither the Plaintiffs nor their attorneys have any interests, which might cause them not to vigorously pursue this action.
- 18. 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 Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and on that basis allege, that the Plaintiff Classes defined above are 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 Classes and those questions predominate over any questions or issues involving only individual class members. The principal issue is whether the Defendants' written communications to consumers, in the form attached as *Exhibit A*, violate 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e.
- (c) <u>Typicality:</u> The Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of the class members.

 The Plaintiffs and all members of the Plaintiff Classes have claims arising out of the Defendants' common uniform course of conduct complained of herein.
- (d) Adequacy: The Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class members insofar as Plaintiffs have no interests that are averse to the absent class members. The Plaintiffs are committed to vigorously litigating this matter. Plaintiffs have also retained counsel experienced in handling consumer lawsuits, complex legal issues, and class actions. Neither the Plaintiffs nor their 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.

- 19. 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 Classes 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.
- 20. Depending on the outcome of further investigation and discovery, Plaintiffs 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).

ALLEGATIONS OF FACT

- 21. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in the paragraphs numbered above with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.
- 22. Defendant 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.
- 23. Upon information and belief, within the last year the Defendant began a collection campaign against the Plaintiff in an attempt to collect an alleged "debt" as defined by 15 U.S.C. 1692a(5).
- 24. Sometime prior to June 1, 2016, an obligation arising from the provision of medical care and lab testing was allegedly incurred to CellNetix Pathology (CellNetix).

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- 25. The alleged CellNetix obligation arose out of a transaction in which money, property, insurance or services, which are the subject of the transaction, are primarily for personal, family or household purposes.
- 26. The alleged CellNetix obligation is a "debt" as defined by 15 U.S.C.§ 1692a(5).
- 27. CellNetix is a "creditor" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(4).
- 28. CellNetix or the subsequent owner of the CellNetix debt contracted the Defendant to collect the alleged debt.
- 29. On or about June 1, 2016, the Defendant Audit & Adjustment Company, Inc. reported this alleged debt on the Plaintiff's credit report.
- 30. On or about April 18, 2017, the Plaintiff received a collection letter from Defendant Evergreen Billing Specialists, which was dated April 14, 2017. *See*, **Exhibit A.**
- 31. The letter was sent or caused to be sent by persons employed by Defendant as a "debt collector" as defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(6).
- 32. The letter is a "communication" as defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(2).
- 33. The April 14, 2017 Letter to the Plaintiff stated in part:

"This Letter is to notify you that CellNetix Pathology has contracted Evergreen Billing Specialists to send you a final notice on your account before sending it to an outside collection agency. Your account has not been reported to any credit reporting agency. The balance of this account is due."

34. The April 14, 2017 Letter further threatened:

"If Evergreen Billing Specialists has not received your payment within 25 days from the date of this letter, your account will be assigned to AUDIT & ADJUSTMENT COMPANY for collection."

35. In the context of this Collection Letter, Defendant's statement - that a) it has been contracted to send a final notice before an outside collection agency would get involved;

and b) if Plaintiff did not make payment within twenty-five days, Plaintiff's account would be assigned to Audit & Adjustment Company - can be read in two or more ways (either an outside collection agency was not already involved, that Audit & Adjustment Company was an outside collection agency but that Evergreen Billing Specialists was not, or that there would be any change to the status of Plaintiff's account after the expiration of the arbitrary 25 day deadline), one of which is inaccurate.

- 36. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff's account was <u>already</u> with an outside collection agency as of April 14, 2017.
- 37. Defendant's collection letter was further abjectly false because the Plaintiff's debt had already been reported to the credit reporting agencies as of June of 2016, nearly a year before this April 2017 letter was mailed by Defendant.
- 38. Defendant's collection letter thus contained a thinly veiled threat that the Plaintiff's debt was not yet reported to a credit reporting agency, but would be once an outside collection agency was involved, all in an attempt to pressure the Plaintiff into paying this debt.
- 39. Nowhere in the Defendants' Letter did the Defendants disclose that Evergreen Billing Specialists was in any way affiliated with Audit & Adjustment Company, creating the false impression that Audit & Adjustment Company was a (thus-far-uninvolved) outside collection agency, while Evergreen Billing Specialists was not.
- 40. The least sophisticated consumer in receipt of this Letter would reasonably conclude that

 (1) Evergreen Billing Specialists was not an outside collection agency, (2) that Audit &
 Adjustment Company was an 'outside' collection agency not yet involved in the collection
 of Plaintiff's debt, (3) that her debt has not yet been reported to a credit reporting agency,
 and that (4) the status of her account would somehow change upon the expiration of the

25-day deadline set forth in the collection letter.	However, all these assumptions would be
false	

- 41. As stated on Defendant's website "Audit & Adjustment Company is a Washington based debt collection agency founded in 1996." 1
- 42. As further reflected on Defendant's website,

Evergreen Billing Specialists (EBS) was designed to reduce billing costs and administrative overhead by outsourcing outstanding receivables prior to bad debt placement.....

EBS Representatives will act as an extension of your billing office, field all incoming calls, establish and monitor payments plans, process payments, mail the billing notices and respond to account inquires.

The accounts will be placed in a separate database and their credit will not be affected should payment be made within a pre determined time frame. Accounts that have not established payment arrangements will be automatically transferred to our collection database for further collection action.²

- 43. As Defendant's website makes clear, Defendant Evergreen Billing Specialist is merely one arm of Audit & Adjustment Company, an admitted debt collector. In trying to collect from consumers, Defendants try one arm of their collection practice, and then threaten to switch to a collection agency, which is merely another, undisclosed, arm of the exact same practice.
- 44. Thus, as of April 14, 2017, there was already an outside collection agency involved in the collection of Plaintiff's debt. Furthermore, Audit & Adjustment Company was clearly previously involved in the collection of Plaintiff's debt, having reported the Plaintiff's debt in June of 2016.
- 45. Finally, the Plaintiff's debt was already being reported by the Defendants themselves well before the April 2017 Letter, which explicitly stated the debt had not been reported.

¹ See, http://www.audit-adjustment.com/, last visited on June 27, 2017.

² See, http://www.audit-adjustment.com/evergreen-billing-specialists, last visited on June 27, 2017

- 46. As such, the above statements in the Collection Letter are false, deceptive and misleading.
- 47. Pursuant to the FDCPA, a debt collector may not use any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt.
- 48. By making a series of false, deceptive and misleading statements, the Defendant violated various provisions of the FDCPA and harmed the Plaintiff.
- 49. Defendants could have taken the steps necessary to bring its actions within compliance with the FDCPA, but neglected to do so and failed to adequately review its actions to ensure compliance with the law.

CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

COUNT I

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

- 50. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in the paragraphs numbered above with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.
- 51. 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.
- 52. Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692e, a debt collector may not use any false, misleading and/or deceptive means to collect or attempt to collect any debt or to obtain information concerning a consumer.
- 53. The Defendants violated said section in its letter to the Plaintiff by:
 - falsely representing the legal status of the alleged debt in violation of 1692e(2)(A);
 - making a false representation or using deceptive means to collect a debt in violation of 1692e(10).

54. By reason thereof, Defendant is liable to Plaintiff for judgment that Defendant's conduct violated Section 1692e *et seq*. of the FDCPA, actual damages, statutory damages, costs and attorneys' fees.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendant as follows:

- (a) Declaring that this action is properly maintainable as a Class Action and certifying Plaintiff as Class representative and Plaintiff's counsel, as Class Counsel;
- (b) Awarding Plaintiff and the Class statutory damages;
- (c) Awarding Plaintiff and the Class actual damages;
- (d) Awarding Plaintiff costs of this Action, including reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses;
- (e) Awarding pre-judgment interest and post-judgment interest; and
- (f) Awarding Plaintiff and the Class such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: August 8, 2017 By: s/Ryan Pesicka

Ryan Pesicka, WSBA 48182 CONCORD LAW, PC. 144 Railroad Avenue, Suite 236 Edmonds, Washington 98020 (206) 512-8029 telephone (206) 512-8914 facsimile ryan@condordlawseattle.com Attorney for Plaintiff Shelby Kruse

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 trial.

Dated: August 8, 2017 By: s/Ryan Pesicka

Ryan Pesicka, WSBA 48182

Linden M1 48451-0505 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

April 14, 2017

20700 44th Ave W. Lynnwood, WA 98046 (425) 608-4880 (800) 979-8981

Total Due: Account:

\$165.00

512.1

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SHELBY KRUSE



Udakalılında lalla larlalılı dalılılı dalılılı Evergreen Billing Specialists PO Box 897 Lynnwood WA 98046-0897

*** Please Detach Upper Portion and Return in the Envelope Provided ***

*** Please DO NOT send Correspondence to PO Box 505 Linden MI 48151 ***

Provider:

CELLNETIX PATHOLOGY

Total Due:

\$165,00

Account #:

512.1

Date of Service: 10-13-09

FINAL NOTICE

This letter is to notify you that CellNetix has contracted Evergreen Billing Specialists to send you a final notice on your account before sending it to an outside collection agency. Your account has not been reported to any credit reporting agency. The balance of this account is due.

CellNetix Pathology and Laboratories is a lab that processes and provides diagnosis for cytology, biopsies and surgical specimen testing and other tests deemed necessary by your medical provider. You can find out more about CellNetix Pathology and Laboratories by visiting www.cellnetix.com.

The above charge has been billed to your insurance company (if applicable) and they have indicated the balance is your responsibility. If you have any questions regarding the process of these charges please contact your insurance company.

The balance of this account is due. Please remit payment in the enclosed envelope or contact an EBS representative at (425) 608-4880 or (800) 979-8981 to make arrangements via check by phone, Visa or MasterCard.

If Evergreen Billing Specialists has not received your payment within 25 days from the date of this letter, your account will be assigned to AUDIT & ADJUSTMENT COMPANY for collection.

This is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for this purpose. The communication is from a debt collector.

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. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

purpose of initiating the civil de	ocket sheet. (SEE INSTRUC) / 1, 15 requi	red for the use of	and Clerk of Court for the		
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDANTS					
SHELBY KRUSE, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,				AUDIT & ADJUSTMENT COMPANY, INC. d/b/a EVERGREEN BILLING SPECIALISTS,					
(b) County of Residence of		ing County WA		County of Residence of First Listed Defendant					
(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, Address, and Telephone Number) CONCORD LAW, P.C. (206) 512-8029 144 RAILROAD AVE STE 236 EDMONDS WA 98020				Attorneys (If Known)					
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	ICTION (Place an "X" in O	ne Box Only)	II. CI	TIZENSHIP OF P	RINCIPA	L PARTIES	Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintij		
☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff		Not a Party)		For Diversity Cases Only) P1 n of This State		Incorporated <i>or</i> Pri of Business In T			
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	3		Citize	n of Another State	2 🗖 2	Incorporated and P of Business In A			
				n or Subject of a eign Country	3 🗖 3	Foreign Nation	□ 6 □ 6		
IV. NATURE OF SUIT	-	ly) RTS	FO	PRFEITURE/PENALTY		here for: Nature o	of Suit Code Descriptions. 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 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 PROPERT 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal 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 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement	62	Date of Property 21 USC 881 of Property 21 USC 881 of Property 21 USC 881 of Other of Property 21 USC 881 of Prope	□ 422 Appe □ 423 With 28 U PROPEI □ 820 Copy □ 830 Paten □ 835 Paten New □ 840 Trade SOCIAL □ 861 HIA □ 862 Black □ 863 DIW □ 865 RSI (□ FEDERA ■ 870 Taxes or D □ 871 IRS—	al 28 USC 158 trawal SC 157 RTY RIGHTS rights t t - Abbreviated Drug Application mark SECURITY (1395ff) t Lung (923) C/DIWW (405(g)) Title XVI 405(g)) RL TAX SUITS s (U.S. Plaintiff efendant)	OTHER STATUTES □ 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		
	moved from 3 the Court Cite the U.S. Civil Sta 15 U.S.C. § 1692 Brief description of ca	Appellate Court tute under which you are et seq. (FDCPA) use:	Reop	(specify)	r District	☐ 6 Multidistri Litigation Transfer			
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	Violations of the F CHECK IF THIS UNDER RULE 2	IS A CLASS ACTION	D	EMAND \$		HECK YES only :	if demanded in complaint:		
VIII. RELATED CASI IF ANY		JUDGE				T NUMBER	№ 102 □140		
DATE		SIGNATURE OF ATTO	ORNEY C	F RECORD	DOCKE	1 NUMBER			
08/08/2017 FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		s/Ryan M. Pesic							
RECEIPT # AM	MOUNT	APPLYING IFP		JUDGE		MAG. JUD	GE		

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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: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.
- **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.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Western District of Washington

SHELBY KRUSE, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,))))						
Plaintiff(s)							
v.	Civil Action No. 2:17-cv-1199						
AUDIT & ADJUSTMENT COMPANY, INC. d/b/a EVERGREEN BILLING SPECIALISTS,)))						
Defendant(s))						
SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION							
To: (Defendant's name and address)							
AUDIT & ADJUSTMENT (d/b/a EVERGREEN BILLI 20700 44th Ave W # 100 Lynnwood, WA 98036	,						
A lawsuit has been filed against you.							
are the United States or a United States agency, or an office							
If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be You also must file your answer or motion with the court.	e entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.						
	CLERK OF COURT						
Date:	Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk						

Civil Action No. 2:17-cv-1199

PROOF OF SERVICE

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

was rec	This summons for (name ceived by me on (date)	ne of individual and title, if an	ny)						
	☐ I personally served	the summons on the ind	<u> </u>						
			on (date)	; or					
	☐ I left the summons		ence or usual place of abode with (name)						
		, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there,							
	on (date), and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or								
	☐ I served the summo	ons on (name of individual)			, who is				
	designated by law to	designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of (name of organization)							
			on (date)	; or					
	☐ I returned the summ	nons unexecuted because	e		; or				
	☐ Other (specify):								
	My fees are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$	0.0	<u>0</u> .				
	I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.								
Date:		_							
			Server's signature						
		·-	Printed name and title						
		_	Server's address						

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

Print Save As... Reset

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Evergreen Billing Specialists Illegally Threatens Alleged Debtors, Suit Says</u>