IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

GAIL LAYMAN and JOSEPH LAYMAN,))	CIVIL ACTION NO.	2:22-cv-1605
Plaintiffs,))		
v.))		
DUNBAR TOWNSHIP, and NORTH FAYETTE)		
WATER AUTHORITY,)	JURY TRIAL DEMAI	NDED
Defendants.))	Electronically filed.	

COMPLAINT IN A CIVIL ACTION

COME NOW, the Plaintiffs, GAIL LAYMAN and JOSEPH LAYMAN, by and through their attorneys, LAW OFFICES OF JOEL SANSONE, JOEL S. SANSONE, ESQUIRE, MASSIMO A. TERZIGNI, ESQUIRE, and ELIZABETH A. TUTTLE, ESQUIRE, and hereby file this Complaint in a Civil Action as follows:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. This is an action for the redress of grievances and in vindication of civil rights guaranteed to the Plaintiffs under the Constitution of the United States and the laws enacted in furtherance thereof, including 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

2. This action is brought against the Defendants for violating Plaintiffs' rights under the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution and 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

3. Jurisdiction is founded on 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and § 1343(3). Supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' state law claims is also proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C.A. § 1367.

4. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C.A. § 1391(b). All claims set forth herein arose in the Western District of Pennsylvania.

PARTIES

 Plaintiff, Gail Layman, is an adult female individual who resides in Fayette County, Pennsylvania. Plaintiff Gail Layman is the wife of Plaintiff Joseph Layman.

Plaintiff, Joseph Layman, is an adult male individual who resides in Fayette County,
 Pennsylvania. Plaintiff Joseph Layman is the husband of Plaintiff Gail Layman.

7. Defendant, Dunbar Township ("Township"), is, and was, at all times relevant to this Complaint, a municipal corporation with an address of 128 Township Drive, Dunbar, Pennsylvania 15431.

8. Defendant, North Fayette County Municipal Authority ("Authority"), is, and was, at all times relevant to this Complaint, a Pennsylvania municipal corporation with an address of 1634 University Drive, P.O. Box 368, Dunbar, Pennsylvania 15431.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

9. Plaintiffs own a property in Defendant Township located at 3425 4th Street, Dunbar, Pennsylvania 15431 (hereinafter referred to as "Plaintiffs' property"), where they have resided together since 2014. Plaintiff Joseph Layman owned the property prior to that time.

10. Plaintiffs believe, and therefore aver, that Defendant Township holds a contract with Defendant Authority and that, under the contract, Defendant Authority is required to provide water to Defendant Township's residents including, but not limited to, the Plaintiffs, as well as to the fire hydrants in Defendant Township on behalf of Defendant Township.

11. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Defendants Township and Authority had a duty to the Plaintiffs to provide water to the Plaintiffs' property as well as to properly dispense water to and/or service, inspect and maintain the fire hydrants surrounding the Plaintiffs' property.

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12. For several years, multiple properties in Defendant Township, including, but not limited to, the Plaintiffs' property, have had dangerously low water pressure.

13. Other similarly situated properties in Defendant Township have not had, and do not have, low water pressure. No rational basis exists for this difference in treatment.

14. For several years, multiple fire hydrants maintained by Defendant Township and/or Authority and near properties in Defendant Township, including, but not limited to, the Plaintiffs' property, have had dangerously low water pressure.

15. Similarly situated properties in Defendant Township, however, are near fire hydrants maintained by Defendant Township and/or Authority that do not have low water pressure. No rational basis exists for this difference in treatment.

16. Defendants Township and Authority had actual knowledge of the significantly low water pressure of the properties and fire hydrants, as more fully described hereinbefore above, through various means including, but not limited to, reports by citizens and required inspections of fire hydrants.

17. For several years, residents of Defendant Township have raised concerns about the above-described low water pressure to Defendant Township's and/or Defendant Authority's leadership at township meetings.

18. Several firefighters have also raised concerns to Defendant Township and/or Defendant Authority about the above-described low water pressure of various fire hydrants in Defendant Township.

19. The installation of a pump system would provide stronger water pressure to the properties and fire hydrants experiencing low water pressure in Defendant Township, as more fully described hereinbefore above.

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20. Despite Defendants Township and Authority's actual knowledge of the low water pressure of several fire hydrants and properties, Defendants Township and/or Authority have chosen to not purchase a pump system to remedy the low water pressure.

21. On or about January 17, 2022, Plaintiffs' property caught fire.

22. Multiple fire departments responded to the fire at the Plaintiffs' property, including the Monarch Fire Department and Morrell Fire Department.

23. The fire hydrants surrounding the Plaintiffs' property, however, failed to distribute the proper amount of water and/or water pressure necessary to contain the fire.

24. Furthermore, at one point, water completely stopped being distributed onto the fire due to a lack of water and/or water pressure.

25. At or around that time, the fire was no longer able to be contained and overtook the entire house on the Plaintiffs' property.

26. At that time, multiple firefighters were inside of the Plaintiffs house and, as a result of the lack of water, multiple firefighters sustained injuries.

27. As a direct and proximate result of the lack of water pressure and/or water during the fire, as more fully described hereinbefore above, the firefighters were unable to contain the fire on the Plaintiffs' property.

28. As a direct and proximate result of the uncontained fire, Plaintiffs' house was completely destroyed.

29. Plaintiffs' personal property inside of the house at the time of the fire was destroyed by the fire.

30. Several of the Plaintiffs' pets were inside of the Plaintiffs' house at the time of the fire and were killed by the fire.

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31. Plaintiffs believe, and therefore aver, that prior to the stoppage of water onto the property, the firefighters were able to keep the fire on the Plaintiffs' property somewhat contained.

32. Furthermore, the lack of water pressure slowed the distribution of water onto the fire and directly affected the firefighters' ability to contain the fire on the Plaintiffs' property.

33. Prior to the fire on the Plaintiffs' property, Defendants had actual knowledge of the lack of water to and/or proper water pressure of the fire hydrants surrounding the Plaintiffs' property, including, but not limited to, through inspections and complaints by fire fighters and residents of the community.

34. Prior to the fire on the Plaintiffs' property, Defendants Township and/or Authority had actual knowledge that the purchase of a "pump system" would increase the amount of water distributed to and/or increase the water pressure of the fire hydrants surrounding the Plaintiffs' property.

35. Despite that actual knowledge, Defendants Township and/or Authority failed to take any action to resolve the serious lack of water and/or water pressure distributed to the fire hydrants surrounding Plaintiffs' property.

36. As a result of Defendants' inaction, as more fully described hereinbefore above, the fire hydrants were not properly maintained and did not distribute the proper amount of water and/or water pressure during the fire to contain the fire.

37. The failure of the Defendants, and each of them, to properly maintain the fire hydrants and dispense the proper amount of water and/or water pressure, created a reasonably foreseeable risk that a property in Defendant Township, including the Plaintiffs' property, could be destroyed by a fire that could have otherwise been controlled with properly working fire hydrants.

38. As a result of the actions and inactions of the Defendants, and each of them, the fire on the Plaintiffs' property was not contained and the Plaintiffs' house and belongings were destroyed.

COUNT I:

PLAINTIFFS v. DEFENDANTS

VIOLATION OF PLAINTIFFS' CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS, SPECIFICALLY, 42 U.S.C. §1983 AND THE FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

DUE PROCESS

39. Plaintiff incorporates by reference Paragraphs 1 through 38 as though fully set forth at length herein.

40. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Defendants Township and Authority had a duty to the Plaintiffs to provide water to Plaintiffs' property as well as to properly dispense water to and/or service, inspect and maintain the fire hydrants surrounding the Plaintiffs' property.

41. Defendants Township and Authority failed to take any action to provide adequate water pressure to the Plaintiffs' property and to the fire hydrants nears the Plaintiffs' property, as more fully described hereinbefore above.

42. In failing to act, as described hereinbefore above, Defendants exposed the Plaintiff to foreseeable harm, i.e. the Plaintiffs' property being destroyed by a fire, and thereby willfully disregarded the Plaintiffs' safety and property.

43. The failure to take any action, despite having actual knowledge of the low water pressure on the Plaintiffs' property and the dangerously low water pressure of the fire hydrants near the Plaintiff's property, created an opportunity for injury and harm to the Plaintiffs that would not

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have existed but for the Defendants' decision to not install a pump system, despite Defendants' actual knowledge of the inadequate water pressure.

44. Defendants' failure to take preventative action constitutes a willful disregard and a deliberate indifference to the rights of the Plaintiffs. In doing so, Defendants failed in their affirmative duty to the Plaintiffs.

45. As a direct and proximate result of the acts described hereinbefore above perpetrated by the Defendants, Plaintiff suffered the following injuries and damages:

- a. Plaintiffs' right under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution were violated;
- b. loss of Plaintiffs' house and property;
- c. loss of Plaintiffs' pets;
- d. extreme emotional distress and emotional suffering;
- e. economic damages related to any and all consequential costs, including, but not limited to, reasonable attorney's fees and costs of this action.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand compensatory general damages against the

Defendants, and each of them, in the amount proven at trial; compensatory special damages including, but not limited to, costs of suit; reasonable attorney's fees as permitted by law; preand post-judgment interest as permitted by law; and such other relief, including injunctive and/or declaratory relief, as this Court may deem proper.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

COUNT II:

PLAINTIFFS v. DEFENDANTS

VIOLATION OF PLAINTIFF'S CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS, SPECIFICALLY, 42 U.S.C. §1983 AND THE FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

EQUAL PROTECTION – CLASS OF ONE

46. Plaintiff incorporates by reference Paragraphs 1 through 45 as though fully set forth at length herein.

47. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Defendants Township and Authority had a duty to the Plaintiffs to provide water to the Plaintiffs' property as well as to properly dispense water to and/or service, inspect and maintain the fire hydrants surrounding the Plaintiffs' property.

48. As more fully described hereinbefore above, Plaintiffs' property and the fire hydrants surrounding the Plaintiffs' property had dangerously low water pressure.

49. Other similarly situated properties within Defendant Township and the fire hydrants surrounding those properties within Defendant Township have not had, and do not have, low water pressure.

50. No rational basis exists for this difference in treatment.

51. The Defendants' failure to take preventative action constitutes a willful disregard and a deliberate indifference to the rights of the Plaintiffs. In doing so, Defendants failed in their affirmative duty to the Plaintiffs.

52. As a direct and proximate result of the acts described hereinbefore above perpetrated by the Defendants, Plaintiff suffered the following injuries and damages:

a. Plaintiffs' right under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution were violated;

b. loss of Plaintiffs' house and property;

- c. loss of Plaintiffs' pets;
- d. extreme emotional distress and emotional suffering;
- e. economic damages related to any and all consequential costs, including, but not limited to, reasonable attorney's fees and costs of this action.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand compensatory general damages against the

Defendants, and each of them, in the amount proven at trial; compensatory special damages including, but not limited to, costs of suit; reasonable attorney's fees as permitted by law; preand post-judgment interest as permitted by law; and such other relief, including injunctive and/or declaratory relief, as this Court may deem proper.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

COUNT III:

PLAINTIFFS v. DEFENDANTS

VIOLATION OF THE PLAINTIFFS' PENSNYLVANIA COMMON LAW RIGHTS

NEGLIGENCE

53. Plaintiff incorporates by reference Paragraphs 1 through 52 as though fully set forth at length herein.

54. Plaintiff claims damages for the injuries set forth herein against the Defendant for violations of the Plaintiffs' rights under Pennsylvania Common Law.

55. The failure of the Defendants, and each of them, to properly maintain the fire hydrants and dispense the proper amount of water and/or water pressure, created a reasonably foreseeable risk that a surrounding property in Defendant Township, including the Plaintiffs' property, could be destroyed by a fire.

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56. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Defendants, and each of them, had a duty to the Plaintiffs to provide water to Plaintiffs' property as well as to properly dispense water to and/or service, inspect and maintain the fire hydrants surrounding the Plaintiffs' property.

57. As more fully described hereinbefore above, Defendants breached that duty when they failed to take any action, despite having actual knowledge of the low water pressure on the Plaintiffs' property and the dangerously low water pressure of the fire hydrants near the Plaintiff's property.

58. As a direct and proximate result of that breach in duty to the Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' house and belongings on their property were destroyed.

59. As more fully described hereinbefore above, Defendants had actual knowledge of the deficiencies of the fire hydrants surrounding the Plaintiffs' property.

60. The failure of the Defendants, and each of them, to properly maintain the fire hydrants and dispense the proper amount of water and/or water pressure to the fire hydrants, created a foreseeable risk that a surrounding property in Defendant Township, including the Plaintiffs' property, could be destroyed by a fire.

61. As a direct and proximate result of the acts described hereinbefore above perpetrated by the Defendants, Plaintiff suffered the following injuries and damages:

- a. Plaintiffs' right under the Pennsylvania Common Law were violated;
- b. loss of Plaintiffs' house and property;
- c. loss of Plaintiffs' pets;
- d. extreme emotional distress and emotional suffering;
- e. economic damages related to any and all consequential costs, including, but not limited to, reasonable attorney's fees and costs of this action.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand compensatory general damages against the

Defendants, and each of them, in the amount proven at trial; compensatory special damages including, but not limited to, costs of suit; reasonable attorney's fees as permitted by law; preand post-judgment interest as permitted by law; and such other relief, including injunctive and/or declaratory relief, as this Court may deem proper.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Respectfully submitted,

LAW OFFICES OF JOEL SANSONE

s/ Joel S. Sansone Joel S. Sansone, Esquire PA ID No. 41008 Massimo A. Terzigni, Esquire PA ID No. 317165 Elizabeth A. Tuttle, Esquire PA ID No. 322888 *Counsel for Plaintiff*

Law Offices of Joel Sansone Two Gateway Center, Suite 1290 603 Stanwix Street Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222 412.281.9194

Dated: November 14, 2022

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JS 44 (Rev. 10/20)

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		DE	DEFENDANTS							
Gail Layman and Joseph Layman			Dunbar Township and North Fayette County Municipal Authority							
(b) County of Residence o			Cou	County of Residence of First Listed Defendant						
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)		SES)	NOT	<i>(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)</i> NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.						
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, A	Address, and Telephone Number	r)	Atto	orneys (If Known)						
	oel Sansone, Two G		uite							
1290, Pittsburgh	, PA 15222 412-28 ²	1-9194								
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X" in o	One Box Only)		SHIP OF PH ersity Cases Only)	RINCIPA	L PARTIES (A	Place an "X" in nd One Box for 1			
1 U.S. Government Plaintiff			Citizen of This	State	_				DEF	
2 U.S. Government Defendant			Citizen of Ano	Citizen of Another State		Incorporated and P of Business In A		5	5	
			Citizen or Sub Foreign Cou	ntry	3 3 Foreign Nation 6 6 Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.					
IV. NATURE OF SUIT		ly) RTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY			for: <u>Nature of S</u> KRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES			
110 Insurance	PERSONAL INJURY	PERSONAL INJURY		elated Seizure		eal 28 USC 158	375 False C			
120 Marine 130 Miller Act	310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product	365 Personal Injury - Product Liability	of Prop 690 Other	erty 21 USC 881	423 Witt	hdrawal USC 157	376 Qui Ta 3729(a		С	
140 Negotiable Instrument	Liability	367 Health Care/			DDODEDTV DICUTS		400 State Reapportionment			
L 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment	320 Assault, Libel & Slander	Pharmaceutical Personal Injury				PROPERTY RIGHTS 820 Copyrights		410 Antitrust 430 Banks and Banking		
151 Medicare Act 152 Recovery of Defaulted	330 Federal Employers' Liability	Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal				830 Patent 835 Patent - Abbreviated		450 Commerce 460 Deportation		
Student Loans (Excludes Veterans)	340 Marine 345 Marine Product	Injury Product Liability			Nev	v Drug Application	470 Racket			
153 Recovery of Overpayment	Liability	PERSONAL PROPERT	ERTY LABOR 880 Defend Trade Secrets		end Trade Secrets	Corrupt Organizations 480 Consumer Credit				
of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' Suits	350 Motor Vehicle 355 Motor Vehicle	370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending	710 Fair Labor Standards Act		Act	Act of 2016 (15 USC 1 485 Telephone			,	
190 Other Contract	Product Liability	380 Other Personal	720 Labor/Management Relations			SOCIAL SECURITY 861 HIA (1395ff) 4		Protection Act 490 Cable/Sat TV		
195 Contract Product Liability 196 Franchise	360 Other Personal Injury	Property Damage 385 Property Damage	740 Railwa	y Labor Act	862 Blac	ek Lung (923)	850 Securi	ties/Comm	odities/	
	362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	Product Liability	751 Family Leave	and Medical Act		VC/DIWW (405(g)) D Title XVI	Excha 890 Other		Actions	
REAL PROPERTY 210 Land Condemnation	CIVIL RIGHTS 440 Other Civil Rights	PRISONER PETITIONS Habeas Corpus:		abor Litigation	🔲 865 RSI	(405(g))	891 Agricu 893 Enviro			
210 Eand Condemnation	440 Other Civit Rights	463 Alien Detainee		Security Act	FEDER	AL TAX SUITS	895 Freedo			
230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 240 Torts to Land	442 Employment 443 Housing/	510 Motions to Vacate Sentence				es (U.S. Plaintiff Defendant)	Act 896 Arbitra	ation		
245 Tort Product Liability 290 All Other Real Property	Accommodations 445 Amer. w/Disabilities -	530 General 535 Death Penalty	DAM	CDATION		—Third Party USC 7609	899 Admin			
290 All Ouler Kear Property	Employment	Other:	462 Naturalization Application			030 7007	Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision			
	446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other	540 Mandamus & Other 550 Civil Rights	465 Other I Actions	-			950 Consti State S		of	
	448 Education	555 Prison Condition 560 Civil Detainee -								
		Conditions of Confinement								
V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in	1 One Box Only)	Confinement								
			4 Reinstated or			6 Multidistri		Multidis		
Proceeding Star	te Court	Appellate Court	Reopened	Another (specify	r District)	Litigation - Transfer	-	Litigatic Direct F		
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	42 USC 1983	tute under which you are	filing (Do not cit	e jurisdictional stat	utes unless di	versity):				
	Brief description of ca Violation of Plaintiff's civ									
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS UNDER RULE 2	IS A CLASS ACTION 3, F.R.Cv.P.	DEMANI) \$		HECK YES only i U RY DEMAND:	if demanded in ▲Yes	n complai		
VIII. RELATED CASH IF ANY	E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE			DOCK	ET NUMBER				
DATE SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD 11/14/2022 S/Joel S. Sansone										
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY										
RECEIPT # AN	IOUNT	APPLYING IFP		JUDGE		MAG. JUD	GE			

JS 44A REVISED June, 2009 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA THIS CASE DESIGNATION SHEET MUST BE COMPLETED

PART A

This case belongs on the ($\,$ $\,$ Erie O Johnstown • Pittsburgh) calendar.

- 1. ERIE CALENDAR If cause of action arose in the counties of Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, McKean. Venang or Warren, OR any plaintiff or defendant resides in one of said counties.
- 2. JOHNSTOWN CALENDAR If cause of action arose in the counties of Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Clearfield or Somerset OR any plaintiff or defendant resides in one of said counties.
- 3. Complete if on ERIE CALENDAR: I certify that the cause of action arose in County and that the _____resides in _____County.
- 4. Complete if on JOHNSTOWN CALENDAR: I certify that the cause of action arose in _County and that the _____resides in _____County.

PART B (You are to check ONE of the following)

1. 🔘 This case is related to Number_ . Short Caption_____

2. O This case is not related to a pending or terminated case.

DEFINITIONS OF RELATED CASES:

CIVIL: Civil cases are deemed related when a case filed relates to property included in another suit or involves the same issues of fact or it grows out of the same transactions as another suit or involves the validity or infringement of a patent involved in another suit EMINENT DOMAIN: Cases in contiguous closely located groups and in common ownership groups which will lend themselves to consolidation for trial shall be deemed related. HABEAS CORPUS & CIVIL RIGHTS: All habeas corpus petitions filed by the same individual shall be deemed related. All pro se Civil Rights actions by the same individual shall be deemed related.

PARTC

10.0

I. CIVIL CATEGORY (Select the applicable category).

- 1. O Antitrust and Securities Act Cases
- 2. O Labor-Management Relations
- 3. ${f O}$ Habeas corpus
- 4. O Civil Rights
- 5. O Patent, Copyright, and Trademark
- 6. **O** Eminent Domain
- All other federal question cases
- 7. **Ŏ** 8. **Ŏ** All personal and property damage tort cases, including maritime, FELA, Jones Act, Motor vehicle, products liability, assault, defamation, malicious prosecution, and false arrest
- 9. O Insurance indemnity, contract and other diversity cases.
 - Government Collection Cases (shall include HEW Student Loans (Education), V A Overpayment, Overpayment of Social Security, Enlistment Overpayment (Army, Navy, etc.), HUD Loans, GAO Loans (Misc. Types), Mortgage Foreclosures, SBA Loans, Civil Penalties and Coal Mine Penalty and Reclamation Fees.)

I certify that to the best of my knowledge the entries on this Case Designation Sheet are true and correct

Date: 11/14/2022

s/Joel S. Sansone

ATTORNEY AT LAW

NOTE: ALL SECTIONS OF BOTH FORMS MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE CASE CAN BE PROCESSED.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- **I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- (b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- (c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".

II. Jurisdiction. The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below. United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here. United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box. Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment

to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.

Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.)

- **III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties.** This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: <u>Nature of Suit Code Descriptions</u>.
- 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. Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.

Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date. Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.

Multidistrict Litigation – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407.

Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7.** Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statue.

- VI. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity. Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service.
- VII. Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P. Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction. Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.