

3. Because these calls were transmitted using technology capable of generating thousands of similar calls per day, plaintiff sues on behalf of a proposed nationwide class of other persons who received similar calls.

4. A class action is the best means of obtaining redress for the Defendant’s illegal telemarketing and is consistent both with the private right of action afforded by the TCPA and the fairness and efficiency goals of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

Parties

5. Plaintiff is an individual residing in this District.

6. Defendant Gallant Law Group, PC is a Pennsylvania corporation that makes calls and offers services in this District, just as it did with the Plaintiff.

Jurisdiction & Venue

7. The Court has federal question subject matter jurisdiction over these TCPA claims. *Mims v. Arrow Financial Services, LLC*, 132 S. Ct. 740 (2012).

8. The Court has personal jurisdiction over Gallant Law because it made telemarketing calls into this District and services clients in this District.

9. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) because the Plaintiff was contacted with a telemarketing call in this District.

TCPA Background

10. In 1991, Congress enacted the TCPA to regulate the explosive growth of the telemarketing industry. In so doing, Congress recognized that “[u]nrestricted telemarketing . . . can be an intrusive invasion of privacy[.]” Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991, Pub. L. No. 102-243, § 2(5) (1991) (codified at 47 U.S.C. § 227).

The TCPA prohibits automated telemarketing calls to cellular telephones

11. The TCPA makes it unlawful “to make any call (other than a call made for emergency purposes or made with the prior express consent of the called party) using an automatic telephone dialing system or an artificial or prerecorded voice . . . to any telephone number assigned to a . . . cellular telephone service . . .” *See* 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A).

12. The TCPA provides a private cause of action to persons who receive calls in violation of 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A). *See* 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3).

13. According to findings by the Federal Communication Commission (“FCC”), the agency Congress vested with authority to issue regulations implementing the TCPA, such calls are prohibited because, as Congress found, automated or prerecorded telephone calls are a greater nuisance and invasion of privacy than live solicitation calls, and such calls can be costly and inconvenient.

14. The FCC also recognized that “wireless customers are charged for incoming calls whether they pay in advance or after the minutes are used.” *In re Rules and Regulations Implementing the Tel. Consumer Prot. Act of 1991*, CG Docket No. 02-278, Report and Order, 18 FCC Rcd 14014, 14115 ¶ 165 (2003).

15. In 2012, the FCC required prior express written consent for all autodialed or prerecorded telemarketing calls (“robocalls”) to wireless numbers and residential lines.

Specifically, it ordered that:

[A] consumer’s written consent to receive telemarketing robocalls must be signed and be sufficient to show that the consumer: (1) received “clear and conspicuous disclosure” of the consequences of providing the requested consent, *i.e.*, that the consumer will receive future calls that deliver prerecorded messages by or on behalf of a specific seller; and (2) having received this information, agrees unambiguously to receive such calls at a telephone number the consumer designates.[] In addition,

the written agreement must be obtained “without requiring, directly or indirectly, that the agreement be executed as a condition of purchasing any good or service.”

In the Matter of Rules & Regulations Implementing the Tel. Consumer Prot. Act of 1991, 27 FCC

Rcd 1830, 1844 (2012) (footnotes omitted).

Factual Allegations

16. Plaintiff is, and at all times mentioned herein were, a “person” as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153(39).

17. Gallant Law offers debt services.

18. To generate leads, Gallant Law makes telemarketing calls to consumers who have never had a relationship and who have never consented to receive their calls.

Calls to Plaintiff Scofield

19. Plaintiff’s telephone number, (970)-XXX-5104, is registered to a cellular telephone service, which is the number he received the pre-recorded calls on.

20. That number was on the National Do Not Call Registry prior to receiving the calls at issue.

21. Despite this, the Plaintiff received a pre-recorded call from the Defendant on December 7, 2022

22. The pre-recorded message stated:

Hi there, it’s Jeremy from the financial hardship department and I’m just following back up with you. Looks like we can help with some credit card debt and personal loans, and I was able to get you the approval that I think you are going to like. Just know that the program does have limited openings and if you have about five minutes today go ahead and give me a call back so we can go over the details.

23. The call was clearly pre-recorded because (a) it was non-personalized (b) there was a delay before the message played (c) it indicated it was being sent *en masse* and (d) there was a “click” before the robot voice began.

24. Mr. Scofield called back the number that made the call.

25. Mr. Scofield spoke to a “Jimmy” who promoted the Defendant’s debt relief services.

26. Following the call with Jimmy, the Plaintiff received a text message from Gallant Law with a retainer agreement.

27. The Plaintiff received another pre-recorded call from the Defendant on January 6, 2023.

28. The pre-recorded message stated:

Hey it’s Jeff, I am following up from the financial hardship department, I’m not sure if you’ve spoken to an assigned agent yet regarding our hardship program, but I do see you are approved for a hardship loan, up to \$37,000. So what I’m going to do is put this in a pending status, and if you have about five minutes today go ahead and give me a call back so we can go over the details

29. The call was clearly pre-recorded because (a) it was non-personalized (b) there was a delay before the message played (c) it indicated it was being sent *en masse* and (d) there was a “click” before the robot voice began.

30. Mr. Scofield called back the number that made the call.

31. Mr. Scofield spoke to a “John” who promoted the Defendant’s debt relief services.

32. John told the Plaintiff that the name of his firm was Gallant Law and their website was gallantlawpc.com.

33. Following the call with John, the Plaintiff received an e-mail from noreply@gallantlawpc.com.

34. Mr. Scofield wrote to the Defendant regarding the pre-recorded messages and inquiring as to why they contacted him illegally.

35. The Defendant did not respond.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

36. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of himself and the following class (the “Class”) pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(b)(2) and/or (3).

37. Plaintiff proposes the following Class definition, subject to amendment as appropriate:

Robocall Class: All persons within the United States: (1) to whose cellular telephone number or other number for which they are charged for the call (2) Defendant (or an agent acting on behalf of Defendant) placed a telemarketing call (3) within the four years prior to the filing of the Complaint and through trial (4) using a pre-recorded message.

38. Plaintiff is a member of and will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of this class as he has no interests that conflict with any of the class members.

39. Excluded from the Class are counsel, the Defendant, and any entities in which the Defendant has a controlling interest, the Defendant’s agents and employees, any judge to whom this action is assigned, and any member of such judge’s staff and immediate family.

40. Plaintiff and all members of the Class have been harmed by the acts of the Defendant, including, but not limited to, the invasion of their privacy, annoyance, waste of time, the use of their telephone power and network bandwidth, and the intrusion on their telephone that occupied it from receiving legitimate communications.

41. This Class Action Complaint seeks injunctive relief and money damages.

42. The Class as defined above are identifiable through the Defendant' dialer records, other phone records, and phone number databases.

43. Plaintiff does not know the exact number of members in the Class, but Plaintiff reasonably believes Class members number, at minimum, in the hundreds in each class.

44. The joinder of all Class members is impracticable due to the size and relatively modest value of each individual claim.

45. Additionally, the disposition of the claims in a class action will provide substantial benefit to the parties and the Court in avoiding a multiplicity of identical suits.

46. There are well defined, nearly identical, questions of law and fact affecting all parties. The questions of law and fact, referred to above, involving the class claims predominate over questions which may affect individual Class members.

47. There are numerous questions of law and fact common to Plaintiff and to the proposed Class, including but not limited to the following:

- (a) Whether the Defendant used pre-recorded message to send telemarketing calls;
- (b) whether Defendant made calls to Plaintiff and members of the Class without first obtaining prior express written consent to make the calls;
- (c) whether Defendant' conduct constitutes a violation of the TCPA; and
- (d) whether members of the Class are entitled to treble damages based on the willfulness of Defendant' conduct.

48. Further, Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the Class. Plaintiff has no interests which are antagonistic to any member of the Class.

49. Plaintiff has retained counsel with substantial experience in prosecuting complex litigation and class actions, and especially TCPA class actions. Plaintiff and his counsel are

committed to vigorously prosecuting this action on behalf of the other members of the Class, and have the financial resources to do so.

50. Common questions of law and fact predominate over questions affecting only individual class members, and a class action is the superior method for fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy. The only individual question concerns identification of class members, which will be ascertainable from records maintained by Defendant and/or its agents.

51. The likelihood that individual members of the Class will prosecute separate actions is remote due to the time and expense necessary to prosecute an individual case.

52. Plaintiff is not aware of any litigation concerning this controversy already commenced by others who meet the criteria for class membership described above.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION
Violation of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act
(47 U.S.C. 227(b)) on behalf of the Robocall Class

53. Plaintiff incorporates the allegations from the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

54. The foregoing acts and omissions of Defendant and/or their affiliates, agents, and/or other persons or entities acting on Defendant's behalf constitute numerous and multiple violations of the TCPA, 47 U.S.C. § 227, by making calls, except for emergency purposes, to the cellular telephone numbers of Plaintiff and members of the Class delivering pre-recorded messages.

55. As a result of Defendant's and/or its affiliates, agents, and/or other persons or entities acting on Defendant's behalf's violations of the TCPA, 47 U.S.C. § 227, Plaintiff and members of the Class presumptively are entitled to an award of \$500 in damages for each and

every call made to their residential or cellular telephone numbers using an artificial or prerecorded voice in violation of the statute, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B).

56. If the Defendant's conduct is found to be knowing or willful, the Plaintiff and members of the Class are entitled to an award of up to treble damages.

57. Plaintiff and members of the Class are also entitled to and do seek injunctive relief prohibiting Defendant and/or its affiliates, agents, and/or other persons or entities acting on Defendant's behalf from violating the TCPA, 47 U.S.C. § 227, by making calls, except for emergency purposes, to any cellular telephone numbers using an artificial or prerecorded voice in the future.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of the Class, prays for the following relief:

A. Injunctive relief prohibiting Defendant from calling telephone numbers advertising their goods or services, except for emergency purposes, using a pre-record message in the future;

B. That the Court enter a judgment awarding Plaintiff and all class members statutory damages of \$500 for each violation of the TCPA and \$1,500 for each knowing or willful violation; and

C. An order certifying this action to be a proper class action pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23, establishing an appropriate Classes the Court deems appropriate, finding that Plaintiff is a proper representative of the Class, and appointing the lawyers and law firms representing Plaintiff as counsel for the Class;

D. Such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff requests a jury trial as to all claims of the complaint so triable.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Anthony I. Paronich
PARONICH LAW, P.C.
Anthony I. Paronich
350 Lincoln St., Suite 2400
Hingham, MA 02043
617-485-0018
anthony@paronichlaw.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff and proposed class

Please wait...

If this message is not eventually replaced by the proper contents of the document, your PDF viewer may not be able to display this type of document.

You can upgrade to the latest version of Adobe Reader for Windows®, Mac, or Linux® by visiting http://www.adobe.com/go/reader_download.

For more assistance with Adobe Reader visit <http://www.adobe.com/go/acrreader>.

Windows is either a registered trademark or a trademark of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and/or other countries. Mac is a trademark of Apple Inc., registered in the United States and other countries. Linux is the registered trademark of Linus Torvalds in the U.S. and other countries.