UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN MILWAUKEE DIVISION

GARY VALENTINE, Individually and on Behalf) Case No.: 18-cv-148
of All Others Similarly Situated,	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
Plaintiffs,)
vs.	,)
	Jury Trial Demanded
UNIVERSAL FIDELITY LIMITED	
PARTNERSHIP and JOHN LEE JACKSON,))
Defendants.)

INTRODUCTION

1. This class action seeks redress for collection practices that violate the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 *et seq*. (the "FDCPA") and the Wisconsin Consumer Act, chs. 421-427, Wis. Stats. (the "WCA").

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. The court has jurisdiction to grant the relief sought by the Plaintiff pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1337, and 1367. Venue in this District is proper in that Defendant directed its collection efforts into the District.

PARTIES

- 3. Plaintiff Gary Valentine is an individual who resides in the Eastern District of Wisconsin (Milwaukee County).
- 4. Plaintiff is a "consumer" as defined in the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3), in that Defendant sought to collect from her a debt allegedly incurred for personal, family or household purposes.
- 5. Plaintiff is also a "customer" as defined in the WCA, Wis. Stat. § 421.301(17), in that the alleged debt allegedly arose from a consumer transaction that included an agreement to defer payment.

- 6. Defendant Universal Fidelity Limited Partnership ("UFLP") is a foreign corporation with its principal place of business located at 900 Threadneedle Ste 600, Houston, Texas 77079.
- 7. UFLP is engaged in the business of a collection agency, using the mails and telephone to collect consumer debts originally owed to others.
- 8. UFLP is engaged in the business of collecting debts owed to others and incurred for personal, family or household purposes. UFLP is a debt collector as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692a and Wis. Stat. § 427.103(3).
- 9. Defendant John Lee Jackson ("JLJ") is an in-house attorney and employee of UNFLP.
- 10. JLJ is engaged in the business of a debt collector, using the mails and telephone to collect consumer debts originally owed to others.
- 11. JLJ is engaged in the business of collecting debts owed to others and incurred for personal, family, or household purposes. JLJ is a debt collector as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692a and Wis. Stat. § 427.103(3).

FACTS

- 12. On or about March 20, 2017, JLJ and UFLP mailed a debt collection letter to Plaintiff regarding an alleged debt, allegedly owed to: "The Hamilton Collection" ("Hamilton"). A copy of this letter is attached to this complaint as Exhibit A.
- 13. The alleged debt referred to in <u>Exhibit A</u> was allegedly incurred for the purchase of home goods used for personal, family, or household purposes.
- 14. <u>Exhibit A</u> was the first letter that UFLP and JLJ sent to Plaintiff regarding the alleged debt referenced in Exhibit A.

- 15. Upon information and belief, <u>Exhibit A</u> is a form letter, generated by computer, and with the information specific to Plaintiff inserted by computer.
- 16. Upon information and belief, <u>Exhibit A</u> is a form, initial communication, debt collection letter used by UFLP and JLJ to attempt to collect alleged debts.
 - 17. <u>Exhibit A</u> is printed on the following letterhead:

John Lee Jackson
IN HOUSE CORPORATE ATTORNEY
FOR UNIVERSAL FIDELITY LP
900 Threadneedle Dr. Suite 600 Houston, TX. 77079

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

03/20/2017

Mon - Tue 9:00am - 8:00pm EST / 8:00am - 7:00pm CST 9:00am - 6:30pm EST / 8:00am - 5:30pm CST 9:00am - 6:00pm EST / 8:00am - 5:00pm CST 9:00am - 1:00pm EST / 8:00am - 12:00pm CST SE HABLA ESPANOL

Exhibit A.

18. <u>Exhibit A</u> contains the following:

lear GARY VALENTINE.

serve as an in-House Attorney and I am an employee of Universal Fidelity, LP. One of ty responsibilities is to advise them of corporate law and therefore advise them on legal natters. This letter is being sent to you because I am involved in the collection strategy of the outstanding amounts owed to their client. You will not by sued by Universal Fidelity LP r by me; this is just a collection letter to request you to pay this account owed to The Lamistan Collection.

Exhibit A.

19. Exhibit A also contains the following:

<u>o not consider this letter a notification of intent to sue</u>; since I do not have the legal uthority to sue and <u>Universal Fidelity LP will not sue you</u>. This is a request for payment nly. I have not, nor will I, review the detail of your account status.

Exhibit A.

20. Exhibit A also contains the following:

UNLESS YOU NOTIFY UNIVERSAL FIDELITY LP, WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER RECEIVING YOUR INITIAL NOTICE THAT YOU DISPUTE THE VALIDITY OF THIS DEBT OR ANY PORTION THEREOF, UNIVERSAL FIDELITY LP WILL ASSUME THIS DEBT IS VALID. IF YOU NOTIFY UNIVERSAL FIDELITY LP IN WRITING WITHIN 30 DAYS FROM RECEIVING YOUR INITIAL NOTICE, UNIVERSAL FIDELITY LP WILL OBTAIN VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT OR OBTAIN A COPY OF A JUDGEMENT AND MAIL YOU A COPY OF SUCH JUDGEMENT OR VERIFICATION. IF YOU MAKE A REQUEST TO UNIVERSAL FIDELITY LP IN WRITING WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER RECEIVING YOUR INITIAL NOTICE, UNIVERSAL FIDELITY LP WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR, IF DIFFERENT FROM THE CURRENT CREDITOR.

Exhibit A.

VIOLATIONS OF THE FDCPA AND THE WCA

21. The text in Exhibit A is inconsistent with 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a), which states:

(a) Notice of debt; contents

Within five days after the initial communication with a consumer in connection with the collection of any debt, a debt collector shall, unless the following information is contained in the initial communication or the consumer has paid the debt, send the consumer a written notice containing—

- (1) the amount of the debt;
- (2) the name of the creditor to whom the debt is owed;
- (3) a statement that unless the consumer, within thirty days after receipt of the notice, disputes the validity of the debt, or any portion thereof, the debt will be assumed to be valid by the debt collector;
- (4) a statement that if the consumer notifies the debt collector in writing within the thirty-day period that the debt, or any portion thereof, is disputed, the debt collector will obtain verification of the debt or a copy of a judgment against the consumer and a copy of such verification or judgment will be mailed to the consumer by the debt collector; and
- (5) a statement that, upon the consumer's written request within the thirty-day period, the debt collector will provide the consumer with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor.
- 22. Exhibit A states that the consumer has the right to seek validation of the debt "within 30 days after receiving **your initial notice** that you dispute the validity of this debt or any portion thereof"

Exhibit A.

- 23. Because UFLP states that the validation period begins to run upon receipt of "your initial notice," UFLP's notice would mislead the unsophisticated consumer to believe that the validation period began before receiving Exhibit A and had, potentially, already expired.
- 24. The unsophisticated consumer is not expected to keep every bill, account statement, and debt collection letter to confirm that she has not received a debt collection letter from a specific debt collector.
- 25. Moreover, the unsophisticated consumer could understand "your initial notice" to mean the initial validation notice, possibly provided by some other debt collector that had previously collected on the same debt. *See Sanchez v. Jackson*, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 160776, at *27 (N.D. Ill. Nov. 21, 2016) ("the notification provisions of § 1692g apply to the initial communication made in connection with the collection of a debt by *each* successive debt collector.").
- 26. The unsophisticated consumer, upon seeing the validation notice refer to a 30-day validation period that began to run with "your initial notice," would not understand the notice they were receiving to be the initial notice and would be confused and misled as to when the 30-day period actually began.
- 27. Failure to provide the correct validation notice pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a) is a *per se* violation of the FDCPA. No analysis of materiality of the error or omission is required. *Janetos v. Fulton Friedman & Gullace, LLP*, 825 F.3d 317, 324 (7th Cir. 2016) ("we have not extended the implicit materiality requirement of § 1692e to reach claims under § 1692g(a).").
- 28. For the purposes of Plaintiff's claims under 15 U.S.C. § 1692e, Defendants' misrepresentation is a material false statement.

- 29. Additionally, <u>Exhibit A</u> misleads the unsophisticated consumer to believe that the letter is being sent by an attorney.
- 30. The letterhead on <u>Exhibit A</u> expressly states that the letter is being sent by "John Lee Jackson In House Corporate Attorney For Universal Fidelity LP."
- 31. The body of Exhibit A expressly opens with "I serve as In-House Attorney and I am an employee of Universal Fidelity, LP. One of my responsibilities is to advise them of corporate law and therefore advise them on legal matters. This letter is being sent to you because I am involved in the collection strategy of the outstanding amounts owed to their client." Exhibit A (emphasis added).
- 32. The letter notes that neither JLJ nor UFLP will sue the debtor, adding "I have not, nor will I, review the detail of your account status." Exhibit A.
- 33. The statement that "I have not, nor will I, review your account status," is couched in a paragraph that addresses whether the alleged debtor would be sued and the unsophisticated consumer would understand the reference to "account status" as meaning that the attorney has not, and will not, review the account status only with respect to filing a lawsuit.
- 34. The unsophisticated consumer would understand that the account had been forwarded to UFLP's attorney when no attorney was involved in the collection of the account.
- 35. The letter states that it is from UFLP's "IN HOUSE CORPORATE ATTORNEY" but, upon information and belief, the telephone number provided in the letter does not connect with the caller with JLJ or UFLP's in-house legal office.
- 36. The letter states that it is from an attorney but, upon information and belief, the "OFFICE HOURS" listed in the letter reflects neither the hours JLJ works nor the hours UFLP's in-house legal office is staffed.

- 37. Upon information and belief, the "OFFICE HOURS" listed in the letter are standard office hours and UFLP's in-house attorneys are not available, and do not necessarily work, during those hours.
 - 38. Exhibit A falsely states that it is being sent by an attorney when it is not.
- 39. A court in this district held that a consumer who received a very similar letter from Defendants stated an FDCPA claim. *Green v. Universal Fidelity, LP*, No. 13-cv-1119-LA, slip op. at 7-8 (E.D. Wis. June 9, 2014).
 - 40. Plaintiff was confused by Exhibit A.
 - 41. The unsophisticated consumer would be confused by Exhibit A.
- 42. Plaintiff had to spend time and money investigating <u>Exhibit A</u>, and the consequences of any potential responses to <u>Exhibit A</u>.
- 43. Plaintiff had to take time to obtain and meet with counsel, including traveling to counsel's office by car and its related expenses, including but not limited to the cost of gasoline and mileage, to advise Plaintiff on the consequences of Exhibit A.

The FDCPA

44. The FDCPA creates substantive rights for consumers; violations cause injury to consumers, and such injuries are concrete and particularized. *Pogorzelski v. Patenaude & Felix APC*, No. 16-C-1330, 2017 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 89678 *9 (E.D. Wis. June 12, 2017) ("A plaintiff who receives misinformation from a debt collector has suffered the type of injury the FDCPA was intended to protect against."); *Spuhler v. State Collection Servs.*, No. 16-CV-1149, 2017 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 177631 (E.D. Wis. Oct. 26, 2017) ("As in Pogorzelski, the Spuhlers' allegations that the debt collection letters sent by State Collection contained false representations of the character, amount, or legal status of a debt in violation of their rights under the FDCPA sufficiently pleads a concrete injury-in-fact for purposes of standing."); *Bock v. Pressler &*

Pressler, LLP, No. 11-7593, 2017 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 81058 *21 (D.N.J. May 25, 2017) ("through [s]ection 1692e of the FDCPA, Congress established 'an enforceable right to truthful information concerning' debt collection practices, a decision that 'was undoubtedly influenced by congressional awareness that the intentional provision of misinformation' related to such practices, 'contribute[s] to the number of personal bankruptcies, to marital instability, to the loss of jobs, and to invasions of individual privacy,"); Quinn v. Specialized Loan Servicing, LLC, No. 16 C 2021, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 107299 *8-13 (N.D. Ill. Aug. 11, 2016) (rejecting challenge to Plaintiff's standing based upon alleged FDCPA statutory violation); Lane v. Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC, No. 15 C 10446, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 89258 *9-10 (N.D. Ill. July 11, 2016) ("When a federal statute is violated, and especially when Congress has created a cause of action for its violation, by definition Congress has created a legally protected interest that it deems important enough for a lawsuit."); Church v. Accretive Health, Inc., No. 15-15708, 2016 U.S. App. LEXIS 12414 *7-11 (11th Cir. July 6, 2016) (same); see also Mogg v. Jacobs, No. 15-CV-1142-JPG-DGW, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 33229, 2016 WL 1029396, at *5 (S.D. Ill. Mar. 15, 2016) ("Congress does have the power to enact statutes creating legal rights, the invasion of which creates standing, even though no injury would exist without the statute," (quoting Sterk v. Redbox Automated Retail, LLC, 770 F.3d 618, 623 (7th Cir. 2014)). For this reason, and to encourage consumers to bring FDCPA actions, Congress authorized an award of statutory damages for violations. 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a).

45. Moreover, Congress has explicitly described the FDCPA as regulating "abusive practices" in debt collection. 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692(a) – 1692(e). Any person who receives a debt collection letter containing a violation of the FDCPA is a victim of abusive practices. *See* 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692(e) ("It is the purpose of this subchapter to eliminate abusive debt collection practices by debt collectors, to insure that those debt collectors who refrain from using abusive

debt collection practices are not competitively disadvantaged, and to promote consistent State action to protect consumers against debt collection abuses").

- 46. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e generally prohibits "any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt."
- 47. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(3) specifically prohibits "the false representation or implication that any individual is an attorney or that any communication is from any attorney."
- 48. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(10) specifically prohibits the "use of any false representation or deceptive means to collect or attempt to collect any debt.
- 49. 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(b) specifically prohibits debt collectors from communicating during the 30-day validation period in ways that overshadow or are "inconsistent with the disclosure of the consumer's right to dispute the debt or request the name and address of the original creditor."

The Wisconsin Consumer Act

- 50. The Wisconsin Consumer Act ("WCA") was enacted to protect consumers against unfair, deceptive, and unconscionable business practices and to encourage development of fair and economically sound practices in consumer transactions. Wis. Stat. § 421.102(2).
- 51. The Wisconsin Supreme Court has favorably cited authority finding that the WCA "goes further to protect consumer interests than any other such legislation in the country," and is "probably the most sweeping consumer credit legislation yet enacted in any state." *Kett* v. *Community Credit Plan, Inc.*, 228 Wis. 2d 1, 18 n.15, 596 N.W.2d 786 (1999) (citations omitted).
- 52. To further these goals, the Act's protections must be "liberally construed and applied." Wis. Stat. § 421.102(1); see also § 425.301.

- 53. "The basic purpose of the remedies set forth in Chapter 425, Stats., is to induce compliance with the WCA and thereby promote its underlying objectives." *First Wisconsin Nat'l Bank v. Nicolaou*, 113 Wis. 2d 524, 533, 335 N.W.2d 390 (1983). Thus, private actions under the WCA are designed to both benefit consumers whose rights have been violated and also competitors of the violators, whose competitive advantage should not be diminished because of their compliance with the law.
- 54. To carry out this intent, the WCA provides Wisconsin consumers with an array of protections and legal remedies. The Act contains significant and sweeping restrictions on the activities of those attempting to collect debts. *See* Wis. Stats. § 427.104.
- 55. The Act limits the amounts and types of additional fees that may be charged to consumers in conjunction with transactions. Wis. Stats. § 422.202(1). The Act also provides injured consumers with causes of action for class-wide statutory and actual damages and injunctive remedies against defendants on behalf of all customers who suffer similar injuries. *See* Wis. Stats. §§ 426.110(1); § 426.110(4)(e). Finally, "a customer may not waive or agree to forego rights or benefits under [the Act]." Wis. Stat. § 421.106(1).
- 56. Consumers' WCA claims under Wis. Stat. § 427.104(1) are analyzed using the same methods as claims under the FDCPA. Indeed, the WCA itself requires that the court analyze the WCA "in accordance with the policies underlying a federal consumer credit protection act," including the FDCPA. Wis. Stat. § 421.102(1).
- 57. Further, the Wisconsin Supreme Court has held that WCA claims relating to debt collection are to be analyzed under the "unsophisticated consumer" standard. *Brunton v. Nuvell Credit Corp.*, 785 N.W.2d 302, 314-15. In *Brunton*, the Wisconsin Supreme Court explicitly

adopted and followed the "unsophisticated consumer" standard, citing and discussing *Gammon* v. *GC Servs. Ltd. P'ship*, 27 F.3d 1254, 1257 (7th Cir. 1994). *Id.*

58. Wis. Stat. § 427.104(1)(k) states that "a debt collector may not . . . use a communication which . . . gives the appearance of being authorized, issued or approved by . . . a government, government agency or attorney-at-law when it is not."

COUNT I – FDCPA

- 59. Plaintiff incorporates by reference as if fully set forth herein the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.
- 60. The language in <u>Exhibit A</u> is false, misleading and confusing to the unsophisticated consumer, in that the letter tells the consumer the validation period begins to run upon receipt of "your initial notice."
- 61. Defendant has failed to accurately provide the portion of the FDCPA validation notice required by 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a).
 - 62. Defendants violated 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692g(a), 1692g(b), 1692e, and 1692e(10).

COUNT II – FDCPA

- 63. Plaintiff incorporates by reference as if fully set forth herein the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.
- 64. The language in <u>Exhibit A</u> is false, misleading, and confusing to the unsophisticated consumer, in that <u>Exhibit A</u> misleads the unsophisticated consumer to believe that the letter was sent by an attorney and that an attorney was meaningfully involved in the collection of the alleged debt in question.
 - 65. Defendants violated 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692e(3), and 1692e(10).

COUNT III – WCA

- 66. Plaintiff incorporates by reference as if fully set forth herein the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.
- 67. The language in <u>Exhibit A</u> is false, misleading, and confusing to the unsophisticated consumer, in that <u>Exhibit A</u> misleads the unsophisticated consumer to believe that the letter was sent by an attorney and that an attorney was meaningfully involved in the collection of the alleged debt in question.
 - 68. Defendants violated Wis. Stat. § 427.104(1)(k).

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

- 69. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of a Class, consisting of (a) all natural persons in the State of Wisconsin (b) who were sent a collection letter in the form represented by Exhibit A to the complaint in this action (c) seeking to collect a debt for personal, family or household purposes, (d) between January 29, 2017 and January 29, 2018, inclusive, (e) that was not returned by the postal service.
- 70. The Class is so numerous that joinder is impracticable. On information and belief, there are more than 50 members of the Class.
- 71. There are questions of law and fact common to the members of the class, which common questions predominate over any questions that affect only individual class members. The predominant common question is whether the Defendant complied with the FDCPA and the WCA.
- 72. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Class members. All are based on the same factual and legal theories.

- 73. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent the interests of the Class members. Plaintiff has retained counsel experienced in consumer credit and debt collection abuse cases.
- 74. A class action is superior to other alternative methods of adjudicating this dispute. Individual cases are not economically feasible.

JURY DEMAND

75. Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests that the Court enter judgment in favor of Plaintiff and the Class and against Defendant for:

- (a) actual damages;
- (b) statutory damages;
- (c) attorneys' fees, litigation expenses and costs of suit; and
- (d) such other or further relief as the Court deems proper.

Dated: January 29, 2018

ADEMI & O'REILLY, LLP

By: /s/ Mark A. Eldridge
John D. Blythin (SBN 1046105)
Mark A. Eldridge (SBN 1089944)
Jesse Fruchter (SBN 1097673)
Ben Slatky (SBN 1106892)
3620 East Layton Avenue
Cudahy, WI 53110
(414) 482-8000
(414) 482-8001 (fax)
jblythin@ademilaw.com
meldridge@ademilaw.com
jfruchter@ademilaw.com
bslatky@ademilaw.com

EXHIBIT A

John Lee Jackson IN HOUSE CORPORATE ATTORNEY FOR UNIVERSAL FIDELITY LP 900 Threadneedle Dr. Suite 600 Houston, TX. 77079

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



03/20/2017

OFFICE HOURS:

Mon - Tue 9:00am - 8:00pm EST / 8:00am - 7:00pm CST Wed - Thurs

9:00am - 6:30pm EST / 8:00am - 5:30pm CST Fri 9:00am - 6:00pm EST / 8:00am - 5:00pm CST

Sat

9:00am -1:00pm EST / 8:00am - 12:00pm CST

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Gary Valentine 2672 S. 15TH PL. MILWAUKEE, WI 53215-3316

ear GARY VALENTINE,

serve as an In-House Attorney and I am an employee of Universal Fidelity, LP. One of ny responsibilities is to advise them of corporate law and therefore advise them on legal natters. This letter is being sent to you because I am involved in the collection strategy of ne outstanding amounts owed to their client. You will not by sued by Universal Fidelity LP r by me; this is just a collection letter to request you to pay this account owed to ${\it The}$ lamilton Collection.

our records indicate that you are indebted to The Hamilton Gollection for an mount of \$48.97. Universal Fidelity LP offers convenient payment options to help ou satisfy this claim. I have conducted a cursory review and approved the release f these letters.

o not consider this letter a notification of intent to sue; since I do not have the legal uthority to sue and Universal Fidelity LP will not sue you. This is a request for payment nly. I have not, nor will I, review the detail of your account status.

incerely,

ACCOUNT SUMMARY Date: 03/20/2017 EDP Number: Product: SEMPER FI Purchased: 2016-08-05 Account No.: Balance Due: \$48,97

PAYMENT OPTIONS Scan this code with your smartphone to pay your bill online. Call Us: 281-647-4152 Mail your payment, made payable to UFLP, using the attached payment coupon and provided return envelope. Pay Securely Online at: www.payuflp.com

NOTE: Calls to or from Universal Fidelity LP will be monitored and recorded for quality assurance





NOTICE SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR IMPORTANT CONSUMER INFORMATION AND CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Calls to or from UFLP may be monitored or recorded for quality assurance. See reverse side for important

consumer information.

This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

This communication is from a debt collector.

LAND MAIL IN BETURN ENVELOPE PROVIDED TO ENSURE PROPER CREDIT TO YOUR ACCOUNT

. CHECKS MAY BE ELECTRO	NICALLY DEPOSITEDDETACH_PAYMENT COUPON
ACC	COUNT SUMMARY
TATEMENT DATE:	03/20/2017
EBTOR NAME:	GARY VALENTINE
E:	The Hamilton Collection
DP NUMBER	3461
ALANCE DUE:	\$48.97
ATE OF PAYMENT:	
ELL PHONE:	(
OME PHONE:	
Billing Phone Number:	

	IF PAYING BY CREDIT	CARD, FILL OUT BE	ELOW
ZIP CODE	V/SA □		DISCOVER
CC#			CCV# (on back of card)
SIGNATURE			EXP. DATE
Name as it app	pears on card	ACCOUNT#	
		9563	

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UNIVERSAL FIDELITY LP P. O. Box 941911 Houston, TX 77094-8911

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UNLESS YOU NOTIFY UNIVERSAL FIDELITY LP, WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER RECEIVING YOUR INITIAL NOTICE THAT YOU DISPUTE THE VALIDITY OF THIS DEBT OR ANY PORTION THEREOF, UNIVERSAL FIDELITY LP WILL ASSUME THIS DEBT IS VALID. IF YOU NOTIFY UNIVERSAL FIDELITY LP IN WRITING WITHIN 30 DAYS FROM RECEIVING YOUR INITIAL NOTICE, UNIVERSAL FIDELITY LP WILL OBTAIN VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT OR OBTAIN A COPY OF A JUDGEMENT AND MAIL YOU A COPY OF SUCH JUDGEMENT OR VERIFICATION. IF YOU MAKE A REQUEST TO UNIVERSAL FIDELITY LP IN WRITING WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER RECEIVING YOUR INITIAL NOTICE, UNIVERSAL FIDELITY LP WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR, IF DIFFERENT FROM THE CURRENT CREDITOR.

WE ARE REQUIRED UNDER STATE LAW TO NOTIFY CONSUMERS OF THE FOLLOWING RIGHTS. THIS NOTICE DOES NOT CONTAIN A COMPLETE LIST OF THE RIGHTS CONSUMERS HAVE UNDER STATE AND FEDERAL LAW.

CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS:

THE STATE ROSENTHAL FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT AND THE FEDERAL FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT REQUIRE THAT, EXCEPT UNDER UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES, COLLECTORS MAY NOT CONTACT YOU BEFORE 8 A.M. OR AFTER 8 P.M. THEY MAY NOT HARASS YOU BY USING THREATS OF VIOLENCE OR ARREST OR BY USING OBSCENE LANGUAGE. COLLECTORS MAY NOT USE FALSE OR MISLEADING STATEMENTS OR CALL YOU AT WORK IF THEY KNOW OR HAVE REASON TO KNOW THAT YOU MAY NOT RECEIVE PERSONAL CALLS AT WORK. FOR THE MOST PART COLLECTORS, MAY NOT TELL ANOTHER PERSON, OTHER THAN YOUR ATTORNEY OR SPOUSE, ABOUT THE DEBT. COLLECTORS MAY CONTACT ANOTHER PERSON TO CONFIRM YOUR LOCATION OR ENFORCE A JUDGMENT. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT DEBT COLLECTION ACTIVITIES, YOU MAY CONTACT THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION AT 1-877-FTC-HELP OR WWW.FTC.GOV.

COLORADO RESIDENTS:

ON BEHALF OF OUR FIRM AND OUR CLIENT WE ARE PROVIDING THE FOLLOWING NOTICE: A CONSUMER HAS THE RIGHT TO REQUEST THAT A DEBT COLLECTOR OR COLLECTION AGENCY CEASE FURTHER COMMUNICATION WITH THE CONSUMER. A WRITTEN REQUEST TO CEASE COMMUNICATION WILL NOT PROHIBIT THE DEBT COLLECTOR OR COLLECTION AGENCY FROM TAKING ANY OTHER ACTION AUTHORIZED BY LAW TO COLLECT THE DEBT. FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE COLORADO FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, SEE WWW.COAG.GOV/CAR. YOU MAY ALSO MAKE PAYMENTS IN PERSON TO OUR IN-STATE OFFICE INDICATED BELOW: IN-STATE OFFICE: 7200 S. ALTON WAY STE B180 CENTENNIAL, CO 80112; TELEPHONE: 303-309-3839

MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS:

IMPORTANT NOTICE - YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE A WRITTEN OR ORAL REQUEST THAT TELEPHONE CALLS REGARDING YOUR DEBT NOT BE MADE TO YOU AT YOUR PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT. ANY SUCH ORAL REQUEST WILL BE VALID FOR ONLY TEN DAYS UNLESS YOU PROVIDE WRITTEN CONFIRMATION OF THE REQUEST POSTMARKED OR DELIVERED WITHIN SEVEN DAYS OF SUCH REQUEST. YOU MAY TERMINATE THIS REQUEST BY WRITING TO THE DEBT COLLECTOR.

MINNESOTA RESIDENTS:

THIS COLLECTION AGENCY IS LICENSED BY THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

NORTH CAROLINA RESIDENTS:

THIS COLLECTION AGENCY IS LICENSED BY THE COMMISSION OF INSURANCE OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, LICENSE NUMBER #101881.

TENNESSEE RESIDENTS:

THIS COLLECTION AGENCY IS LICENSED BY THE COLLECTION SERVICES BOARD, STATE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE, 500 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY, 2nd Floor NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-1145.

NEW YORK

NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS LICENSE NUMBER 1447135.

Within 5 days afer the inital communication with a consumer in connection with the collection of any debt, a debt collector shall, unless the following information is contained in the initial communication or the consumer has paid the debt, provide the consumer clear and conspicuous written notification of the following:

Debt collectors, in accordance with the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq., are prohibited from engaging in abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection efforts, including but not limited to:

a) the use or threat of violence; b) the use of obscene or profane language; and c) repeated phone calls made with the intent to annoy, abuse, or harass.

For all Debts, The following notice:

"If a creditor or debt collector receives a money judgment against you in court, state and federal laws may prevent the following types of income from being taken to pay the debt:

1. Supplemental security income, (SSI); 2. Social security; 3. Public assistance (welfare); 4. Spousal support, maintenance (alimony) or child support; 5. Unemployment benefits; 6. Disability benefits; 7. Workers' compensation benefits; 8. Public or private pensions; 9. Veterans' benefits; 10. Federal student loans, federal student grants, and federal work study funds; and 11. Ninety percent of your wages or salary earned in the last sixty days."

DEBTOR INFORMATION				PAYMEN	T METHOD
STATEMENT DATE: 03/20/20	17 AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$			☐ CHECK [MONEY ORDER
DEBTOR: GARY VALENTINE	CELL PHONE: ()			
RE: The Hamilton Collection	HOME PHONE: ()	_		
EDP NUMBER: 346	51				
BALANCE DUE: \$48.97					
	CHANGE OF ADDRES		ase print below:		
Name:					
Address:					
City:		State:		Zip:	
Home Phone:	Work Phone:		Cell P	hone:	22: 45: 45: 45:
Email Address:					
Signature:	Case 2:18-cv-00148-DEJ	File	d 01/29/18	<u>Page 3 of</u> 3	Document 1-

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. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

Place an X in the appropriate Box:	Green Bay Division	Ŀ	Milwaukee Division	
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS		DEFENDANTS		
GARY VALENTIN	ΙE	UNIVERESA	L FIDELITY, L.P.,	et al.
(b) County of Residence of First L	Listed Plaintiff Milwaukee	County of Residence of	of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)	ONLY)
(EKCEI I III	o.s. TEARVIRT CASES)	NOTE: IN LANI	O CONDEMNATION CASES, US	
			INVOLVED.	
(c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, a		Attorneys (If Known)		
Ademi & O'Reilly, LLP, 3620 E. Lay (414) 482-8000-Telephone (414) 482				
II. BASIS OF JURISDICTIO	N (Place an "X" in One Box Only)	(For Diversity Cases Only)	RINCIPAL PARTIES	Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)
1 U.S. Government 2 3 F	Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)	<u>_ F</u>	PTF DEF 1 Incorporated or Pr of Business In This	PTF DEF incipal Place 4 4
2 U.S. Government 4 Defendant	Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Portion in Item III)	Citizen of Another State	2 Incorporated and F of Business In A	
	(Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)	Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	3 Foreign Nation	6 6 6
IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place a				
CONTRACT D 110 Incurance DEBS	ONAL INTERV. DEBSONAL INTERV	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
120 Marine	Marine Product iability Motor Vehicle Motor Vehicle Motor Vehicle Motor Personal Motor Personal Motor Personal Motor Personal Motor Personal Motor Vehicle Motor Vehicle Motor Vehicle Motor Product Liability Motor Personal Motor Vehicle Motor Vehic	□ 690 Other LABOR □ 710 Fair Labor Standards Act □ 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations □ 730 Labor/Mgmt.Reporting & Disclosure Act □ 740 Railway Labor Act □ 790 Other Labor Litigation □ 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act IMMIGRATION	422 Appeal 28 USC 158 423 Withdrawal	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 810 Selective Service 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410 890 Other Statutory Actions 891 Agricultural Acts 892 Economic Stabilization Act 893 Environmental Matters 894 Energy Allocation Act 895 Freedom of Information Act 900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
15 (rom 3 Remanded from .	Reopened anoth (speci		
	ief description of cause: plation of Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and	d Wisconsin Consumer Act		
	CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23	DEMAND \$	CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND:	if demanded in complaint: ☑ Yes ☐ No
VIII. RELATED CASE(S)	(See instructions): JUDGE		DOCKET NUMBER	_ _
DATE	SIGNATURE OF ATTO	ORNEY OF RECORD		
January 29, 2018 FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	/s/ Mark A. Eldrid	dge		

- ^{AMOUNT} Case 2:18-cv-00148-DEJ Filed 01/29/18 Page 1-of 2 Document 1-2

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.C.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; 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 the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerks in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.
- 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. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.

Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment. (7) Check this box for an appeal from a magistrate judge's decision.

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 dollar amount (in thousands of dollars) 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 Eastern District of Wisconsin

)
		<i>)</i>
GARY VAL	ENTINE	
Plaintifj		<i>)</i>)
v.		Civil Action No. 18-cv-148
)
UNIVERSAL FIDELITY LIMI JOHN LEE JA)))
Defendar	nt(s))
	SIIMMONS I	IN A CIVIL ACTION
To: (Defendant's name and address)	UNIVERSAL FIDELITY I c/o CORPORATION SER 8040 EXCELSIOR DR, ST MADISON, WI 53717	RVICE COMPANY
A lawsuit has been file	ed against you.	
the United States or a United 12(a)(2) or (3) – you must se	States agency, or an officerve on the plaintiff an ans	you (not counting the day you receive it) – or 60 days if you are er or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. wer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the n must be served on the plaintiff or the plaintiff's attorney, whose
If you fail to respond	judgment by default will	be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.
You also must file your answe	er or motion with the court.	
		STEPHEN C. DRIES, CLERK OF COURT
Date:		
		Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Civil Action No. 18-cv-148

PROOF OF SERVICE

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

□ I personally served the summons and the attached complaint on the individual at (place): □ I left the summons and the attached complaint at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with a person of suitable age and discretion who resides the on (date), and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or □ I served the summons and the attached complaint on (name of individual) who is designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of (name of organization) on (date); or □ I returned the summons unexecuted because; or □ Other (specify): My fees are \$ for travel and \$ for services, for a total of \$	ceived by me on (date)	·		
☐ I left the summons and the attached complaint at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with	☐ I personally served	the summons and the attached con	aplaint on the individual at (place):	
			On (date)	; or
on (date), and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or I served the summons and the attached complaint on (name of individual) who is designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of (name of organization) on (date); or I returned the summons unexecuted because; Other (specify):	☐ I left the summons	and the attached complaint at the i	ndividual's residence or usual place of	abode with
□ I served the summons and the attached complaint on (name of individual) who is designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of (name of organization) on (date) ; or □ I returned the summons unexecuted because ○ Other (specify): My fees are \$ for travel and \$ for services, for a total of \$, a ŗ	erson of suitable age and discretion wh	no resides th
who is designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of (name of organization) on (date) ; or I returned the summons unexecuted because Other (specify): My fees are \$ for travel and \$ for services, for a total of \$	on (date)	, and mailed a copy	to the individual's last known address;	or
on (date) ; or I returned the summons unexecuted because ; Other (specify): My fees are \$ for travel and \$ for services, for a total of \$ I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true. Server's signature	☐ I served the summo	ons and the attached complaint on (name of individual)	
☐ I returned the summons unexecuted because	who is designated by la	aw to accept service of process on l	ehalf of (name of organization)	
☐ I returned the summons unexecuted because				
Other (specify): My fees are \$ for travel and \$ for services, for a total of \$0.00 I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true. Server's signature			on (date)	; or
My fees are \$ for travel and \$ for services, for a total of \$ 0.00 I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true. Server's signature	☐ I returned the summ	nons unexecuted because		
I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true. Server's signature				
Server's signature				
Server's signature	Other (specify):			;
Server's signature	Other (specify):	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$;
Printed name and title	Other (specify):	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$;
Printed name and title	☐ Other (specify): My fees are \$ I declare under penalty	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$ _ rue.	;
	☐ Other (specify): My fees are \$ I declare under penalty	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$ _ rue.	;
	☐ Other (specify): My fees are \$ I declare under penalty	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$ _ rue. Server's signature	;
	☐ Other (specify): My fees are \$ I declare under penalty	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$ _ rue. Server's signature	;

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc.:

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the Eastern District of Wisconsin

)
)
GARY VALENTINE)
Plaintiff(s))
v.) Civil Action No. 18-cv148
)
UNIVERSAL FIDELITY LIMITED PARTNERSHIP, and JOHN LEE JACKSON)))
Defendant(s))
STIMMONS I	IN A CIVIL A CTION
	IN A CIVIL ACTION
To: (Defendant's name and address) JOHN LEE JACKSON 16325 WESTHEIMER RO. HOUSTON, TX 77082	AD
A lawsuit has been filed against you.	
the United States or a United States agency, or an office 12(a)(2) or (3) – you must serve on the plaintiff an ans	you (not counting the day you receive it) – or 60 days if you are er or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. wer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the n must be served on the plaintiff or the plaintiff's attorney, whose
If you fail to respond, judgment by default will	be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.
You also must file your answer or motion with the court.	
	STEPHEN C. DRIES, CLERK OF COURT
Date:	
	Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Civil Action No. 18-cv148

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☐ I left the summons and the attached complaint at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with	☐ I personally served	the summons and the attached con	aplaint on the individual at (place):	
			On (date)	; or
on (date), and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or I served the summons and the attached complaint on (name of individual) who is designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of (name of organization) on (date); or I returned the summons unexecuted because; Other (specify):	☐ I left the summons	and the attached complaint at the i	ndividual's residence or usual place of	abode with
□ I served the summons and the attached complaint on (name of individual) who is designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of (name of organization) on (date) ; or □ I returned the summons unexecuted because ○ Other (specify): My fees are \$ for travel and \$ for services, for a total of \$, a ŗ	erson of suitable age and discretion wh	no resides th
who is designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of (name of organization) on (date) ; or I returned the summons unexecuted because Other (specify): My fees are \$ for travel and \$ for services, for a total of \$	on (date)	, and mailed a copy	to the individual's last known address;	or
on (date) ; or I returned the summons unexecuted because ; Other (specify): My fees are \$ for travel and \$ for services, for a total of \$ I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true. Server's signature	☐ I served the summo	ons and the attached complaint on (name of individual)	
☐ I returned the summons unexecuted because	who is designated by la	aw to accept service of process on l	ehalf of (name of organization)	
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Other (specify): My fees are \$ for travel and \$ for services, for a total of \$0.00 I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true. Server's signature			on (date)	; or
My fees are \$ for travel and \$ for services, for a total of \$ 0.00 I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true. Server's signature	☐ I returned the summ	nons unexecuted because		
I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true. Server's signature				
Server's signature				
Server's signature	Other (specify):			;
Server's signature	Other (specify):	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$;
Printed name and title	Other (specify):	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$;
Printed name and title	☐ Other (specify): My fees are \$ I declare under penalty	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$ _ rue.	;
	☐ Other (specify): My fees are \$ I declare under penalty	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$ _ rue.	;
	☐ Other (specify): My fees are \$ I declare under penalty	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$ _ rue. Server's signature	;
	☐ Other (specify): My fees are \$ I declare under penalty	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$ _ rue. Server's signature	;

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc.:

Reset

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Universal Fidelity Limited Partnership</u>, <u>Lawyer Accused of FDCPA Violations</u>