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

MICHAEL LATTANZO,) CIVIL ACTION NO. 2:23-cv-407
Plaintiff,) CIVIL ACTION NO. 2.25-00-407
v.)
DUNBAR TOWNSHIP and NORTH FAYETTE COUNTY MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY,))) JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
Defendants.) JUKT I KIAL DEMANDED)) Electronically filed.
Derendunto.	, Electronically med.

COMPLAINT IN A CIVIL ACTION

COMES NOW, the Plaintiff, MICHAEL LATTANZO, by and through his attorneys, LAW OFFICES OF JOEL SANSONE, JOEL S. SANSONE, ESQUIRE, MASSIMO A. TERZIGNI, ESQUIRE, and ELIZABETH A. TUTTLE, ESQUIRE, and hereby files 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 Plaintiff 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 Plaintiff's 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 Plaintiff's 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, Michael Lattanzo ("Lattanzo"), is an adult male individual who resides in Fayette County, Pennsylvania.

 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.

7. 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

8. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Plaintiff a property in Defendant Township located at 113 Boyd Street, Connellsville, Pennsylvania 15425.

9. In or about 2016, Defendant Township and/or Defendant Authority installed fire hydrants in areas, including, but not limited to, areas surrounding the Plaintiff's property.

10. Plaintiff believes, and therefore avers, that since the time of the installation of the aforementioned fire hydrants, the fire hydrants near properties in Defendant Township, including, but not limited to, the Plaintiff's property, have had dangerously low water pressure.

11. Plaintiff believes, and therefore avers, 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, Plaintiff, as well as to the fire hydrants in Defendant Township on behalf of Defendant Township.

12. Plaintiff is therefore the beneficiary of the aforementioned contractual relationship between Defendant Township and Defendant Authority.

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

14. For several years, multiple properties in Defendant Township, including, but not limited to, Plaintiff's property, have had dangerously low water pressure.

15. 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.

16. Multiple fire hydrants maintained by Defendant Township and/or Authority and near properties in Defendant Township, including, but not limited to, the Plaintiff's property, have had dangerously low water pressure.

17. 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.

18. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Defendants Township and Authority have 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.

19. 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.

20. 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.

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21. 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.

22. 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. Nevertheless, Defendant Township and Defendant Authority purported to maintain working fire hydrants withing Defendant Township, at all times relevant to this matter.

23. On or about March 11, 2021, Plaintiff's property caught fire.

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

25. The fire hydrant approximately twenty-five (25) yards from the property, however, failed to distribute water with the adequate amount of water pressure and, after approximately two (2) minutes, stopped distributing water all together.

26. As a result, firefighters attempted to get water from another fire hydrant, approximately one (1) street away from the Plaintiff's property. That fire hydrant failed to distribute any water.

27. As a result, firefighters were forced to fill a tanker from another fire hydrant, nearly fourhundred (400) yards away from Plaintiff's property.

28. By the time the firefighters were able to distribute any water onto the fire at the Plaintiff's property, the roof of the house on the property had already collapsed.

29. 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 Plaintiff's property.

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30. As a direct and proximate result of the uncontained fire, the Plaintiff's house was completely destroyed.

31. Plaintiff's personal property inside of the house at the time of the fire was destroyed by the fire.

32. Plaintiff's pets were inside of the house at the time of the fire and were killed by the fire.

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

34. Prior to the fire on Plaintiff's 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 Plaintiff's 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 the Plaintiff's property but, nevertheless, purported to maintain working fire hydrants within Defendant Township.

36. As a result of Defendants' actions, 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 Plaintiff's 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 Plaintiff's property was not contained and the Plaintiff's house and belongings were destroyed.

COUNT I:

PLAINTIFF v. DEFENDANTS

VIOLATION OF PLAINTIFF'S 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 Plaintiff to provide water to the Plaintiff's property as well as to properly dispense water to and/or service, inspect and maintain the fire hydrants surrounding the property.

41. In or about 2016, Defendant Township and/or Defendant Authority installed fire hydrants in areas, including, but not limited to, areas surrounding the Plaintiff's property.

42. Plaintiff believes, and therefore avers, that since the time of the installation of the

aforementioned fire hydrants, the fire hydrants near properties in Defendant Township,

including, but not limited to, the Plaintiff's property, have had dangerously low water pressure.

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

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

45. The failure to take any action, despite having actual knowledge of the low water pressure on the Plaintiff's 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 Plaintiff that would not have existed but for the Defendants' actions of installing but not maintaining working fire hydrants withing Defendant Township.

46. Defendants' failure to maintain working fire hydrants and/or take preventative action constitutes a willful disregard and a deliberate indifference to the rights of the Plaintiff. In doing so, Defendants failed in their affirmative duty to the Plaintiff.

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

- a. Plaintiff's rights under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution were violated;
- b. loss of house and property;
- c. loss of 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, Plaintiff demands 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; pre-

and 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:

PLAINTIFF 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

48. Plaintiff incorporates by reference Paragraphs 1 through 47 as though fully set forth at length herein.

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

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

51. 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.

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

53. The Defendants' failure to take preventative action constitutes a willful disregard and a deliberate indifference to the rights of the Plaintiff.

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54. As a direct and proximate result of the acts described hereinbefore above perpetrated by

the Defendants, Plaintiff suffered the following injuries and damages:

- a. Plaintiff's rights under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution were violated;
- b. loss of house and property;
- c. loss of 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, Plaintiff demands 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:

PLAINTIFF v. DEFENDANTS

VIOLATION OF THE PLAINTIFF'S PENSNYLVANIA COMMON LAW RIGHTS

<u>NEGLIGENCE</u>

55. Plaintiff incorporates by reference Paragraphs 1 through 54 as though fully set forth at length herein.

56. Plaintiff claims damages for the injuries set forth herein against the Defendants for violations of the Plaintiff's rights under Pennsylvania Common Law.

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57. 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 Plaintiff's property, could be destroyed by a fire.

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

59. 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 Plaintiff's property and the dangerously low water pressure of the fire hydrants near the Plaintiff's property.

60. As a direct and proximate result of that breach in duty to the Plaintiff, the house and belongings on the property were destroyed.

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

62. 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 Plaintiff's property, could be destroyed by a fire.

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

- a. Plaintiff's rights under the Pennsylvania Common Law were violated;
- b. loss of house and property;

- c. loss of 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, Plaintiff demands 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; pre-

and 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: March 9, 2023

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JS 44 (Rev. 10/20)

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and provided by local rules of court	. This form, approved by t	the Judicial Conference of	of the Uni	ted States in September 1						
purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE O I. (a) PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDANTS						
Michael Lattanzo				Dunbar Township and North Fayette Municipal Authority						
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)			County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.							
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) Law Offices of Joel Sansone, Two Gateway Center, S 1290, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 412-281-9194				Attorneys (If Known)						
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X" in	One Box Only)	III. CI	I TIZENSHIP OF PF	RINCIPA	L PARTIES	Place an "X" in	One Box fo	r Plaintiff	
1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	(U.S. Government Not a Party)			(For Diversity Cases Only) PTF DEF PTF ten of This State 1 1 1 Incorporated or Principal Place 4 of Business In This State					DEF	
2 U.S. Government Defendant			Citiz	Citizen of Another State 2 2 Incorporated <i>and</i> Principal Place 5 of Business In Another State						
				Citizen or Subject of a 3 3 Foreign Nation 6 Foreign Country					6	
IV. NATURE OF SUIT		nly) DRTS	F	DRFEITURE/PENALTY	1	for: <u>Nature of S</u> KRUPTCY		scriptions		
 110 Insurance 120 Marine 130 Miller Act 140 Negotiable Instrument 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment 151 Medicare Act 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) 153 Recovery of Overpayment 	330 Federal Employers' Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product Liability	310 Airplane 365 Personal Injury 315 Airplane Product Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel & 367 Health Care/ 320 Assault, Libel & Pharmaceutical Slander Product Liability 330 Federal Employers' Product Liability Liability 368 Asbestos Personal 340 Marine Injury Product 345 Marine Product Liability Liability PERSONAL PROPE		5 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 0 Other LABOR	423 Witl 28 U PROPER 820 Cop 830 Pate 835 Pate New 840 Trac 880 Defe	USC 157 TTY RIGHTS yrights nt - Abbreviated y Drug Application lemark end Trade Secrets	376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) 400 State Reapportionment 410 Antitrust 430 Banks and Banking 450 Commerce 460 Deportation ion 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations ets 480 Consumer Credit			
of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' Suits 190 Other Contract 195 Contract Product Liability 196 Franchise	350 Motor Vehicle 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice CIVIL RIGHTS	 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage 385 Property Damage Product Liability 	72 74 74 75 1 75	0 Fair Labor Standards Act 10 Labor/Management Relations 0 Railway Labor Act 11 Family and Medical Leave Act 10 Other Labor Litigation	SOCIA 861 HIA 862 Blac 863 DIW	of 2016 L SECURITY .(1395ff) .k Lung (923) /C/DIWW (405(g)) D Title XVI (405(g))	890 Other Statutory Actions 891 Agricultural Acts			
 210 Land Condemnation 220 Foreclosure 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability 290 All Other Real Property 	 # 440 Other Civil Rights 441 Voting 442 Employment 443 Housing/ Accommodations 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other 448 Education 	Other:	46	Employee Retirement Income Security Act IMMIGRATION Z Naturalization Application S Other Immigration Actions	FEDERAL TAX SUITS 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609		893 Environmental Matters 895 Freedom of Information Act 896 Arbitration 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes			
	-	Remanded from Appellate Court]4 Rein Reop		District	6 Multidistri Litigation Transfer		Multidist Litigation Direct Fi	n -	
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	42 U.S.C. § 1983	ause:	re filing (I	Do not cite jurisdictional stat	utes unless di	versity):				
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:					CMAND \$ CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: Yes No					
VIII. RELATED CASI IF ANY	E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE			DOCK	ET NUMBER				
DATE 3/9/2023		signature of att s/Joel S.								
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY										
RECEIPT # AM	MOUNT	APPLYING IFP		JUDGE		MAG. JUE	DGE			

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

O Johnstown This case belongs on the (🛛 O Erie • 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)

. Short Caption_____ 1. O This case is related to Number

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: 3/9/2023

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.