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Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Proposed Class

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

ANGELA JOHNSON, on behalf of herself
and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

BENNETT LAW, A PROFESSIONAL
LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY d/b/a
BENNETT LAW,

Defendant.

CASE NO. '12CV3043 CAB RBB

CLASS ACTION

**Complaint for Damages and Injunctive
Relief Pursuant To The Telephone**

**Consumer Protection Act, 47 U.S.C §§ 227 et
seq.**

JURY DEMANDED

INTRODUCTION

1
2 1. Angela Johnson (“Plaintiff”) brings this Class Action Complaint for damages, injunctive
3 relief, and any other available legal or equitable remedies, resulting from the illegal actions of
4 Bennett Law, A Professional Limited Liability Company d/b/a Bennett Law (“Defendant”), in
5 negligently, and/or willfully contacting Plaintiff through telephone calls on Plaintiff’s cellular
6 telephone, in violation of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. § 227 et seq.,
7 (“TCPA”), thereby invading Plaintiff’s privacy. Plaintiff alleges as follows upon personal
8 knowledge as to her own acts and experiences, and, as to all other matters, upon information and
9 belief, including investigation conducted by her attorneys.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

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11 2. Jurisdiction is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2) because Plaintiff seeks up to \$1,500 in
12 damages for each call in violation of the TCPA, which, when aggregated among a proposed class
13 number in the tens of thousands, exceeds the \$5,000,000 threshold for federal court jurisdiction.
14 Further, Plaintiff alleges a national class, which will result in at least one class member belonging
15 to a different state than that of Defendant, providing jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. Section
16 1332(d)(2)(A). Therefore, both elements of diversity jurisdiction under the Class Action
17 Fairness Act of 2005 (“CAFA”) are present, and this Court has jurisdiction.

18 3. Venue is proper in the United States District Court for the Southern District of California
19 pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1391(b) and 1441(a) because Defendant, a Utah corporation, is, and at all
20 times herein mentioned was, doing business in the County of San Diego, State of California.

PARTIES

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22 4. Plaintiff is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a citizen and resident of the State of
23 South Carolina. Plaintiff is, and at all times mentioned herein was a, “person” as defined by 47
24 U.S.C. § 153 (32).

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1 5. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendant is, and at all times
2 mentioned herein was, a professional limited liability company. All of its members are believed
3 to be citizens of the State of Utah with its principal place of business at Suite 200, 10542 South
4 Jordan Gateway, South Jordan, Utah 84095.

5 6. Defendant is therefore a citizen of Utah for diversity purposes. Defendant is, and at all
6 times mentioned herein was, a corporation and a “person,” as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153 (32).
7 Defendant provides debt collection services and collects on those debts through the use of
8 telephone calls. Plaintiff alleges that at all times relevant herein Defendant conducted business
9 in the State of California and in County of San Diego, and within this judicial district.

10 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

11 7. At all times relevant, Plaintiff was a citizen of the State of South Carolina. Plaintiff is,
12 and at all times mentioned herein was, a “person” as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153 (32).

13 8. Defendant is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a corporation and a “person,” as
14 defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153 (32).

15 9. At all times relevant Defendant conducted business in the State of California and in the
16 County of San Diego, within this judicial district.

17 10. Plaintiff’s husband Michael Jones signed a contract with Home Depot Home Services for
18 Home Depot Home Services to perform work on his home on or about September 27, 2011. In
19 that application, Plaintiff’s husband Michael Jones provided his cell phone number.

20 11. On or about September 2012, Plaintiff began receiving a number of unsolicited phone
21 calls to her cellular telephone number regarding her husband’s alleged debt to Home Depot
22 Home Services from Defendant. Plaintiff has received approximately two phone calls to her cell
23 phone per day, from September 2012 to the present, from Defendant, leaving messages similar or
24 identical to the following:

25 This is not a telemarketing call. Please contact Bennett Law concerning an important
26 business matter at 1-877-749-2590. We have representatives available to help you

1 between the hours of 7 AM and 8 PM Mountain Standard Time Monday through Friday.

2 You may also reach us on Saturday between the hours of 7 AM and 12 PM Mountain
3 Standard Time.

4 12. Defendant used an automatic telephone dialing system or an artificial or pre-recorded
5 voice message system, which had the capacity to produce or store and dial numbers randomly or
6 sequentially, to place telephone calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone.

7 13. The telephone number that the Defendant, or its agents, called was assigned to a cellular
8 telephone service for which Plaintiff incurred a charge for incoming calls or text messages
9 pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227 (b)(1).

10 14. None of Defendant's telephone calls placed to Plaintiff were for emergency purposes as
11 defined by 47 U.S.C. § 227 (b)(1)(A)(i).

12 15. Plaintiff did not provide Defendant or its agents prior express consent to receive
13 unsolicited phone calls pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227 (b)(1)(A).

14 16. These phone calls by Defendant or its agents therefore violated 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1).

15 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

16 17. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of herself and on behalf of and all others similarly
17 situated ("the Class").

18 18. Plaintiff represents, and is a member of the Class, consisting of all persons within the
19 United States who received any unsolicited phone calls from Defendant or their agents on their
20 paging service, cellular phone service, mobile radio service, radio common carrier service, or
21 other service for which they were charged for the call, through the use of any automatic
22 telephone dialing system as set forth in 47 U.S.C. Section 227(B)(1)(A)(3) or artificial or
23 prerecorded voice, which phone calls by Defendant or its agents were not made for emergency
24 purposes or with the recipient's prior express consent, within the four years prior to the filing of
25 this Complaint.

26 19. Defendant and its employees or agents are excluded from the Class. Plaintiff does not
27

1 know the number of members in the Class, but believes the Class members number in the
2 hundreds of thousands, if not more. Thus, this matter should be certified as a Class action to
3 assist in the expeditious litigation of this matter.

4 20. Plaintiff and members of the Class were harmed by the acts of Defendant in at least the
5 following ways: Defendant, either directly or through its agents, illegally contacted Plaintiff and
6 the Class members via their cellular telephones by using unsolicited telephone messages,
7 thereby causing Plaintiff and the Class members to incur certain cellular telephone charges or
8 reduce cellular telephone time for which Plaintiff and the Class members previously paid, and
9 invading the privacy of said Plaintiff and the Class members. Plaintiff and the Class members
10 were damaged thereby.

11 21. This suit seeks only damages and injunctive relief for recovery of economic injury on
12 behalf of the Class and it expressly is not intended to request any recovery for personal injury and
13 claims related thereto. Plaintiff reserves the right to expand the Class definition to seek recovery
14 on behalf of additional persons as warranted as facts are learned in further investigation and
15 discovery.

16 22. The joinder of the Class members is impractical and the disposition of their claims in the
17 Class action will provide substantial benefits both to the parties and to the court. The Class can
18 be identified through Defendant's records or Defendant's agents' records.

19 23. There is a well-defined community of interest in the questions of law and fact involved
20 affecting the parties to be represented. The questions of law and fact to the Class predominate
21 over questions which may affect individual Class members, including the following:

22 a) Whether, within the four years prior to the filing of this Complaint, Defendant or
23 its agents placed telephone calls without the recipient's prior express consent (other than a
24 telephone call made for emergency purposes or made with the prior express consent of the called
25 party) to a Class member using any automatic telephone dialing to any telephone number
26 assigned to a cellular telephone service;

1 b) Whether Plaintiff and the Class members were damaged thereby, and the extent of
2 damages for such violation; and

3 c) Whether Defendant and its agents should be enjoined from engaging in such
4 conduct in the future.

5 24. As a person that received at least one unsolicited telephone call without Plaintiff's prior
6 express consent, Plaintiff is asserting claims that are typical of the Class. Plaintiff will fairly and
7 adequately represent and protect the interests of the Class in that Plaintiff has no interests
8 antagonistic to any member of the Class.

9 25. Plaintiff and the members of the Class have all suffered irreparable harm as a result of the
10 Defendant's unlawful and wrongful conduct. Absent a class action, the Class will continue to
11 face the potential for irreparable harm. In addition, these violations of law will be allowed to
12 proceed without remedy and Defendant will likely continue such illegal conduct. Because of the
13 size of the individual Class member's claims, few, if any, Class members could afford to seek
14 legal redress for the wrongs complained of herein.

15 26. Plaintiff has retained counsel experienced in handling class action claims and claims
16 involving violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act.

17 27. A class action is a superior method for the fair and efficient adjudication of this
18 controversy. Class-wide damages are essential to induce Defendant to comply with federal law.
19 The interest of Class members in individually controlling the prosecution of separate claims
20 against Defendant is small because the maximum statutory damages in an individual action for
21 violation of privacy are minimal. Management of these claims is likely to present significantly
22 fewer difficulties than those presented in many class claims.

23 28. Defendant has acted on grounds generally applicable to the Class, thereby making
24 appropriate final injunctive relief and corresponding declaratory relief with respect to the Class
25 as a whole.

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FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

NEGLIGENT VIOLATIONS OF THE TELEPHONE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

47 U.S.C. §§ 227 ET SEQ.

29. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.

30. The foregoing acts and omissions of Defendant and its agents constitute numerous and multiple negligent violations of the TCPA, including but not limited to each and every one of the above-cited provisions of 47 U.S.C. § 227 et seq.

31. As a result of Defendant's, and Defendant's agents', negligent violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227 et seq, Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to an award of \$500.00 in statutory damages, for each and every violation, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B).

32. Plaintiff and the Class are also entitled to and seek injunctive relief prohibiting such conduct in the future.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

**KNOWING AND/OR WILLFUL VIOLATIONS OF THE
TELEPHONE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT**

47 U.S.C. §§ 227 ET SEQ.

33. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the above paragraphs 1 through 32, inclusive, of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.

34. The foregoing acts and omissions of Defendant constitute numerous and multiple knowing and /or willful violations of the TCPA, including but not limited to each and every one of the above-cited provisions of 47 U.S.C. § 227 et seq.

35. As a result of Defendant's knowing and/or willful violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227 et seq., Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to treble damages, as provided by statute, up to \$1,500.00, for each and every violation, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B) and 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(C).

36. Plaintiff and the Class are also entitled to and seek injunctive relief prohibiting such

1 conduct in the future.

2 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

3 Wherefore, Plaintiff respectfully requests the Court grant Plaintiff and the Class members the
4 following relief against Defendant:

5 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION FOR NEGLIGENT VIOLATION OF**
6 **THE TCPA, 47 U.S.C. § 227 ET SEQ.**

7 37. As a result of Defendant's and Defendant's agents' negligent violations of 47 U.S.C. §
8 227(b)(1), Plaintiff seeks for herself and each Class member \$500.00 in statutory damages, for
9 each and every violation, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B).

10 38. Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(A), Plaintiff seeks injunctive relief prohibiting such
11 conduct in the future.

12 39. Any other relief the Court may deem just and proper.

13 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION FOR KNOWING AND/OR WILLFUL VIOLATION OF**
14 **THE TCPA, 47 U.S.C. § 227 ET SEQ.**

15 40. As a result of Defendant's willful and /or knowing violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1),
16 Plaintiff seeks for herself and each Class member treble damages, as provided by statute, up to
17 \$1,500.00 for each and every violation, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B) and 47 U.S.C. §
18 227(b)(3)(C).

19 41. Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(A), injunctive relief prohibiting such conduct in the
20 future.

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TRIAL BY JURY

42. Pursuant to the seventh amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America, Plaintiff is entitled to, and demands, a trial by jury.

Dated: December 21, 2012

/s/Ronald A. Marron

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