Case 2:17-cv-05885 Document 1 Filed 10/06/17 Page 1 of 11 PageID #: 1

# BARSHAY SANDERS, PLLC

100 Garden City Plaza, Suite 500 Garden City, New York 11530 Tel: (516) 203-7600 Fax: (516) 706-5055 Email: ConsumerRights@BarshaySanders.com Attorneys for Plaintiff Our File No.: 112422

#### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Tanisha Whitley, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

Docket No:

# **CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Regional Adjustment Bureau, Inc.,

Defendant.

Tanisha Whitley, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated (hereinafter referred to as "*Plaintiff*"), by and through the undersigned counsel, complains, states and alleges against Regional Adjustment Bureau, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "*Defendant*"), as follows:

# **INTRODUCTION**

1. This action seeks to recover for violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, *et seq.* ("FDCPA").

# JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. This Court has federal subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d).

3. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred in this Judicial District.

4. At all relevant times, Defendant conducted business within the State of New York.

BARSHAY | SANDERS PLLC 100 GARDEN CTY PLAZA, SUITE 500 GARDEN CTY, NEW YORK 11530 Case 2:17-cv-05885 Document 1 Filed 10/06/17 Page 2 of 11 PageID #: 2

#### PARTIES

5. Plaintiff Tanisha Whitley is an individual who is a citizen of the State of New York residing in Suffolk County, New York.

6. Plaintiff is a "consumer" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).

7. On information and belief, Defendant Regional Adjustment Bureau, Inc., is a Tennessee Corporation with a principal place of business in Shelby County, Tennessee.

8. Defendant is regularly engaged, for profit, in the collection of debts allegedly owed by consumers.

9. Defendant is a "debt collector" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

## **ALLEGATIONS**

10. Defendant alleges Plaintiff owes a debt ("the Debt").

11. The Debt was primarily for personal, family or household purposes and is therefore a "debt" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5).

12. Sometime after the incurrence of the Debt, Plaintiff fell behind on payments owed.

13. Thereafter, at an exact time known only to Defendant, the Debt was assigned or otherwise transferred to Defendant for collection.

14. In its efforts to collect the debt, Defendant contacted Plaintiff by letter ("the Letter") dated October 5, 2016. ("<u>Exhibit 1.</u>")

15. The Letter was the initial communication Plaintiff received from Defendant.

16. The Letter is a "communication" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(2).

#### FIRST COUNT Violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692e

17. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the foregoing paragraphs as if fully restated herein.

18. The Debt was incurred on an account with American Honda Finance Corporation.

19. The Letter sets forth a balance "as of the date of this letter."

20. Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the account, American Honda Finance Corporation charged Plaintiff interest on any balance carried on the account.

21. Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the account, American Honda Finance

Corporation charged Plaintiff late fees on any payments due but not timely made by Plaintiff.

22. Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the account, American Honda Finance Corporation charged Plaintiff other fees on the account.

23. The right to collect from Plaintiff interest on any balance carried on the account was not waived by American Honda Finance Corporation.

24. The right to collect from Plaintiff late fees on any payments due but not timely made by Plaintiff was not waived by American Honda Finance Corporation.

25. The right to collect from Plaintiff other fees on the account was not waived by American Honda Finance Corporation.

26. The right to collect from Plaintiff interest on any balance carried on the account was not waived by any assignee or successor-in-interest.

27. The right to collect from Plaintiff late fees on any payments due but not timely made by Plaintiff was not waived by any assignee or successor-in-interest.

28. The right to collect from Plaintiff other fees on the account was not waived by any assignee or successor-in-interest.

29. Plaintiff was never informed by anyone that the terms and conditions of the account were changed.

30. Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the account, interest continued to accrue on any balance unpaid.

31. Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the account, late fees continued to accrue on any payments due but not timely made by Plaintiff.

32. Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the account, other fees continued to accrue on the account.

33. Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the account, American Honda Finance Corporation and any assignee or successor-in-interest had the legal right to collect from Plaintiff interest on any balance carried on the account.

34. Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the account, American Honda Finance Corporation and any assignee or successor-in-interest had the legal right to collect from Plaintiff late fees on any payments due but not timely made by Plaintiff.

35. Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the account, American Honda Finance Corporation and any assignee or successor-in-interest had the legal right to collect from Plaintiff

3

other fees on the account.

36. Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the account, the legal right of American Honda Finance Corporation and any assignee or successor-in-interest to collect from Plaintiff interest on any balance carried on the account is not waived by American Honda Finance Corporation or any assignee or successor-in-interest as a result of a failure by either American Honda Finance Corporation or any assignee or successor-in-interest at any point in time to attempt to collect from Plaintiff the aforementioned interest.

37. Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the account, the legal right of American Honda Finance Corporation and any assignee or successor-in-interest to collect from Plaintiff late fees on any payments due but not timely made by Plaintiff is not waived by American Honda Finance Corporation or any assignee or successor-in-interest as a result of a failure by either American Honda Finance Corporation or any assignee or successor-in-interest at any point in time to attempt to collect from Plaintiff the aforementioned late fees.

38. Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the account, the legal right of American Honda Finance Corporation and any assignee or successor-in-interest to collect from Plaintiff other fees on the account is not waived by American Honda Finance Corporation or any assignee or successor-in-interest as a result of a failure by either American Honda Finance Corporation or any assignee or successor-in-interest at any point in time to attempt to collect from Plaintiff the aforementioned other fees.

39. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e requires debt collectors, when they notify consumers of their account balance, to disclose that the balance may increase due to interest and fees.

40. The Letter failed to disclose that the balance stated may increase due to interest.

- 41. The Letter failed to disclose that the balance stated may increase due to late fees.
- 42. The Letter failed to disclose that the balance stated may increase due to other fees.
- 43. The Letter, because of the aforementioned failures, violates 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.

## SECOND COUNT Violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692e

44. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the foregoing paragraphs as if fully restated herein.

Case 2:17-cv-05885 Document 1 Filed 10/06/17 Page 5 of 11 PageID #: 5

45. Alternatively, even if Plaintiff's account was not subject to continued interest pursuant to the terms and conditions of the account – which it was – the account was subject to interest by operation of law.

46. Plaintiff's debt was incurred pursuant to a contract between Plaintiff and American Honda Finance Corporation.

47. N.Y.C.P.L.R. § 5001(a) provides that interest shall be recovered upon a sum awarded because of a breach a contract.

48. An award of interest under § 5001 is mandatory.

49. N.Y.C.P.L.R. § 5001(b) provides that interest shall be computed from the earliest ascertainable date the cause of action existed.

50. American Honda Finance Corporation and any assignee or successor-in-interest possessed a guaranteed right to interest on the Debt from, at the latest, October 5, 2016.

51. As such, the amount stated in the Letter was subject to the accrual of interest.

52. The Letter failed to disclose that the amount stated may increase due to interest.

53. The Letter, because of the aforementioned failure, violates 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.

#### THIRD COUNT Violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692g

54. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the foregoing paragraphs as if fully restated herein.

55. 15 U.S.C. § 1692g provides that within five days after the initial communication with a consumer in connection with the collection of any debt, a debt collector shall, unless the information is contained in the initial communication or the consumer has paid the debt, send the consumer a written notice containing certain enumerated information.

56. 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1) requires the written notice provide "the amount of the debt."

57. The written notice, to comply with 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1), must convey the amount of the debt clearly from the perspective of the least sophisticated consumer.

58. The written notice, to comply with 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1), must convey the amount of the debt accurately from the perspective of the least sophisticated consumer.

59. The written notice, to comply with 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1), must convey the amount of the debt without ambiguity from the perspective of the least sophisticated consumer.

60. The written notice, to comply with 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1), must state whether interest, late fees and/or other fees are accruing.

61. The written notice, to comply with 15 U.S.C. 1692g(a)(1), must allow the least sophisticated consumer to determine the minimum amount he or she owes at the time of the notice.

62. The written notice, to comply with 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1), must allow the least sophisticated consumer to determine what he or she will need to pay to resolve the debt at any given moment in the future.

63. The written notice, to comply with 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1), must contain an explanation, understandable by the least sophisticated consumer, of any fees or interest that may cause the balance to increase at any time in the future.

64. The failure to include the foregoing information renders an otherwise accurate statement of the "amount of the debt" violative of 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1).

65. The Letter fails to indicate the minimum amount Plaintiff owed at the time of the Letter.

66. The Letter fails to provide information that would allow the least sophisticated consumer to determine the minimum amount he or she owes at the time of the Letter.

67. The Letter fails to provide information that would allow Plaintiff to determine what Plaintiff will need to pay to resolve the debt at any given moment in the future.

68. The Letter fails to provide information that would allow the least sophisticated consumer to determine what he or she will need to pay to resolve the debt at any given moment in the future.

69. The Letter fails to provide information that would allow the least sophisticated consumer to determine the amount of interest owed.

70. For instance, the Letter fails to indicate the applicable interest rate.

71. For instance, the Letter fails to indicate the date of accrual of interest.

72. For instance, the Letter fails to indicate the amount of interest during any measurable period.

73. The Letter fails to provide information that would allow the least sophisticated consumer to determine the amount of late fees owed.

74. For instance, the Letter fails to indicate the amount of late fees.

#### Case 2:17-cv-05885 Document 1 Filed 10/06/17 Page 7 of 11 PageID #: 7

75. For instance, the Letter fails to indicate the date such fees will be added.

76. For instance, the Letter fails to indicate the amount of late fees during any measurable period.

77. The Letter fails to contain an explanation, understandable by the least sophisticated consumer, of any fees and interest that may cause the amount stated to increase.

78. The Letter fails to state whether interest, late fees and/or other fees are accruing.

79. The Letter fails to state what part of the amount stated is attributable to principal.

80. The Letter fails to state what part of the amount stated is attributable to interest.

81. The Letter fails to state what part of the amount stated is attributable to late fees.

82. The Letter fails to state what part of the amount stated is attributable to other fees.

83. The Letter, because of the aforementioned failures, would render the least sophisticated consumer unable to determine the minimum amount owed at the time of the Letter.

84. The Letter, because of the aforementioned failures, would render the least sophisticated consumer unable to determine what she will need to pay to resolve the debt at any given moment in the future.

85. The Letter, because of the aforementioned failures, would render the least sophisticated consumer unable to determine the amount of his or her debt.

86. The Letter, because of the aforementioned failures, would render the least sophisticated consumer unable to determine the amount of her debt because the consumer would not know whether interest and fees would continue to accrue, or whether the amount of the debt was static.

87. The Letter, because of the aforementioned failures, did not convey "the amount of the debt" clearly from the perspective of the least sophisticated consumer.

88. The Letter, because of the aforementioned failures, did not convey "the amount of the debt" accurately from the perspective of the least sophisticated consumer.

89. The Letter, because of the aforementioned failures, did not convey "the amount of the debt" without ambiguity from the perspective of the least sophisticated consumer.

90. The Letter, because of the aforementioned failures, renders the statement of the amount of the debt, even if otherwise accurate, violative of 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(1).

91. The Letter, because of the aforementioned failures, did not adequately set forth "the amount of the debt" as required by 15 U.S.C. § 1692g.

7

92. The Letter, because of the aforementioned failures, violates 15 U.S.C. § 1692g.

#### FOURTH COUNT Violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692e

93. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the foregoing paragraphs as if fully restated herein.

94. As previously set forth, the Letter sets forth an amount due "as of the date of this letter."

95. As previously set forth, Plaintiff was always charged interest on any balance carried on the account.

96. As previously set forth, Plaintiff was always charged late fees on any payments due but not timely made by Plaintiff.

97. As previously set forth, Plaintiff was never informed by anyone that the terms and conditions of the account were changed.

98. The Letter fails to disclose whether the amount stated may increase due to additional interest.

99. The Letter fails to disclose whether the amount stated may increase due to additional late fees.

100. The Letter fails to indicate whether the creditor will accept payment of the amount stated in full satisfaction of the debt if payment is made by a specified date.

101. A collection letter violates 15 U.S.C. § 1692e if it can reasonably be read by the least sophisticated consumer to have two or more meanings, one of which is inaccurate.

102. The Letter, because of the aforementioned failures, and because interest and late fees were always charged on the account and Plaintiff was never informed by anyone that interest and late fees would no longer be applied, and especially because of the use of the phrase "as of the date of this letter," can reasonably be read by the least sophisticated consumer to mean that interest was still accruing.

103. The Letter, because of the aforementioned failures, and because interest and late fees were always charged on the account and Plaintiff was never informed by anyone that interest and late fees would no longer be applied, and especially because of the use of the phrase "as of the date of this letter," can reasonably be read by the least sophisticated consumer to mean that

late fees were still accruing.

104. The Letter could also reasonably be read by the least sophisticated consumer to mean that interest was no longer accruing.

105. The Letter could also reasonably be read by the least sophisticated consumer to mean that late fees were no longer accruing.

106. The Letter could reasonably be read by the least sophisticated consumer to mean that the debt could be satisfied in full by payment of the amount stated.

107. The Letter could reasonably be read by the least sophisticated consumer to mean that the debt could be satisfied in full by payment of the amount stated at any time after receipt of the Letter.

108. The Letter could also reasonably be read by the least sophisticated consumer to mean that the amount stated was accurate only on the date of the Letter because of the continued accumulation of interest and/or late fees.

109. Because the Letter can reasonably be read by the least sophisticated consumer to have two or more meanings, one of which is inaccurate, as described, it is deceptive under 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.

110. For these reasons, Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.

# CLASS ALLEGATIONS

111. Plaintiff brings this action individually and as a class action on behalf of all persons similarly situated in the State of New York from whom Defendant attempted to collect a consumer debt using a letter substantially the same as the letter used herein, from one year before the date of this Complaint to the present.

112. This action seeks a finding that Defendant's conduct violates the FDCPA, and asks that the Court award damages as authorized by 15 U.S.C. § 1692k.

113. Defendant regularly engages in debt collection.

114. The Class consists of more than 35 persons from whom Defendant attempted to collect delinquent consumer debts using a letter substantially the same as the letter used herein.

115. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Class. Common questions of law or fact raised by this class action complaint affect all members of the Class and predominate over any individual issues. Common relief is therefore sought on behalf of all members of the Class.

This class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy.

116. The prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the Class would create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to the individual members of the Class, and a risk that any adjudications with respect to individual members of the Class would, as a practical matter, either be dispositive of the interests of other members of the Class not party to the adjudication, or substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their interests. Defendant has acted in a manner applicable to the Class as a whole such that declaratory relief is warranted.

117. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect and represent the interests of the Class. The management of the class action proposed is not extraordinarily difficult, and the factual and legal issues raised by this class action complaint will not require extended contact with the members of the Class, because Defendant's conduct was perpetrated on all members of the Class and will be established by common proof. Moreover, Plaintiff has retained counsel experienced in actions brought under consumer protection laws.

#### JURY DEMAND

118. Plaintiff hereby demands a trial of this action by jury.

# PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests judgment as follows:

a. Certify this action as a class action; and

b. Appoint Plaintiff as Class Representative of the Class, and Plaintiff's attorneys as Class Counsel; and

c. Find that Defendant's actions violate the FDCPA; and

d. Grant damages against Defendant pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k; and

e. Grant Plaintiff's attorneys' fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C.  $\$  1692k; and

f. Grant Plaintiff's costs; together with

Case 2:17-cv-05885 Document 1 Filed 10/06/17 Page 11 of 11 PageID #: 11

g. Such other relief that the Court determines is just and proper.

DATED: October 6, 2017

#### **BARSHAY SANDERS, PLLC**

By: <u>/s/ Craig B. Sanders</u> Craig B. Sanders, Esq. 100 Garden City Plaza, Suite 500 Garden City, New York 11530 Tel: (516) 203-7600 Fax: (516) 706-5055 csanders@barshaysanders.com *Attorneys for Plaintiff* Our File No.: 112422 Case 2:17-cv-05885 Document 1-1 Filed 10/06/17 Page 1 of 2 PageID #: 12 Si usted prefiere un representante español, llame al (866) 902-6876

ONRABI01 PO Box 1022 Wixom MI 48393-1022 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Toll Free (800)-829-7750

regional adjustment bureau A Total Receivable Management Company Local Residents (901) 388-7750

By PHONE

REGIONAL ADJUSTMENT BUREAU, INC. PO Box 34111 Memphis TN 38184-0111

# ւնելիչվունիշններիչընդներինիներչներիններին կնուրներ

TANISHA WHITLEY PO Box 2161 Riverhead NY 11901-0061

> Date: October 5, 2016 RAB #: 7353 Balance Due: **\$3567.28**

\*\*\*Detach Upper Portion and Return with Payment\*\*\* AMERICAN HONDA FINANCE CORPORATION

Client Name:

Client Account #:

RAB#:



Last Payment Date: 05/26/16

Our client has placed your delinquent account with this office for collection. As of the date of this letter, you owe \$3,567.28. For further information, write the undersigned or call (800)-829-7750.

The total amount of payments since the account was charged off is \$0.00.

Secure online access to your account placed with RAB for collection is now available. Online account access will allow you to view your balance, see your last payment amount and self-manage resolution of this debt.

Use the link below to go to the secure login screen where you can enter your personalized username and password. If you have not yet created your username login ID and password, click the New User link located on the login page and enter the information required to create your online account. Also, be sure to use your private access code provided here when managing your account. Your access code is: 0.464 Your RAB # is: 0.464

https://www.rabincweb.com/facsweb/weblogind.htm

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

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

New York City Dept of Consumer Affairs Permit No. 0988585.

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:

- (i) the use or threat of violence;
- (ii) the use of obscene or profane language; and
- (iii) repeated phone calls made with the intent to annoy, abuse, or harass.

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.

Federal and state laws prohibit certain methods of debt collection and require that we- treat you fairly. You can stop us from contacting you by writing a letter to us that tells us to stop. Sending such a letter does not make the debt go away if you owe it. Once we get the letter, we can't contact you again, except to say there won't be any more contact or to tell you that we plan to take a specific action.

If you have a complaint about the way we are collecting your debt, please write to our CONTACT CENTER, Regional Adjustment Bureau, Inc., 7130 Goodlett Farms Parkway, Suite 100 West, Memphis, TN 38016, email us at complaint@rabinc.com, visit our website at <u>www rabinc.com/contact.htm</u> or call us toll- free at 866-902-5867 between.9:00 AM and 5:00 PM Central-Time, Monday - Friday.

The Federal Trade Commission enforces the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, If you have a complaint about the way we are collecting your debt, please contact the FTC online at <u>www.ftc.gov</u>, by phone at 1-877- FTC-HELP; or by mail at 600 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC 20580. If you want information about your rights when you are contacted by a debt collector, please contact the FTC online at <u>www.ftc.gov</u>.

# JS 44 (Rev. 07/16) Case 2:17-cv-05885 Dequirent Ov Files 10/06/17 Page 1 of 2 PageID #: 14

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.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFENDAN	JTS			
TANISHA WHIT	REGIONAI	REGIONAL ADJUSTMENT BUREAU, INC.					
(b) County of Residence of First Listed PlaintiffSUFFOLK			County of Reside	ence of	First Listed Defendant	SHELBY	
	CEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CA	ASES)		(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)			
					EMNATION CASES, USE THE F LAND INVOLVED.	E LOCATION OF	
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)			Attorneys (If Kno	own)			
BARSHAY SAND	DERS, PLLC laza, Ste 500, Garden Ci	ity NY 11530					
(516) 203-7600	luzu, 5te 500, Guiden el	ay, 101 11550					
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an "X" in O	One Box Only)		FPR	INCIPAL PARTIES (	Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff	
O 1 U.S. Government	• 3 Federal Question		(For Diversity Cases Only)	PTF	DEF	and One Box for Defendant) <b>PIF DEF</b>	
Plaintiff	(U.S. Government)	Not a Party)	Citizen of This State	O 1	O 1 Incorporated or Pri of Business In T		
O 2 U.S. Government Defendant	O 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenshi	ip of Parties in Item III)	Citizen of Another State	O 2	O 2 Incorporated and F of Business In A	•	
			Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	O 3	O 3 Foreign Nation	O 6 O 6	
IV. NATURE OF SUIT				753 7			
CONTRACT O 110 Insurance	PERSONAL INJURY	DRTS PERSONAL INJURY	FORFEITURE/PENAL O 625 Drug Related Seizure	1	BANKRUPTCY	O 375 False Claims Act	
O 120 Marine	O 310 Airplane	O 365 Personal Injury -	Property 21 USC 881		0 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 0 423 Withdrawal	O 375 Faise Claims Act O 400 State Reapportionment	
O 130 Miller Act O 140 Negotiable Instrument	O 315 Airplane Product Liability	Product Liability O 367 Health Care/	O 690 Other		28 USC 157	O 410 Antitrust O 430 Banks and Banking	
O 150 Recovery of Overpayment &	-	Pharmaceutical			PROPERTY RIGHTS	O 450 Commerce	
Enforcement of Judgment	Slander	Personal Injury			0 820 Copyrights 0 830 Patent	O 460 Deportation	
O 151 Medicare Act O 152 Recovery of Defaulted	O 330 Federal Employers' Liability	Product Liability O 368 Asbestos Personal			0 840 Trademark	O 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations	
Student Loans	O 340 Marine	Injury Product	LABOR		COCIAL SECUDITY	•480 Consumer Credit	
(Excludes Veterans) O 153 Recovery of Overpayment	O 345 Marine Product Liability	Liability PERSONAL PROPERT	Y O 710 Fair Labor Standards	C	SOCIAL SECURITY D 861 HIA (1395ff)	O 490 Cable/Sat TV O 850 Securities/Commodities/	
of Veteran's Benefits	O 350 Motor Vehicle	O 370 Other Fraud	Act	C	0 862 Black Lung (923)	Exchange	
O 160 Stockholders' Suits O 190 Other Contract	O 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability	O 371 Truth in Lending O 380 Other Personal	O 720 Labor/Management Relations		0 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) 0 864 SSID Title XVI	O 890 Other Statutory Actions O 891 Agricultural Acts	
O 195 Contract Product Liability	O 360 Other Personal	Property Damage	O 740 Railway Labor Act		0 865 RSI (405(g))	O 893 Environmental Matters	
O 196 Franchise	Injury O 362 Personal Injury -	O 385 Property Damage Product Liability	O 751 Family and Medical Leave Act			O 895 Freedom of Information Act	
	Medical Malpractice	-	O 790 Other Labor Litigatio			O 896 Arbitration	
REAL PROPERTY           O 210 Land Condemnation	CIVIL RIGHTS O 440 Other Civil Rights	PRISONER PETITIONS Habeas Corpus:	O 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act		FEDERAL TAX SUITS 0 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff	O 899 Administrative Procedure	
O 220 Foreclosure	O 441 Voting	O 463 Alien Detainee	income security Act		or Defendant)	Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision	
O 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	O 442 Employment	O 510 Motions to Vacate		C	0 871 IRS—Third Party	O 950 Constitutionality of	
O 240 Torts to Land O 245 Tort Product Liability	O 443 Housing/ Accommodations	Sentence O 530 General			26 USC 7609	State Statutes	
O 290 All Other Real Property	O 445 Amer. w/Disabilities -	O 535 Death Penalty	IMMIGRATION				
	Employment O 446 Amer. w/Disabilities -	Other: O 540 Mandamus & Other	O 462 Naturalization Applic O 465 Other Immigration				
	Other	O 550 Civil Rights	Actions				
	O 448 Education	O 555 Prison Condition O 560 Civil Detainee					
		Conditions of					
		Confinement					
V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in • 1 Original O 2 Remo Proceeding Cou	oved from State O 3 Ren	11		sferred f other Dis ecify)	trict Litigation -	O 8 Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File	
	Cite the U.S. Civil St	atute under which you are			Transfer tes unless diversity): 15 USC		
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	N Brief description of cat	use: 15 USC §1692 Fa	ir Debt Collection Practice	es Act V	/iolation		
VII. REQUESTED IN	CHECK IF THIS I UNDER RULE 2	S A CLASS ACTION	DEMAND \$			y if demanded in complaint:	
COMPLAINT:		5,1.1			JURY DEMAND:	• Yes O No	
VIII. RELATED CASE IF ANY		(See Instructions) JUDGE			DOCKET NUMBER		
DATE		SIGNATURE OF ATTO					
October 6, 2017		/s Crai	g B. Sanders				
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY				<b>ar</b>			
RECEIPT #AM	IOUNT	APPLYING IFP	JUDO	GE	MAG. JUI	JGE	

#### Case 2:17-cv-05885 Document 1-2 Filed 10/06/17 Page 2 of 2 PageID #: 15 CERTIFICATION OF ARBITRATION ELIGIBILITY

Local Arbitration Rule 83.10 provides that with certain exceptions, actions seeking money damages only in an amount not in excess of \$150,000, exclusive of interest and costs, are eligible for compulsory arbitration. The amount of damages is presumed to be below the threshold amount unless a certification to the contrary is filed.

I, <u>Craig B. Sanders</u>, counsel for <u>Plaintiff</u>, do hereby certify that the above captioned civil action is ineligible for compulsory arbitration for the following reason(s):

- □ monetary damages sought are in excess of \$150,000, exclusive of interest and costs,
- $\Box$  the complaint seeks injunctive relief,
- $\Box$  the matter is otherwise ineligible for the following reason

#### **DISCLOSURE STATEMENT - FEDERAL RULES CIVIL PROCEDURE 7.1**

Identify any parent corporation and any publicly held corporation that owns 10% or more or its stocks:

#### **RELATED CASE STATEMENT (Section VIII on the Front of this Form)**

Please list all cases that are arguably related pursuant to Division of Business Rule 50.3.1 in Section VIII on the front of this form. Rule 50.3.1 (a) provides that "A civil case is "related" to another civil case for purposes of this guideline when, because of the similarity of facts and legal issues or because the cases arise from the same transactions or events, a substantial saving of judicial resources is likely to result from assigning both cases to the same judge and magistrate judge." Rule 50.3.1 (b) provides that "A civil case shall not be deemed "related" to another civil case merely because the civil case: (A) involves identical legal issues, or (B) involves the same parties." Rule 50.3.1 (c) further provides that "Presumptively, and subject to the power of a judge to determine otherwise pursuant to paragraph (d), civil cases shall not be deemed to be "related" unless both cases are still pending before the court."

#### NY-E DIVISION OF BUSINESS RULE 50.1(d)(2)

1. Is the civil action being filed in the Eastern District removed from a New York State Court located in Nassau or Suffolk County: <u>NO</u>

If you answered "no" above:
a) Did the events or omissions giving rise to the claim or claims, or a substantial part thereof, occur in Nassau or Suffolk County? <u>YES</u>

b) Did the events or omissions giving rise to the claim or claims, or a substantial part thereof, occur in the Eastern District? YES

If your answer to question 2 (b) is "No," does the defendant (or a majority of the defendants, if there is more than one) reside in Nassau or Suffolk County, or, in an interpleader action, does the claimant (or a majority of the claimants, if there is more than one) reside in Nassau or Suffolk County?

(Note: A corporation shall be considered a resident of the County in which it has the most significant contacts).

#### **BAR ADMISSION**

I am currently admitted in the Eastern District of New York and currently a member in good standing of the bar of this court.

Are you currently the subject of any disciplinary action (s) in this or any other state or federal court? Yes (If yes, please explain) No

I certify the accuracy of all information provided above.

Signature:	/s Craig B. Sanders	

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action

# **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

for the

## EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Tanisha Whitley, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated	) ) )
Plaintiff(s)	)
V.	) Civil Action No.
	)
Regional Adjustment Bureau, Inc.	)
Defendant(s)	)

## SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address) Regional Adjustment Bureau, Inc. C/O C T CORPORATION SYSTEM 111 EIGHTH AVENUE NEW YORK, NEW YORK, 10011

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) – or 60 days if you are the United States, or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) – you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

BARSHAY SANDERS PLLC 100 GARDEN CITY PLAZA, SUITE 500 GARDEN CITY, NY 11530

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.

CLERK OF COURT

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

# **ClassAction.org**

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>NY Woman Sues Regional Adjustment Bureau Over 'Misleading' Collection Letter</u>