

SUMMONS
(Notice of Lawsuit)

PLAINTIFF(S):

DEFENDANT(S):

CARILYN ROUYER

COMPUCREDIT CORPORATION and
VS FINANCIAL, LLC d/b/a FIRST AMERICAN
CASH ADVANCE

PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY:

DEFENDANT'S ADDRESS:

Todd Turner
ARNOLD, BATSON, TURNER & TURNER, PA
501 CRITTENDEN STREET
P.O. BOX 480
ARKADELPHIA, AR 71923

National Registered Agents, Inc.
Registered Agent for Service of Process for
VS Financial of Arkansas, LLC
d/b/a First American Cash Advance
The Tower Building
323 Center Street, Suite 1202
Little Rock, AR 72201

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT(S):

1. You have been sued by the above-named Plaintiff(s).
2. You are directed to file a written response or other appropriate response to the attached complaint in the Randolph County Circuit Clerk's office within THIRTY (30) days (if you are **not** a resident of the State of Arkansas) and TWENTY (20) days (if you are a resident of the State of Arkansas, from the date of which you are served with this summons.
3. A copy of your written response must be delivered or mailed to the Plaintiff or his attorney and proof of such service must be filed in the Circuit Clerk's office with your answer.
4. Unless you file a written response to this complaint within the time set forth above, judgment by default will be entered against you, together with Court costs of this action.
5. You may seek the advice of an attorney on any matter connected with this suit or your answer. Such attorney should be consulted immediately so that a response may be filed within the time limit stated.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of said Court this day July 7, 2009

Debbie Wise
Randolph County Circuit Clerk

By: *Sherah Alexander* DEPUTY CLERK

ADDITIONAL NOTICES:

Complaint
STATE OF ARKANSAS, COUNTY OF _____

On this _____ day of _____, 200____, at _____ o'clock _____M., I have duly served the within summons by delivering a copy thereof (or stating the substance thereof), together with a copy of the complaint, to _____ such person being:

CHECK APPLICABLE SQUARE:

_____ the person named therein as defendant.
_____ a member of the defendant's family above 15 years of age at defendant's usual place of abode, namely _____ the duly designated agent for service of process for the defendant, namely _____

OTHER:

BY: _____ SHERIFF
Deputy Sheriff

State of Arkansas
Randolph County Circuit Court
Office of the Circuit Clerk
Randolph County Courthouse
Pocahontas, Arkansas

CASE NO. CV-2009-115

Court Division: CIVIL

SUMMONS
(Notice of Lawsuit)

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501 CRITTENDEN STREET
P.O. BOX 480
ARKADELPHIA, AR 71923

Compucredit Corporation
245 Perimeter Center Parkway, Suite 600
Atlanta, GA 30346

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Debbie Wise
Randolph County Circuit Clerk

By: *Richard Alexander* DEPUTY CLERK

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STATE OF ARKANSAS, COUNTY OF _____

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_____ a member of the defendant's family above 15 years of age at defendant's usual place of abode, namely _____ the duly designated agent for service of process for the defendant, namely _____

OTHER:

BY: _____, SHERIFF
Deputy Sheriff

State of Arkansas
Randolph County Circuit Court
Office of the Circuit Clerk
Randolph County Courthouse
Pocahontas, Arkansas

CASE NO. CV-2009- 115

Court Division: CIVIL

SUMMONS
(Notice of Lawsuit)

PLAINTIFF(S):

DEFENDANT(S):

CARILYN ROUYER

COMPUCREDIT CORPORATION and
VS FINANCIAL, LLC d/b/a FIRST AMERICAN
CASH ADVANCE

PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY:

DEFENDANT'S ADDRESS:

Todd Turner
ARNOLD, BATSON, TURNER & TURNER, PA
501 CRITTENDEN STREET
P.O. BOX 480
ARKADELPHIA, AR 71923

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Deborah...
Randolph County Circuit Clerk
By: *Richard Anderson* DEPUTY CLERK

ADDITIONAL NOTICES:

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STATE OF ARKANSAS, COUNTY OF _____

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_____ a member of the defendant's family above 15 years of age at defendant's usual place of abode, namely _____ the duly designated agent for service of process for the defendant, namely _____

OTHER:

BY: _____, SHERIFF
Deputy Sheriff

SUMMONS
(Notice of Lawsuit)

PLAINTIFF(S):

CARILYN ROUYER

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COMPUCREDIT CORPORATION and
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CASH ADVANCE

PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY:

Todd Turner
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National Registered Agents, Inc.
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Debbie Wiley
Randolph County Circuit Clerk

By: *March Alexander* DEPUTY CLERK

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OTHER:

BY: _____, SHERIFF
Deputy Sheriff

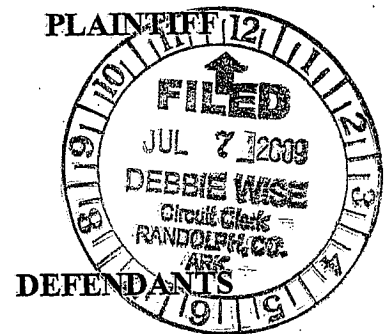
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF RANDOLPH COUNTY, ARKANSAS
CIVIL DIVISION

CARILYN ROUYER

v.

CASE NO. CV-2009-115

COMPUCREDIT CORPORATION
and VS OF ARKANSAS, LLC, d/b/a
FIRST AMERICAN CASH ADVANCE



COMPLAINT

Comes on now the Plaintiff, and for her Complaint hereby states as follows:

1. The Plaintiff is an adult resident of Arkansas. The Plaintiff seeks relief for damages pursuant to Article 19, Section 13, of the Arkansas Constitution and Arkansas Code Annotated § 4-88-101, *et seq.* Jurisdiction and venue are proper in this Court.
2. The Defendant, VS Financial of Arkansas, LLC, d/b/a First American Cash Advance (FACA), is a payday lender which does business at approximately twenty-seven branch locations in the State of Arkansas. VS Financial is licensed with the Arkansas State Board of Collection Agencies. VS Financial purports to engage in transactions pursuant to the Arkansas Check Cashers Act. Upon information and belief, VS Financial is owned and operated by CompuCredit Corporation. VS Financial of Arkansas, LLC is a Foreign Limited Liability Company with its principal place of business in a state other than Arkansas. VS Financial of Arkansas, LLC's Registered Agent is National Registered Agents, Inc., The Tower Building, 323 Center Street, STE 1202, Little Rock, AR 72201.
3. VS of Arkansas, LLC is a payday lender which does business at approximately twenty-seven branch locations in the State of Arkansas. Upon information and belief, VS of Arkansas is licensed with the Arkansas State Board of Collection Agencies. Upon information

and belief, VS of Arkansas is owned and operated by CompuCredit Corporation. VS of Arkansas, LLC is a Foreign Limited Liability Company with its principle place of business in a state other than Arkansas. VS of Arkansas, LLC's Registered Agent is National Registered Agents, Inc., The Tower Building, 323 Center Street, STE 1202, Little Rock, AR 72201.

4. Compucredit Corporation (hereinafter "CompuCredit") is a foreign corporation which maintains an office at 245 Perimeter Center Parkway, Suite 600, Atlanta, Georgia, 30346.

5. In 2004, a subsidiary of CompuCredit purchased substantially all of the assets of a national payday lender operating under the name of First American Cash Advance and began what CompuCredit refers to as its "Retail Micro-Loans segment."

6. In Arkansas, CompuCredit's Retail Micro-Loan segment is conducted through CompuCredit's subsidiaries, VS Financial of Arkansas, LLC and VS of Arkansas, LLC. CompuCredit refers to its Micro-Loan Segment operations in the State of Arkansas as its "direct lending model." These transactions occur at the Defendants' branch locations which operate under the name, First American Cash Advance.

7. VS Financial of Arkansas, LLC and VS of Arkansas, LLC do business in Arkansas under the name "First American Cash Advance." These Defendants, and their corporate parent, shall hereinafter be referred to as "FACA."

8. CompuCredit, VS Financial of Arkansas, LLC and VS of Arkansas, LLC all maintain the same foreign address of 245 Perimeter CTR Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30346.

9. Based on good faith knowledge and belief, VS Financial of Arkansas, LLC and VS of Arkansas, LLC have the same managers.

10. FACA makes payday loans to customers at its approximately 27 Arkansas branch locations.

11. In a typical transaction, customers present FACA with a personal check. FACA agrees to hold the check until some point in the future, usually based upon the date of the customer's next payday. In exchange for the check, the customer is presented with a money order from FACA. The customer must then cash the money order at the same FACA location for an additional "fee."

12. In the above-described transactions, the customers are charged a 10% per annum "finance charge" in connection with the issuance of the money order. However, the customers are also charged a 10% "Check Cashing" fee. This "fee" is 10% of the face value of the money order. Because this "fee" constitutes interest under Arkansas law, it must be added to the "finance charge" in order to calculate the total interest charged to the customer in connection with these transactions. When this check cashing "fee" is added to the finance charge, it results in an annual percentage rate well in excess of 100% per annum.

13. CompuCredit's subsidiaries, both operating under the name First American Cash Advance, charge the fee which is designated by the Defendants as "interest" and the fee which is imposed by the Defendants for "cashing" the money order or voucher which is allegedly produced during the transaction.

14. The net effect of these transactions is that the customer provides a personal check which represents a promise of future payment to FACA in exchange for a lesser amount of cash. The fees paid by the customers in connection with these transactions constitute interest under Arkansas law and the amount of cash that the customer leaves the store with represents the principal amount of the loan.

15. Since December 11, 2007, the maximum legal rate of interest that can be charged in Arkansas has been 9.75% or less. As such, even the 10% charge currently on the face of the

documents being used by the Defendants is illegal in the State of Arkansas. Therefore, even if this Court determines that the additional fees charged by Defendants do not constitute interest, any charge in excess of 9.75% since December 11, 2007, entitle Plaintiff to damages in the amount of twice the amount of fees paid plus a declaration that the entire transaction is void.

16. In addition, the Defendants miscalculate their own finance charge because they base the calculation on the principle amount of the loan plus the other fees they impose in the lending transactions. Therefore, based on good faith knowledge and belief, all of the Defendants' transactions for the period described herein were usurious under Arkansas law.

17. Since 1999, Check-cashing fees have been held to constitute "interest" under Arkansas law by numerous trial courts in Arkansas. Thus, the "fees" charged by FACA, which constitute interest under Arkansas law are excessively high and FACA's actions constitute usury.

18. In November, 2008, the Arkansas Supreme Court struck down the Arkansas Check Cashers Act and held that fees charged pursuant to the Act constitute usurious interest. McGhee v. Arkansas State Bd. Of Collection Agencies, 2008 Ark. LEXIS 745 (2008).

19. Plaintiff, Carilyn Rouyer, is an adult resident of Randolph County, Arkansas. Plaintiff entered into numerous transactions with First American Cash Advance at the Defendants' branch in Pocahontas, Randolph County, Arkansas. The Plaintiff paid Defendants' fees for loans that occurred throughout a two-year period.

20. The fees charged by the Defendants in each of these transactions exceeded 100% per annum. Copies of some of the documents related to the Plaintiff's transactions are attached as **Exhibit A**. The Plaintiff does not have copies of the alleged contracts, but will seek the same through discovery.

21. FACA charges fees which are not disclosed on the attached documents. These fees are allegedly for cashing a money order.

22. All of the fees charged by FACA over and above the principal amount of the cash advance constitute interest under Arkansas law.

23. Defendants CompuCredit and VS Financial of Arkansas, LLC claim that the "check-cashing fee" collected by VS of Arkansas, LLC. is authorized in the Arkansas Check Cashers Act. The Arkansas Supreme Court has ruled that such fees are a violation of Arkansas anti-usury laws and that the Check Cashers Act provides no defense to usury or DTPA claims such as the ones set forth herein. McGhee, supra; Arkansas State Board of Collection Agencies v. McGhee, 372 Ark. 136, ___ S.W.3d ___ (2008); Staton v. Arkansas State Board of Collection Agencies, 372 Ark. 387, ___ S.W.3d ___ (2008).

24. Under the Arkansas Check Casher's Act, a check casher must provide cash in exchange for cashing a check or providing a deferred presentment agreement to a customer. FACA does not provide cash to its customer but instead provides customers with a money order. This money order can only be cashed upon the payment of an additional fee to FACA.

25. The Defendants' customers are made to believe that they are required to cash the money order or voucher at the Defendants' offices.

26. The Defendants' employees in Arkansas face the risk of reprimand or termination if they allow customers to attempt to cash the money orders or vouchers elsewhere.

27. The Defendants advise their employees that the Defendants do not make any money unless customers cash the money orders or vouchers at the Defendants' offices.

28. The Defendants have used signs in their Arkansas stores that stated: "Walk in . . . write a check . . . walk out with your cash."

29. This sort of sign and marketing is used because it is contemplated that customers must leave the store with cash—not with the money order or voucher which is produced by the Defendants as a result of the initial “loan” transaction.

USURY

29. The transactions described herein constitute credit transactions.

30. The transactions between FACA and the Plaintiff were loans.

31. The fees charged by FACA are interest.

32. Article 19, § 13 of the Arkansas Constitution limits the amount of interest on consumer transactions in Arkansas.

33. The interest charged by FACA exceeds the allowable interest under the Arkansas Constitution.

34. The fees charged by FACA are usurious.

35. The Defendants directly or indirectly receive usurious interest from their customers through the transactions described in this complaint.

36. The Defendants’ documents were drafted to intentionally conceal the actual interest charged to borrowers.

37. Under Article 19, § 13, the transactions between FACA and the Plaintiff are void as to principal and interest.

38. Under Article 19, § 13, the Plaintiff is entitled to damages in the amount of equal to twice the amount of interest paid to FACA and a declaration that the loans are void as to principal and interest.

39. The Plaintiff is also entitled to judgment for reasonable attorney’s fees and costs.

DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICES ACT

39. The Defendants are persons governed by the Arkansas Deceptive Trade Practices Act (Ark. Code Ann. § 4-88-101, *et seq.* "DTPA").

40. Under the DTPA, persons who supervise, control and derive financial gain from any personal entity which violates the Act are also liable for damages.

41. CompuCredit is an entity which derives financial gain and which controls and supervises the actions of FACA through its wholly-owned subsidiaries, VS Financial of Arkansas, LLC and VS of Arkansas, LLC.

42. FACA's conduct as described herein is unfair and deceptive.

43. The Arkansas Supreme Court has specifically ruled that the type of lending practices utilized by FACA are, as a matter of law, a deceptive trade practice and a violation of the State Check-Cashing regulations. Staton v. Arkansas State Board of Collection Agencies, — S.W. 3d —, 372 Ark. 387 (2008). In March of 2008, the Arkansas Attorney General issued a letter ordering Arkansas payday lenders to cease and desist engaging in such practices.

44. All of the fees which FACA charges in the payday loan transactions described herein are interest under Arkansas law. This interest exceeds 100%.

45. The act of charging interest rates in excess of 100% is unconscionable as a matter of law in Arkansas.

46. At the time of the transactions described herein, the Defendants purported to comply with the Arkansas Check Cashers Act. However, the Defendants' conduct violates this Act by, *inter alia*, failing to provide cash in exchange for cashing a personal check.

47. The Plaintiff is entitled to damages for violations of the DTPA.

48. The Plaintiff is entitled to judgment against the Defendants for reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred herein.

JURY DEMAND

49. The Plaintiff reserves the right to amend this pleading as allowed by the Arkansas Rules of Civil Procedure and hereby demand a trial by jury.

50. First American's customer agreements are consumer contracts of adhesion. The agreements are one-sided, and they are drafted by FACA. The agreements also contain mandatory pre-dispute arbitration provisions which are invalid under Arkansas contract law. These arbitration provisions are illusory, lack consideration and lack mutuality of obligation which is a requirement for any contract under Arkansas law.

51. The reason that these arbitration provisions lack are illusory, lack consideration and lack mutuality of obligation is that FACA has reserved the right to sue its customers in small claims court. It is anticipated that FACA will argue that this reservation does not destroy mutuality because both parties are free to sue in small claims court. The Arkansas Supreme Court has previously found that this argument is "disingenuous" because taking into account their line of business, it is difficult to imagine what other causes of action against a borrower remain that the payday lender would be required to submit to arbitration. In other words, the Arkansas Supreme Court has recognized that payday lenders loan small amounts of money to their customers and, therefore, all of their collection claims are small enough to qualify for small claims court jurisdiction. Thus, the Court has held that the customer's promise to submit to arbitration is not enforceable, because the payday lender had the option of pursuing arbitration or bringing suit in court.

52. FACA's arbitration provisions are also unenforceable because they are substantively unconscionable. The terms of these provisions are commercially unreasonable and unfair. These provisions have the purpose and effect of attempting to allow FACA to violate clear Arkansas law free from concerns of class-wide liability and are drafted in such a way to eviscerate Arkansas' clear public policy against the charging of usurious rates of interest in this State. FACA knows that it can reap enormous profits through its operations in throughout Arkansas so long as it cannot be held liable on a class-wide basis. These arbitration provisions are grossly unfair, one-sided and unreasonably favorable to FACA, while precluding a meaningful choice for FACA's customers.

53. These arbitration provisions are also unenforceable because they are procedurally unconscionable. Obviously, FACA has far superior bargaining strength and sophistication or it would not be able to induce Plaintiff and others to pay six digit interest rates for small loans. Due to the financial strain on Plaintiff and the other members of the class, they are not able to accept or decline the terms demanded by FACA.

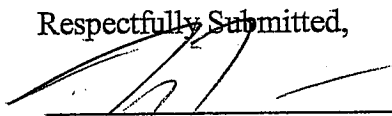
54. Moreover, FACA's attempt to prohibit joinder of claims and prohibit class actions is also unenforceable and unconscionable. FACA's aim by creating a one-sided mandatory arbitration clause in its adhesion contracts is to prevent the possibility of facing a class-wide claim in a court of law. The Plaintiff alleges that the members of the putative class will be deprived of a viable, legal remedy if forced to individually arbitrate their claims. Meanwhile, FACA reserves the right to sue their customers in a court of law, instead of imposing on themselves the remedy of arbitration.

55. Plaintiff reserves the right to fully brief these issues should FACA attempt to enforce these unenforceable arbitration provisions.

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff, prays for the relief set forth herein, for judgment equal to twice the amount of fees paid to the Defendants , for judgment against the Defendants for damages under the DTPA, for judgment for attorney's fees and costs incurred herein, for judgment for exemplary damages as may be determined by a jury, for total judgment for actual damages, exemplary damages, fees and costs in an amount less than \$75,000.00 and that the transactions between FACA and the Plaintiff be declared void pursuant to Arkansas Constitution, and for any and all other just and proper relief to which Plaintiff may be entitled.

Respectfully Submitted,

By



Todd Turner (ARBIN 92266)
Dan Turner (ARBIN 97179)
Arnold, Batson, Turner & Turner
501 Crittenden Street
P.O. Box 480
Arkadelphia, AR 71923
Phone: 870-246-9844
Fax: 870-246-9845
Todd@arnoldbatsonturner.com

and

Chris Averitt
Jay Scholtens
Scholtens & Averitt, PLC
113 East Jackson Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401
(870) 972-6900
ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF