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

BRAD NOURSE,

both individually and on behalf of a class of : others similarly situated, :

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT** 

Plaintiff,

Civil Action Number 1:17-CV-0807 (BKS/DJS)

V.

THE COUNTY OF JEFFERSON,

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED** 

Defendant.

## **JURISDICTION**

- 1. This Court has jurisdiction over this action under the provisions of 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1341 & 1343 because it is filed to obtain compensatory damages, punitive damages, and injunctive relief for the deprivation, under color of state law, of the rights of citizens of the United States secured by the Constitution and federal law pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. This Court also has jurisdiction over this action under the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 2201, as it is filed to obtain declaratory relief relative to the Constitutionality of the policies of a local government.
- 2. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(e)(2) because the events giving rise to Plaintiff's claims and those of proposed class members occurred in this judicial district.

#### **PARTIES**

- 3. Plaintiff Brad Nourse ("Nourse") is a citizen of the United States and resides in Fulton County, New York. On or about July 21, 2014, Nourse was arrested and placed into the custody of the Jefferson County Jail on the misdemeanor charge of aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.
- 4. Defendant County of Jefferson (the "County") is a county government organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York. At all times relevant hereto, the County, acting through its Sheriff's Department, was responsible for the policies, practices, supervision, implementation and conduct of all matters pertaining to the Jefferson County Jail and was responsible for the appointment, training, supervision and conduct of all Sheriff's Department personnel, including those working in the Jefferson County Jail. In addition, at all relevant times, the County was responsible for enforcing the rules of the Jefferson County Jail, and for ensuring that Sheriff's Department personnel employed in the Jail obey the Constitution and laws of the United States and of the State of New York.

### **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

- 5. Plaintiff brings this action pursuant to Rules 23(b)(2) and 23(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure on behalf of himself and a class of similarly situated individuals who were charged with misdemeanors or minor crimes and were strip searched upon their entry into the Jefferson County Jail without being provided with a reasonable opportunity to post bail.
  - 6. The class that Plaintiff seeks to represent is defined as follows:
    - All persons who have been or will be placed into the custody of the Jefferson County Jail after being charged with misdemeanors, violations, traffic infractions, civil commitments or other minor crimes and being eligible for bail, and were or will be immediately strip searched upon their entry into the Jefferson County Jail pursuant to the policy, custom and practice of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department and the County of Jefferson, and who posted bail within four hours of their entry into the facility. The class period commences on July 21, 2014 and extends to the date on which the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department and/or the County of Jefferson are enjoined from, or otherwise cease, enforcing their unconstitutional policy, practice and custom of conducting strip searches of pre-trial detainees absent providing them with a reasonable opportunity to post bail. Specifically excluded from the class are Defendant and any and all of their respective affiliates, legal representatives, heirs, successors, employees or assignees.
- 7. This action has been brought and may properly be maintained as a class action under Federal law and satisfies the numerosity, commonality, typicality and adequacy requirements for maintaining a class action under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a).
- 8. The members of the class are so numerous as to render joinder impracticable. Upon information and belief, there are hundreds of people arrested for misdemeanors and violations who are placed into the custody of the Jefferson County Jail every month all of whom are members of the proposed class. Upon information and belief, the size of the

proposed class totals at least 3,000 individuals, some of whom have had their civil rights violated on multiple occasions.

- 9. Upon information and belief, joinder of all of these individuals is impracticable because of the large number of class members and the fact that class members are likely dispersed over a large geographical area, with some members presently residing outside of Jefferson County and this Judicial District. Furthermore, upon information and belief, many members of the class are low-income persons, may not speak English, and likely would have great difficulty in pursuing their rights individually.
- 10. Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Class, in that they all had their right to be free from being strip searched upon being held at a local jail absent being provided with a reasonable opportunity to post bail. All members of the class were charged with misdemeanors or violations when placed into the custody of the Jefferson County Jail, and all were illegally strip searched before they could post bail within four hours when they could have just as easily been held in the jail's booking area pending their posting bail.
- 11. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the members of the Class. Plaintiff and all members of the class sustained damages arising out of Defendant's course of conduct. The harms suffered by the Plaintiff are typical of the harms suffered by the class members.
- 12. The representative Plaintiff has the requisite personal interest in the outcome of this action and will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class. Plaintiff has no interests that are adverse to the interests of the members of the Class.

- 13. Plaintiff has retained counsel who has substantial experience and success in the prosecution of class action and civil rights litigation. The named Plaintiff is being represented by Elmer Robert Keach, III, and Maria Dyson, of the Law Offices of Elmer Robert Keach, III, PC. Mr. Keach is an experienced civil rights and class action attorney who has litigated a wide variety of civil rights actions before this Court, and has litigated class action lawsuits in state and federal courts in several states.
- 14. In short, Plaintiff's counsel has the resources, expertise and experience to successfully prosecute this action against Jefferson County. Counsel for Plaintiff knows of no conflicts among members of the class, or between counsel and members of the class.
- 15. This action, in part, seeks declaratory and injunctive relief. As such, the Plaintiff seeks class certification under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(2), in that all class members were subject to the same policy requiring the illegal strip searches of individuals charged with misdemeanor or minor crimes and placed into the custody of the Jefferson County Jail without being provided with a reasonable opportunity to post bail. In short, the County of Jefferson, the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department and Jefferson County Corrections Officers acted on grounds generally applicable to all class members.
- 16. In addition to certification under Rule 23(b)(3), and in the alternative, Plaintiff seeks certification under Rule 23(b)(2).
- 17. Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Class, and predominate over any questions that affect only individual members of the Class. These common questions of law and fact include, without limitation, the common and predominate question of whether the Defendant's written and/or *de facto* policy of strip

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searching all individuals charged with misdemeanors or minor crimes and committed to the Jefferson County Jail, without providing them with a reasonable opportunity to post bail, is a violation of the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, and whether such a written and/or *de facto* policy existed during the class period. Common questions also exist as to whether or not Jefferson County can hold detainees apart from the Jefferson County Jail's general population while providing them with a reasonable opportunity to post bail.

18. A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy, since joinder of all of the individual members of the class is impracticable given the large number of class members and the fact that they are dispersed over a large geographical area. Furthermore, the expense and burden of individual litigation would make it difficult or impossible for individual members of the class to redress the wrongs done to them. The cost to the federal court system of adjudicating thousands of individual cases would be enormous. Individualized litigation would also magnify the delay and expense to all parties and the court system. By contrast, the conduct of this action as a class action in this District presents far fewer management difficulties, conserves the resources of the parties and the court system, and protects the rights of each member of the Class.

19. Upon information and belief, there are no other actions pending to address the Defendant's flagrant violation of the civil rights of thousands of individuals, even though the Defendant has maintained their illegal strip search regimen for at least the past five years.

20. In the alternative to certification under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3), Plaintiff also seeks partial certification under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(c)(4).

### **FACTS**

#### Facts Applicable to the Class Generally

- 21. The Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution prohibits state officials, including employees of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, from performing strip searches of arrestees who have been charged with misdemeanors or other minor crimes when that detainee can post bail within a reasonable time. Specifically, where, as here, a County Jail has facilities to hold individuals for a short period of time while they endeavor to post bail, there is no legitimate penological justification to strip search that person because they do not need to enter the County Jail's general population.
- 22. Upon information and belief, the County of Jefferson has instituted a written and/or *de facto* policy, custom or practice of immediately strip searching all individuals who enter the custody of the Jefferson County Jail, regardless of the nature of their charged crime and without providing them with a reasonable opportunity to post bail. This is despite the fact that Jefferson County has adequate space in its jail booking room to hold detainees for a brief period of time to allow them to post bail, versus the indignity of forcing them to undergo a strip search and receive the jail uniform.
- 23. Specifically, Jefferson County is a small county, and has a limited number of detentions per day. Upon information and belief, the Jefferson County Jail has more than adequate space to hold detainees for a short period of time, e.g., up to four hours, in the

jail booking area (and separate from the general population of the Jefferson County Jail) to allow them an opportunity to post bail before having to be strip searched.

- 24. Upon information and belief, the County of Jefferson has instituted a written and/or *de facto* policy, custom or practice of conducting visual body cavity searches (visual inspection of the vaginal and rectal cavities) on all individuals who enter the custody of the Jefferson County Jail, regardless of the individual characteristics or the nature of their charged crime. For purposes of this Complaint, strip and visual cavity searches are collectively referred to as "strip searches." These searches are done immediately upon a detainee's entry into the custody of the Jefferson County Jail, regardless of their bail status, their ability to post bail, or whether or not a bail payment is forthcoming.
- 25. The County of Jefferson, and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, knows that they may not institute, enforce or permit enforcement of a policy or practice of conducting strip searches on detainees who can readily post bail, as such searches lack a legitimate penological interest.
- 26. The Defendant's written and/or *de facto* policy, practice and custom mandating wholesale strip searches of all misdemeanor and violation arrestees regardless of their ability to promptly post bail has been promulgated, effectuated and/or enforced in bad faith and contrary to law.
- 27. The Plaintiff respectfully suggests that four hours is a reasonable time to allow a detainee to avail themselves of bond, absent the detainee detailing to Corrections Staff that bail for them would not be forthcoming.

28. Upon information and belief, the County of Jefferson County has promulgated, implemented, enforced, and/or failed to rectify a written and/or *de facto* policy, practice or custom of immediately strip searching <u>all</u> individuals placed into the custody of the Jefferson County Jail without allowing a detainee a reasonable opportunity to post bail. This written and/or *de facto* policy made the strip searching of pre-trial detainees routine; neither the nature of the offense charged, the characteristics of the arrestee, nor the detainee's bail status were relevant to the enforcement of the policy, practice and custom of routine strip searches.

29. Pursuant to this written and/or *de facto* policy, each member of the Class, including the named Plaintiff, was the victim of a routine strip search upon their entry into the Jefferson County Jail. All members of the class, including the named Plaintiff, also posted bail shortly after their entry into the Jefferson County Jail, namely, within four hours. These strip searches are conducted for individuals arrested for, among other innocuous offenses, Driving While Intoxicated, Harassment and Trespassing that required minimal bail.

30. As a direct and proximate result of the unlawful strip search conducted pursuant to this written and/or *de facto* policy, the victims of the unlawful strip searches – each member of the class, including every named Plaintiff – has suffered or will suffer psychological pain, humiliation, suffering and mental anguish.

#### Facts Applicable to the Named Plaintiff, Brad Nourse

- 31. Mr. Nourse's experience is representative of the proposed class. Prior to July 21, 2014, Mr. Nourse was charged with a misdemeanor aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle charge. Through no fault of his own, Mr. Nourse missed a court appearance, and was the subject of a bench warrant issued by the Town of Leray, New York. Mr. Nourse was subsequently arrested on a bench warrant on July 21, 2014, and taken before the Leray Town Court. He was arraigned, and assessed a bail of \$500.00. Mr. Nourse was not allowed to remain in the Leray Town Court, and was immediately transported to the Jefferson County Jail. At the time of Mr. Nourse's arrest, one of his friends was on the way to the Town of Leray to post his bail.
- 32. Immediately upon his entry to the Jefferson County Jail, Mr. Nourse was taken by a Corrections Officer to a room, and ordered to take off all his clothes. Mr. Nourse objected to this procedure, and indicated that his friend was on the way to the Jefferson County Jail to post his bail. Mr. Nourse asked to wait at the Jefferson County Jail until his bail was posted. A Corrections Officer declined to do this, and instructed Mr. Nourse to remove all his clothes. The Corrections Officer then instructed Mr. Nourse to bend at the waist and spread the lobes of his buttocks to allow for a visual inspection of the outside of Mr. Nourse's anal cavity. Mr. Nourse was also required to manipulate his genitals to allow for the inspection of the area underneath his scrotum. He then put his civilian clothes back on.
- 33. Shortly afterward, Mr. Nourse's \$500.00 bail was posted, and he was released from custody. He remained at the Jefferson County Jail for approximately thirty minutes.

34. As a direct and proximate result of the unlawful strip search conducted pursuant to County and Sheriff's Department policy, practice and custom, Mr. Nourse has suffered and continues to suffer psychological pain, humiliation, suffering and mental anguish.

#### **CAUSES OF ACTION**

## AS AND FOR A FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

## **Violation of Constitutional Rights Under Color of State Law**

- -- Unreasonable Search and Failure to Implement Municipal Policies to Avoid Constitutional Deprivations Under of Color of State Law --
- 35. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and realleges each and every allegation stated in paragraphs 1 through 34.
- 36. The Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution protects citizens from unreasonable searches by law enforcement officers, and prohibits officers from conducting strip searches of individuals arrested for misdemeanors or violations who enter the custody of a local jail absent their being a legitimate penological need for the strip search. There is no legitimate penological need to strip search individuals who are eligible for bail, and who can post bail within a reasonable time.
- 37. The actions of Defendant detailed above violated Plaintiff's rights under the United States Constitution. Simply put, it was not objectively reasonable for Jefferson County Corrections Officers to strip search Plaintiff and class members based on their arrests for misdemeanor/violation charges when they could immediately post bail.
- 38. These strip searches were conducted pursuant to the policy, custom or practice of the County of Jefferson and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department. As such, the County of Jefferson is directly liable for the damages of the named Plaintiff and members of the Class.
- 39. This conduct on the part of Jefferson County represents a violation of 42 U.S.C. § 1983, given that their actions were undertaken under color of state law.

40. As a direct and proximate result of the unconstitutional acts described above, Plaintiff has been irreparably injured.

### AS AND FOR A SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

#### -- Demand for Declaratory Judgment --

- 41. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and realleges each and every allegation stated in paragraphs 1 through 40.
- 42. The policy, custom and practice of the County of Jefferson is clearly unconstitutional, in that these entities and individuals are directing/conducting the strip searches of all individuals placed into the Jefferson County Jail for misdemeanors or other minor crimes without giving them a reasonable opportunity to post bail.
- 43. Plaintiff and members of the Class request that this Court issue a declaratory judgment, and that it declare the strip search policy of the County of Jefferson and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department to be unconstitutional.

#### AS AND FOR A THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

## -- Demand for Preliminary and Permanent Injunction --

- 44. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and realleges each and every allegation stated in paragraphs 1 through 43.
- 45. The policy, custom and practice of the County of Jefferson is clearly unconstitutional, in that these entities and individuals are directing/conducting the strip searches of all individuals placed into the Jefferson County Jail for misdemeanors or other minor crimes without giving them a reasonable opportunity to post bail.

46. Upon information and belief, this policy is currently in place at the Jefferson County Jail, with new and/or prospective members of the Class being subjected to the harms that have already been inflicted upon the named Plaintiff.

47. The continuing pattern of strip searching individuals charged with minor crimes will cause irreparable harm to the new and/or prospective members of the Class, an adequate remedy for which does not exist at law.

48. Plaintiff demands that the County of Jefferson immediately desist from strip searching individuals placed into the custody of the Jefferson County Jail for misdemeanors or other minor crimes absent providing them with a reasonable opportunity to post bail, and seek both a preliminary and permanent injunction from this Court ordering as much.

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

49. The Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Brad Nourse, on behalf of themselves and on behalf of a

class of others similarly situated, request that this Honorable Court grant them the

following relief:

A. An order certifying this action as a class action pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23.

B. A judgment against the Defendant on Plaintiff's First Cause of Action detailed

herein, awarding Compensatory Damages to the named Plaintiff and each member of the

proposed class in an amount to be determined by a Jury and/or the Court on both an

individual and a class wide basis.

C. A declaratory judgment declaring the County of Jefferson and the Jefferson

County Sheriff's Department's policy, practice and custom of strip and visual cavity

searching all detainees entering the Jefferson County Jail for misdemeanor or other minor

charges

D. A preliminary and permanent injunction enjoining Defendant from continuing

to strip and visual cavity search individuals charged with misdemeanors or minor crimes

without providing them with a reasonable opportunity to post bail.

E. A monetary award for attorney's fees and the costs of this action, pursuant to

42 U.S.C. § 1988 and Fed. R. Civ. P. 23;

Respectfully submitted by:

/s Elmer Robert Keach, III

Dated: July 21, 2017

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Elmer Robert Keach, III, Esquire Maria K. Dyson, Esquire

LAW OFFICES OF ELMER ROBERT

KEACH, III, PC

One Pine West Plaza, Suite 109

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Albany, NY 12205
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ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF AND PROPOSED CLASS

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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	he Judicial Conference of th TIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF TE	e United States in September 1 HIS FORM.)	974, is required for the use of	the Clerk of Court for the	
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFENDANTS	DEFENDANTS		
Brad Nourse			County of Jefferso	County of Jefferson		
(b) County of Residence of (E.)  (c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Zelmer Robert Keach, III, Keach, III, PC, One Pine 518.434.1718	XCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CA Address, and Telephone Numbe Maria Dyson, Law Offi	r) ices of Elmer Robert		THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.  Attorneys (If Known)		
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (D) (W)	IIII	CITIZENCHID OF D	DINCIDAL DADTIES	VIII O D A DI A	
□ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	■ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)		CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff (For Diversity Cases Only) and One Box for Defendant)  PTF DEF Citizen of This State			
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)		Citizen of Another State			
			Citizen or Subject of a 3 3 Foreign Nation 6 6 6 Foreign Country			
IV. NATURE OF SUIT		orts	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	Click here for: Nature of BANKRUPTCY	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 & Slander 330 Federal Employers' Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury 360 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice  CIVIL RIGHTS  X 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  368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability  PERSONAL PROPERTY  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	□ 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 □ 690 Other □ 710 Fair Labor Standards Act □ 720 Labor/Management Relations □ 740 Railway Labor Act □ 751 Family and Medical Leave Act □ 790 Other Labor Litigation □ 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act ■ IMMIGRATION □ 462 Naturalization Application □ 465 Other Immigration Actions	□ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 □ 423 Withdrawal	□ 375 False Claims Act □ 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) □ 400 State Reapportionment □ 410 Antitrust □ 430 Banks and Banking □ 450 Commerce □ 460 Deportation □ 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations □ 480 Consumer Credit □ 490 Cable/Sat TV □ 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange □ 890 Other Statutory Actions □ 891 Agricultural Acts □ 893 Environmental Matters □ 895 Freedom of Information Act □ 896 Arbitration □ 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision □ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes	
V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)  X 1 Original Proceeding State Court 3 Remanded from Appellate Court 4 Reinstated or Reopened 5 Transferred from Another District (specify) 5 Transfer 5 Transfer 5 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer 5 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File  Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):  VII. CALUSE OF ACTION 42 USC Sec. 1983						
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION    42 USC Sec. 1965   Brief description of cause:						
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT: DEMAND \$ CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P. JURY DEMAND: X Yes \(\sigma\) No						
VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY  (See instructions): JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER						
DATE 07/21/2017	SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD /s Elmer Robert Keach, III					
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY  RECEIPT # AM	MOUNT \$400.00	APPLYING IFP	JUDGE	BKS MAG. JUD	GE DJS	

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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.

# **ClassAction.org**

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Strip Searches at Issue in Class Action Filed Against Jefferson County, NY</u>