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

THE COLUMBIAN SPOT, LLC individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Civil Action No. 2:21-cv-1171

Plaintiff,

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

v.

DOLLAR BANK, a Federal Savings Bank,

Defendant.

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

Plaintiff The Columbian Spot LLC ("Plaintiff"), individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, complains and alleges as follows based on personal knowledge as to itself, on the investigation of its counsel, and on information and belief as to all other matters:

INTRODUCTION

- 1. This is a civil action seeking monetary damages, restitution and declaratory relief from Defendant, Dollar Bank ("Dollar Bank"), arising from the bank's routine practice of assessing and collecting "overdraft fees" ("OD Fees"), or what Dollar Bank calls an "Overdraft Penalty" on accounts that were never actually overdrawn.
 - 2. This practice breaches contract promises made in Dollar Bank's adhesion contracts.
- 3. Dollar Bank's accountholders have been injured by Dollar Bank's improper practices to the tune of millions of dollars bilked from their accounts in violation of their agreements with Dollar Bank.
- 4. On behalf of itself and the Class, Plaintiff seeks damages, restitution, and statutory relief for Dollar Bank's violations as set forth more fully below.

JURISDICTION

5. This Court has original jurisdiction over this putative class action lawsuit pursuant to the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005, 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332(d)(2) & (6), because the aggregate sum of the claims of the members of the putative class exceeds \$5 million, exclusive of interest and costs, because Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of a proposed class that is comprised of over one hundred members, and because at least one of the members of the proposed class is a citizen of a different state than Dollar Bank.

PARTIES

- 6. Plaintiff is a Pennsylvania limited liability company with a checking account with Dollar Bank during the class period. Plaintiff is located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Plaintiff's managing member is a citizen of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
- 7. Dollar Bank is a Federal Savings Bank and holds more than \$10 billion in assets.

 Dollar Bank is headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and has branches in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

I. <u>DOLLAR BANK CHARGES OD FEES ON TRANSACTIONS THAT DO NOT ACTUALLY OVERDRAW THE ACCOUNT</u>

A. Overview of Claim

- 8. Plaintiff has a checking account with Dollar Bank.
- 9. Dollar Bank issues debit cards to its checking account customers, including Plaintiff, which allows its customers to have electronic access to their checking accounts for purchases, payments, withdrawals, and other electronic debit transactions.
- 10. Pursuant to its standard account agreement, Dollar Bank charges OD Fees (currently in the amount of \$36.00) for debit card transactions that purportedly result in an

overdraft.

- 11. Plaintiff brings this cause of action challenging Dollar Bank's practice of charging OD Fees on what are referred to in this Complaint as "Authorize Positive, Purportedly Settle Negative Transactions" ("APPSN Transactions").
- 12. Here is how it works. At the moment debit card transactions are authorized on an account with positive funds to cover the transaction, Dollar Bank immediately reduces accountholders' checking accounts for the amount of the purchase, sets aside funds in a checking account to cover that transaction, and as a result, the accountholder's displayed "available balance" reflects that subtracted amount. As a result, customers' accounts will always have sufficient available funds to cover these transactions because Dollar Bank has already sequestered these funds for payment.
- 13. However, Dollar Bank still assesses crippling OD Fees currently in the amount of \$36.00 on many of these transactions and mispresents its practices in its account documents.
- 14. Despite putting aside sufficient available funds for debit card transactions at the time those transactions are authorized, Dollar Bank later assesses OD Fees on those same transactions when they purportedly settle days later into a negative balance. These types of transactions are APPSN Transactions.
- 15. Dollar Bank maintains a running account balance in real time, tracking funds accountholders have for immediate use. This running account balance is adjusted, in real-time, to account for debit card transactions at the precise instance they are made. When a customer makes a purchase with a debit card, Dollar Bank sequesters the funds needed to pay the transaction, subtracting the dollar amount of the transaction from the customer's available balance. Such funds are not available for any other use by the accountholder, and such funds are specifically associated

with a given debit card transaction.

16. Indeed, the entire purpose of the immediate debit and hold of positive funds is to ensure that there are enough funds in the account to pay the transaction when it settles, as discussed in the Federal Register notice announcing revisions to certain provisions of the Truth in Lending Act regulations:

When a consumer uses a debit card to make a purchase, a hold may be placed on funds in the consumer's account to ensure that the consumer has sufficient funds in the account when the transaction is presented for settlement. This is commonly referred to as a "debit hold." During the time the debit hold remains in place, which may be up to three days after authorization, those funds may be unavailable for the consumer's use for other transactions.

Federal Reserve Board, Office of Thrift Supervision, and National Credit Union Administration, Unfair or Deceptive Acts or Practices, 74 FR 5498-01 (Jan. 29, 2009).

- 17. That means when any *subsequent*, intervening transactions are initiated on a checking account, they are compared against an account balance that has already been reduced to account for any earlier debit card transactions. This means that many subsequent transactions incur OD Fees due to the unavailability of the funds sequestered for those debit card transactions.
- 18. Still, despite keeping those held funds off-limits for other transactions, Dollar Bank improperly charges OD Fees on those APPSN Transactions, although the APPSN Transactions *always* have sufficient available funds to be covered.
- 19. Indeed, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau ("CFPB") has expressed concern with this very issue, flatly calling the practice "unfair" and/or "deceptive" when:

A financial institution authorized an electronic transaction, which reduced a customer's available balance but did not result in an overdraft at the time of authorization; settlement of a subsequent unrelated transaction that further lowered the customer's available balance and pushed the account into overdraft status; and when the original electronic transaction was later presented for settlement, because of the intervening transaction and overdraft fee, the electronic transaction also posted as an overdraft and an additional overdraft fee was charged. Because such

fees caused harm to consumers, one or more supervised entities were found to have acted unfairly when they charged fees in the manner described above. Consumers likely had no reason to anticipate this practice, which was not appropriately disclosed. They therefore could not reasonably avoid incurring the overdraft fees charged. Consistent with the deception findings summarized above, examiners found that the failure to properly disclose the practice of charging overdraft fees in these circumstances was deceptive. At one or more institutions, examiners found deceptive practices relating to the disclosure of overdraft processing logic for electronic transactions. Examiners noted that these disclosures created a misimpression that the institutions would not charge an overdraft fee with respect to an electronic transaction if the authorization of the transaction did not push the customer's available balance into overdraft status. But the institutions assessed overdraft fees for electronic transactions in a manner inconsistent with the overall net impression created by the disclosures. Examiners therefore concluded that the disclosures were misleading or likely to mislead, and because such misimpressions could be material to a reasonable consumer's decision-making and actions, examiners found the practice to be deceptive. Furthermore, because consumers were substantially injured or likely to be so injured by overdraft fees assessed contrary to the overall net impression created by the disclosures (in a manner not outweighed by countervailing benefits to consumers or competition), and because consumers could not reasonably avoid the fees (given the misimpressions created by the disclosures), the practice of assessing fees under these circumstances was found to be unfair.

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Winter 2015 "Supervisory Highlights."

- 20. There is no justification for these practices, other than to maximize Dollar Bank's OD Fee revenue. APPSN Transactions only exist because intervening checking account transactions supposedly reduce an account balance. But Dollar Bank is free to protect its interests and either reject those intervening transactions or charge OD Fees on those intervening transactions—and it does the latter to the tune of millions of dollars each year. But Dollar Bank was not content with these millions in OD Fees. Instead, it sought millions *more* in OD Fees on these APPSN Transactions.
- 21. Besides being unfair and unjust, these practices breach contract promises made in Dollar Bank's adhesion contracts—contracts which fail to inform accountholders about the true nature of Dollar Bank's processes and practices. These practices also exploit contractual discretion

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to gouge accountholders.

- 22. In plain, clear, and simple language, the checking account contract documents covering OD Fees promise that Dollar Bank will only charge OD Fees on transactions that have insufficient funds to "cover" that debit card transaction.
- 23. In short, Dollar Bank is not authorized by contract to charge OD Fees on transactions that have not overdrawn an account, but it has done so and continues to do so.

B. Mechanics of a Debit Card Transaction

- 24. A debit card transaction occurs in two parts. First, authorization for the purchase amount is instantaneously obtained by the merchant from Dollar Bank. When a merchant physically or virtually "swipes" a customer's debit card, the credit card terminal connects, via an intermediary, to Dollar Bank, which verifies that the customer's account is valid and that sufficient available funds exist to "cover" the transaction amount.
- 25. At this step, if the transaction is approved, Dollar Bank immediately decrements the funds in an accountholder's account and sequesters funds in the amount of the transaction but does not yet transfer the funds to the merchant.
- 26. Indeed, the entire purpose of the immediate debit and hold of positive funds is to ensure that there are enough funds in the account to pay the transaction when it settles, as discussed in the Federal Register notice announcing revisions to certain provisions of the Truth in Lending Act regulations:

When a consumer uses a debit card to make a purchase, a hold may be placed on funds in the consumer's account to ensure that the consumer has sufficient funds in the account when the transaction is presented for settlement. This is commonly referred to as a "debit hold." During the time the debit hold remains in place, which may be up to three days after authorization, those funds may be unavailable for the consumer's use for other transactions.

Federal Reserve Board, Office of Thrift Supervision, and National Credit Union Administration,

Unfair or Deceptive Acts or Practices, 74 FR 5498-01 (Jan. 29, 2009).

- 27. Sometime thereafter, the funds are actually transferred from the customer's account to the merchant's account.
- 28. Dollar Bank (like all credit unions and banks) decides whether to "pay" debit card transactions at authorization. After that, Dollar Bank is obligated to pay the transaction no matter what. For debit card transactions, that moment of decision can only occur at the point of sale, at the instant the transaction is authorized or declined. It is at that point—and only that point—when Dollar Bank may choose to either pay the transaction or decline it. When the time comes to actually settle the transaction, it is too late—the financial institution has no discretion and must pay the charge. This "must pay" rule applies industry wide and requires that once a financial institution authorizes a debit card transaction, it "must pay" it when the merchant later makes a demand, regardless of other account activity. *See* Electronic Fund Transfers, 74 Fed. Reg. 59033-01, 59046 (Nov. 17, 2009).
- 29. There is no change—no impact whatsoever—to the available funds in an account when this step occurs.

C. <u>Dollar Bank Account Contract</u>

- 30. Plaintiff has a Dollar Bank checking account, which is governed by Dollar Bank's standardized Deposit Agreement and Fee Schedule, attached as *Exhibits A and B*, respectively.
- 31. The Deposit Agreement expressly promises the available balance is immediately reduced for holds, including those placed immediately on debit card transactions, and confirms that "non-sufficient funds items" are only those items that "overdraw[] your account":

Insufficient Funds and Overdrafts. The Bank has no obligation to pay any item that is presented for payment against insufficient available funds. The Bank may determine whether or not your account contains sufficient available funds to pay an item at any time between the time the item is presented and the Bank's return

deadline, and only one determination of the account balance is required. If that determination reveals insufficient available funds to pay the item, the Bank is not required to pay the item and may return it unpaid. Alternatively, the Bank may pay the item and create an overdraft in your account. Whether or not the Bank decides to pay the item and create an overdraft is in the sole discretion of the Bank and will depend on various factors, including your history with the Bank. Moreover, the honoring of one or more items drawn against insufficient available funds does not obligate the Bank to honor any other such items, either in the future or during the same day's processing, and you should not rely on the Bank to honor any particular items drawn against insufficient available funds. In all cases, the Bank is not required to give you prior notice that an item will be returned for insufficient available funds.

An insufficient balance or overdraft in your account and each item presented for payment against insufficient available funds in your account (whether paid, denied, or returned) are each subject to an Overdraft Penalty as provided in the Bank's thencurrent Account Information Schedule.

Deposit Agreement, Ex. A at ¶8.

32. The Fee Schedule which is incorporated in the Deposit Agreement and therefore part of that contract, provides that OD Fees are assessed for debit card transactions, which include Point of Sale or "POS" transactions when "the available balance in your account is insufficient to cover" an "ATM/POS authorization" when "such items are paid":

Overdraft or NSF Fee

Assessed when the available balance in your account is insufficient to cover an item (check, fee, returned check, ATM/POS authorization, Online Banking, other electronic debit, etc.) presented for payment. An Overdraft Fee is assessed when such items are paid. An NSF Fee is assessed when the item is returned unpaid. Items may not be processed in the order they occur, which can affect overdraft fees. See the section on withdrawals in the Deposit Agreement for details. Fee limited to five (5) charges per day.

Fee Schedule, Ex. B.

33. For APPSN Transactions, which are immediately deducted from a positive account balance and held aside for payment of that same POS transaction, there are always funds to cover those transactions at the time of authorization—yet Dollar Bank assesses OD Fees on them anyway.

- 34. The above promises indicate that POS debit card transactions are only overdraft transactions when they are authorized into a negative account balance. Of course, that is not true for APPSN Transactions.
- 35. APPSN Transactions are always *initiated* at the time the customer swipes the debit card when there are sufficient available funds in the account.
- 36. In fact, Dollar Bank actually authorizes transactions on positive funds, sets those funds aside on hold, then fails to use those same funds to settle those same transactions. Instead, it uses a secret posting process described below.
- 37. All the above representations and contractual promises are untrue. In fact, Dollar Bank charges OD Fees even when sufficient funds exist to cover transactions that are authorized into a positive balance. No express language in any document states that Dollar Bank may impose OD Fees on any APPSN Transactions.
- 38. The Deposit Agreement misconstrues Dollar Bank's true debit card processing and overdraft practices.
- 39. First, and most fundamentally, Dollar Bank charges OD Fees on debit card transactions for which there are sufficient funds available to cover the transactions. That is despite contractual representations that Dollar Bank will only charge OD Fees on transactions with insufficient available funds to cover a given transaction.
- 40. Dollar Bank assesses OD Fees on APPSN Transactions that <u>do</u> have sufficient funds available to cover them throughout their lifecycle.
- 41. Dollar Bank's practice of charging OD Fees even when sufficient available funds exist to cover a transaction violates a contractual promise not to do so. This discrepancy between Dollar Bank's actual practice and the contract causes accountholders like the Plaintiff to incur

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more OD Fees than they should.

- 42. Next, sufficient funds for APPSN Transactions are actually debited from the account immediately, consistent with standard industry practice.
- 43. Because these withdrawals take place upon initiation, they cannot be re-debited later. But that is what Dollar Bank does when it re-debits the account during a secret batching posting process.
- 44. In reality, Dollar Bank's actual practice is to assay the same debit card transaction twice to determine if the transaction overdraws an account—both at the time a transaction is authorized and later at the time of settlement.
- 45. At the time of settlement, however, an available balance *does not change at all* for these transactions previously authorized into good funds. As such, Dollar Bank cannot then charge an OD Fee on such transaction because the available balance has not been rendered insufficient due to the pseudo-event of settlement.
- 46. Upon information and belief, something more is going on: at the moment a debit card transaction is getting ready to settle, Dollar Bank does something new and unexpected, during the middle of the night, during its nightly batch posting process. Specifically, Dollar Bank releases the hold placed on funds for the transaction for a split second, putting money back into the account, then re-debits the same transaction a second time.
- 47. This secret step allows Dollar Bank to charge OD Fees on transactions that never should have caused an overdraft—transactions that were authorized into sufficient funds, and for which Dollar Bank specifically set aside money to pay them.
- 48. This discrepancy between Dollar Bank's actual practices and the contract causes accountholders to incur more OD Fees than they should.

49. In sum, there is a huge gap between Dollar Bank's practices as described in the account documents and Dollar Bank's practices in reality.

D. <u>Dollar Bank Abuses Contractual Discretion</u>

- 50. Dollar Bank's treatment of debit card transactions to charge OD Fees is not simply a breach of the express terms of the numerous account documents. In addition, Dollar Bank exploits contractual discretion to the detriment of accountholders when it uses these policies.
- 51. As alleged above, Dollar Bank reserves discretion to pay an item into overdraft and for debit card transactions it promises to charge them when there are insufficient funds at the time POS transactions are authorized. Even though it holds the funds for those POS transactions authorized against a positive balance, Dollar Bank in a surprising, counterintuitive way uses its discretion to deem those transactions to overdraw the account when they settle, contrary to any reasonable, common sense an accountholder would expect.
- 52. Moreover, Dollar Bank uses its contractual discretion to cause APPSN Transactions to incur OD Fees by knowingly authorizing later transactions that it allows to consume available funds previously sequestered for APPSN Transactions.
- 53. Dollar Bank uses these contractual discretion points unfairly to extract OD Fees on transactions that no reasonable accountholder would believe could cause OD Fees.

E. Reasonable Accountholders Understand Debit Card Transactions are Debited Immediately

54. The assessment of OD Fees on APPSN Transactions is fundamentally inconsistent with immediate withdrawal of funds for debit card transactions. That is because if funds are immediately debited, they cannot be depleted by intervening transactions (and it is that subsequent depletion that is the necessary condition of APPSN Transactions). If funds are immediately debited then, they are necessarily applied to the debit card transactions for which they are debited.

- 55. Dollar Bank was and is aware that this is precisely how accountholders reasonably understand debit card transactions to work.
- 56. Dollar Bank knows that many accountholders prefer debit cards for these very reasons. Research indicates that accountholders prefer debit cards as a budgeting device because they do not allow debt like credit cards do, and because the money comes directly out of a checking account.
- 57. Consumer Action, a national nonprofit consumer education and advocacy organization, advises consumers determining whether they should use a debit card that "[t]here is no grace period on debit card purchases the way there is on credit card purchases; the money is immediately deducted from your checking account. Also, when you use a debit card you lose the one or two days of 'float' time that a check usually takes to clear." What Do I Need to Know About Using a Debit Card?, ConsumerAction (Jan. 14, 2019), https://www.consumeraction.org/helpdesk/articles/what do i need to know about using a debit card.
- 58. Further, Consumer Action informs consumers that "Debit cards offer the convenience of paying with plastic without the risk of overspending. When you use a debit card, you do not get a monthly bill. You also avoid the finance charges and debt that can come with a credit card if not paid off in full." *Understanding Debit Cards*, ConsumerAction, http://www.consumer-action.org/english/articles/understanding_debit_cards (last visited August 22, 2021).
- 59. This understanding is a large part of the reason that debit cards have risen in popularity. The number of terminals that accept debit cards in the United States has increased by approximately 1.4 million in the last five years, and with that increasing ubiquity, consumers have (along with credit cards) viewed debit cards "as a more convenient option than refilling their

wallets with cash from an ATM." Maria LaMagna, *Debit Cards Gaining on Case for Smallest Purchases*, MarketWatch, Mar. 23, 2016, http://www.marketwatch.com/story/more-people-are-using-debit-cards-to-buy-a-pack-of-gum-2016-03-23.

- 60. Not only have accountholders increasingly transitioned from cash to debit cards, but they believe that a debit card purchase is the fundamental equivalent of a cash purchase, with the swipe of a card equating to handing over cash, permanently and irreversibly.
- 61. Dollar Bank was aware of an accountholder perception that debit transactions reduce an available balance *in a specified order*—namely, the moment they are actually initiated—and its account agreement only supports this perception.

F. Plaintiff's Experience

62. As an example, on November 14, 2018, Plaintiff was assessed an OD Fee in the amount of \$36.00 for a debit card transaction that settled on that day, despite the fact that positive funds were deducted immediately on a prior day for the transaction on which Plaintiff was assessed OD Fees. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff was unlawfully charged other OD Fees on APPSN Transactions, which will be confirmed during discovery.

II. CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

63. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of itself and on behalf of all others similarly situated pursuant to F.R.C.P. 23. The Classes are defined as:

All Dollar Bank accountholders who, within the applicable statute of limitations preceding the filing of this lawsuit, were charged OD Fees on APPSN Transactions (the "Class").

All Dollar Bank accountholders in Pennsylvania who, within the applicable statute of limitations preceding the filing of this lawsuit, were charged OD Fees on APPSN Transactions (the "Pennsylvania Subclass").

64. Excluded from the Classes are Defendant, Defendant's subsidiaries and affiliates,

their officers, directors and member of their immediate families and any entity in which Defendant has a controlling interest, the legal representatives, heirs, successors or assigns of any such excluded party, the judicial officer(s) to whom this action is assigned, and the members of their immediate families.

- 65. Plaintiff reserves the right to modify or amend the definition of the proposed Classes and/or to add a subclass(es), if necessary, before this Court determines whether certification is appropriate.
- 66. The questions here are ones of common or general interest such that there is a well-defined community of interest among the members of the Classes. These questions predominate over questions that may affect only individual class members because Dollar Bank has acted on grounds generally applicable to the Classes. Such common legal or factual questions include, but are not limited to:
 - a) Whether Dollar Bank improperly charged OD Fees on APPSN Transactions;
 - b) Whether the conduct enumerated above violates the contract;
 - c) Whether the conduct enumerated above violates the covenant of good faith and fair dealing;
 - d) Whether the conduct enumerated above violates the Pennsylvania Unfair Trade
 Practices and Consumer Protection Law; and,
 - e) The appropriate measure of damages and other relief.
- 67. The parties are numerous such that joinder is impracticable. Upon information and belief, and subject to class discovery, the Classes consist of thousands of members or more, the identity of whom are within the exclusive knowledge of and can be ascertained only by resort to Dollar Bank's records. Dollar Bank has the administrative capability through its computer systems

and other records to identify all members of the Classes, and such specific information is not otherwise available to Plaintiff.

- 68. It is impracticable to bring individual claims for members of the Classes before the Court. Class treatment permits a large number of similarly situated persons or entities to prosecute their common claims in a single forum simultaneously, efficiently and without the unnecessary duplication of evidence, effort, expense, or the possibility of inconsistent or contradictory judgments that numerous individual actions would engender. The benefits of the class mechanism, including providing injured persons or entities with a method for obtaining redress on claims that might not be practicable to pursue individually, substantially outweigh any difficulties that may arise in the management of this class action.
- 69. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the other members of the Classes in that they arise out of the same wrongful business practices by Dollar Bank, as described herein.
- 70. Plaintiff is more than an adequate representative of the Classes in that Plaintiff has a Dollar Bank checking account and has suffered damages as a result of Dollar Bank's contract violations. In addition:
 - a) Plaintiff is committed to the vigorous prosecution of this action on behalf of itself and all others similarly situated and has retained competent counsel experienced in the prosecution of class actions and, in particular, class actions on behalf of accountholders against financial institutions;
 - b) There is no conflict of interest between Plaintiff and the unnamed members of the Classes;
 - Plaintiff anticipates no difficulty in the management of this litigation as a class action;
 and,

- d) Plaintiff's legal counsel has the financial and legal resources to meet the substantial costs and legal issues associated with this type of litigation.
- 71. Plaintiff knows of no difficulty to be encountered in the maintenance of this action that would preclude its maintenance as a class action.
- 72. Dollar Bank has acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the class, thereby making appropriate corresponding declaratory relief with respect to the Classes as a whole.
 - 73. All conditions precedent to bringing this action have been satisfied and/or waived.

CAUSES OF ACTION

COUNT I - BREACH OF CONTRACT INCLUDING THE COVENANT OF GOOD FAITH AND FAIR DEALING (Individually and on Behalf of the Class and Pennsylvania Subclass)

- 74. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates the allegations in paragraphs 1-73 above as if fully set forth herein.
- 75. Plaintiff, and all members of the proposed Classes, contracted with Dollar Bank for checking account services, including debit card services.
- 76. Dollar Bank breached promises made to Plaintiff and all members of the proposed Classes when as described herein, Dollar Bank charged OD Fees on APPSN Transactions that did not overdraw a checking account.
- 77. In addition, there exists an implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing in all contracts that neither party shall do anything which will have the effect of destroying or injuring the right of the other party to receive the fruits of the contract. Good faith and fair dealing, in connection with executing contracts and discharging performance and other duties according to their terms, means preserving the spirit not merely the letter of the bargain. Put differently, the parties to a contract are mutually obligated to comply with the substance of their contract in addition to its form. Evading the spirit of the bargain and abusing the power to specify terms

constitute examples of bad faith in the performance of contracts.

- 78. Subterfuge and evasion violate the obligation of good faith in performance even when an actor believes their conduct to be justified. Bad faith may be overt or may consist of inaction, and fair dealing may require more than honesty. Examples of bad faith are evasion of the spirit of the bargain, willful rendering of imperfect performance, abuse of a power to specify terms, and interference with or failure to cooperate in the other party's performance.
- 79. The implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing applies to the performance and enforcement of contracts, limits the parties' conduct when their contract defers decision on a particular term, omits terms, or provides ambiguous terms.
- 80. Dollar Bank has breached the covenant of good faith and fair dealing and abused its discretion in its contract as described herein. Specifically, Dollar Bank should not have used its discretion to charge OD Fees on APPSN Transactions. The Deposit Agreements is a contract term permitting OD Fees on such transactions, and that contract is otherwise ambiguous as to any right for Dollar Bank to charge OD Fees on APPSN Transactions.
- 81. Plaintiff and all members of the proposed Classes have performed all, or substantially all, of the obligations imposed on them under the contract.
- 82. Plaintiff and all members of the proposed Classes have sustained damages as a result of Dollar Bank's breach of the contract and breach of the duty of good faith and fair dealing.

COUNT II - PENNSYLVANIA UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES AND CONSUMER PROTECTION LAW (Individually and on Behalf of the Pennsylvania Subclass)

- 83. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates the allegations in paragraphs 1-82 above as if fully set forth herein.
- 84. This claim is asserted on behalf of the Subclass of Dollar Bank customers who are Pennsylvania citizens and enjoy the protections of the Pennsylvania Unfair Trade Practices and

Consumer Protection Law, 73 P.S. § 201-1 et seq.

85. Dollar Bank engages in unfair business practices relating to the imposition of OD Fees on consumers, in violation of the Pennsylvania Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law, 73 P.S. § 201-1 *et seq*. In particular, the wrongful conduct described herein violated 73 P.S. § 201-2(4)(v) (representing that goods or services have characteristics, uses, or benefits that they do not have), § 201-2(4)(xiv) (failing to comply with the terms of any written guarantee or warranty given to a buyer), and § 201-2(4)(xxi) (engaging in any other deceptive conduct which creates a likelihood of confusion or misunderstanding)

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of the Class, demands a jury trial on all claims so triable and judgment as follows:

- A. Certification for this matter to proceed as a class action on behalf of the Classes;
- B. Declaring Dollar Bank's OD Fee policies and practices to be in breach of its contract with accountholders;
- C. Restitution of all OD Fees paid to Dollar Bank by Plaintiff and the members of the Classes, as a result of the wrongs alleged herein in an amount to be determined at trial;
- D. Actual damages in an amount according to proof;
- E. Statutory and/or treble damages for the Pennsylvania Subclass;
- F. Pre-judgment and post-judgment interest at the maximum rate permitted by applicable law;
- G. For costs and attorneys' fees under the common fund doctrine, and all other applicable law; and,
- H. Such other relief as this Court deems just and proper.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff, on behalf of itself and the Class, hereby demands a trial by jury on all claims so triable.

Dated: September 1, 2021 Respectfully submitted,

/s/ D. Aaron Rihn

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