# EXHIBIT 1

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

| § |                                |
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| § |                                |
| § |                                |
| § | Civ. Action No.: 2:24-cv-02873 |
| § |                                |
| § | JURY TRIAL DEMANDED            |
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#### **COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff Adam Guidry, by and through undersigned counsel, files this Complaint against Defendants Anthony G. Buzbee ("Tony Buzbee"), Anthony G. Buzbee LP (d/b/a The Buzbee Law Firm) ("The Buzbee Law Firm") (collectively, "Buzbee" or "Buzbee Defendants") and JOHN DOES 1-10.

#### INTRODUCTION

- 1. Tony Buzbee and The Buzbee Law Firm represented Adam Guidry, a U.S. Coast Guard-licensed ship captain who was severely injured on the job. The Buzbee Defendants told Guidry his case was worth \$1 million, but later coerced him into settling for less than one-third of that amount. In insisting that he settle, Buzbee Defendants never explained Guidry's options, never discussed the pros and cons of trial versus settlement, never disclosed mounting expenses, and never disclosed the meager amount Guidry would receive at distribution. Instead, Buzbee Defendants told Guidry he had no choice. Guidry was vulnerable. He had lost his job as a result of his injury, he was financially destitute, his marriage had failed, and he was struggling with addiction. Relying on his lawyers, Guidry accepted.
- 2. When the settlement funds were disbursed, Guidry was stunned to receive only \$5,123.19. The Buzbee Defendants had taken 98% of Guidry's final disbursement and 74% of his

overall settlement. The Buzbee Law Firm deducted \$53,000.00 in fees and \$266,876.81<sup>1</sup> in "expenses" including: \$90,920.33 for expert witness fees; \$5,935.01 for postage and copies; \$9,763.20 for more copies; \$9,493.05 for attorney travel expenses; and, adding insult to injury, \$150.00 for "closing" fees. Moreover, the Buzbee Defendants deducted \$25,723.42 in fees and expenses for a referring attorney who, despite promptly handing-off Guidry, claimed he accumulated \$4,523.42 in expenses.

- 3. Worst of all, perhaps, the Buzbee Defendants charged Guidry \$23,571.51 in "interest" on \$85,450.00 in "loans." The Rules of Professional Conduct<sup>2</sup> require fairness and transparency in any financial transaction with a client. Even then, the amount of interest a lawyer can charge a client is limited. The Buzbee Defendants kept Guidry in the dark as his loans grew by 27%. This exploitative practice not only violated ethical standards, but also compounded Guidry's financial hardship and vulnerability.
- 4. The Buzbee Defendants breached their legal and ethical duties to Guidry. Along with John Does 1-10, the Buzbee Defendants unjustly enriched themselves at Guidry's expense. Such conduct would be unethical in a standard business transaction. It is unconscionable in an attorney-client relationship.

#### **PARTIES**

- 5. Plaintiff ADAM GUIDRY is a citizen of the State of Louisiana who resides in Lafourche Parish, Louisiana.
- 6. Defendant ANTHONY G. BUZBEE is a citizen of Texas who, on information and belief, resides in Harris County, Texas.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> \$85,450.00 of this amount was for "loans" to Guidry and \$13,635.00 was to satisfy a third-party loan Guidry had taken out for living expenses.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> This is true under the American Bar Association's Model Rules of Professional Conduct, the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, and the Louisiana Rules of Professional Conduct.

- 7. Defendant ANTHONY G. BUZBEE L.P. (d/b/a The Buzbee Law Firm) is a law firm that is organized under the laws of State of Texas and that operates its principal place of business from Harris County, Texas. Upon information and belief, no members or employees of The Buzbee Law Firm's limited partnership reside in the State of Louisiana.
- 8. JOHN DOES 1-10 are individuals or entities whose identities are currently unknown, but who participated in, contributed to, or benefited from the wrongful actions described herein. These parties may include, but are not limited to, employees, agents, or affiliates of Tony Buzbee, The Buzbee Law Firm, or other individuals or entities involved in handling Guidry's case and settlement. Upon information and belief, JOHN DOES 1-10 are not residents of the State of Louisiana. They will be added as their identity and respective roles in the wrongful conduct described herein becomes known through discovery.

#### **JURISDICTION & VENUE**

- 9. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332. Guidry is a citizen of Louisiana, Buzbee Defendants are citizens of Texas, and the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000 exclusive of costs and interest.
- 10. Defendants have sufficient "minimum contacts" with the State of Louisiana including: (i) Defendants contacted Guidry in the State of Louisiana for the purpose of soliciting him as their client; (ii) Defendants mailed and emailed their contract for employment of attorney to Guidry in Louisiana; (iii) Defendants insisted that Guidry sign documents in Louisiana using a notary public authorized by the State of Louisiana; and (iv) Defendants committed acts of commission and omission in the State of Louisiana including by breaching duties owed to Guidry while unjustly enriching themselves.
- 11. Venue in this District is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because a substantial part of the events giving rise to the claims occurred in this District.

#### **FACTS**

- 12. Tony Buzbee is a relentless self-promoter. The Buzbee Defendants rely on Tony Buzbee's quasi-celebrity status to lure Louisiana residents, such as Guidry, to The Buzbee Law Firm. Tony Buzbee draws attention to himself and his Firm by representing and suing celebrities, by broadcasting his wealth on social media, and, recently, by parking a WWII tank in front of his home in an affluent Houston neighborhood.
- 13. In 2020, Guidry was referred to the Buzbee Law Firm. Guidry had been severely injured while working aboard the General Eisenhower.
- 14. In February 2020, The Buzbee Law Firm filed suit against Callan Marine, Ltd. ("Callan Marine"), the owner of the General Eisenhower.<sup>3</sup>
- Despite initially valuing Guidry's claim at \$1 million, the Buzbee Defendants coerced Guidry into settling his case for less than one-third of that amount. In doing so, the Buzbee Defendants failed to inform Guidry of his options including the implications of settlement versus trial. The Buzbee Defendants concealed critical information from Guidry about skyrocketing expenses and the paltry amount Guidry would receive upon settlement. Relying on his lawyers, Guidry settled for \$325,000.00. When these funds were distributed, Guidry received \$5,123.19. The Buzbee Defendants kept Guidry uninformed and exploited his vulnerability to unjustly enriched themselves.
- 16. Based on information and belief, Buzbee Defendants have a pattern of using these predatory practices against their clients.
- 17. Buzbee represented Guadalupe Garza, who was injured while working on a vessel owned by Callan Marine. Buzbee sued Callan Marine in Nueces County, Texas. Under federal

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See Adam Paul Guidry v. Callan Marine Ltd., 2020-13178, 270<sup>th</sup> Dist. Court of Harris County, Tex. (Feb. 27, 2020) (the "Texas Lawsuit").

law, Garza was entitled to receive maintenance and cure payments. According to court filings, Callan Marine was instructed to make maintenance and cure payments for Garza to The Buzbee Law Firm, but Garza never received the payments. *See Garza v. Callan Marine, Ltd.*, 2020CCV-61002-3, Nueces County, Tex. Callan Marine subpoenaed records from the Buzbee Law Firm to find out where the payments went. Rather than providing records in defense of their actions, the Buzbee Defendants opposed the subpoena.

- 18. At a hearing in the *Garza* case, Callan Marine's counsel stated that: (a) other Buzbee clients have reported not receiving maintenance and cure paid to The Buzbee Law Firm; (b) according to records, Buzbee Defendants deposited maintenance and cure payments into its operating account rather than its trust account; and (c) The Buzbee Law Firm apparently repackages maintenance and cure payments intended to provide living expenses for injured workers into loans which must be repaid with interest.
- 19. A similar case illustrates a pattern. In *Thompson v. Buzbee*, the Buzbee Law Firm allegedly misappropriated maintenance and cure payments owed to Matthew Ray Thompson Jr., a deckhand injured when his vessel collided with another. Like Guidry, Thompson alleges he was kept in the dark as the Buzbee Law Firm ran up expenses including high interest "loans" to Thompson. *See Thompson v. Buzbee*, Civ. Action No. 2:24-cv-02827, E.D. La. Dec. 9, 2024.
- 20. In another case, Callen Marine moved to designate Buzbee, The Buzbee Law Firm, and Chris Leavitt (an attorney at The Buzbee Law Firm) as responsible third-parties for maintenance and cure that Callen Marine paid but its client, Laquille Tyner, never received. *See Tyner v. Callan Marine*, *Ltd.*, 2020CCV-61393-2, Nueces County, Tex. In its motion, Callan Marine stated:

In connection with these contested allegations, but in compliance with its obligations under the [Jones] Act, Defendant, Callan paid maintenance and cure payments to the Anthony G. Buzbee, LP (the "Buzbee Firm"). These funds, which even included some of Mr. Tyner's unearned advances, were

paid to the Buzbee Firm because that was following their demand. Callan was unaware that they were not getting the credit that was due or that these payments were being converted by the Buzbee firm to appear as tokens of their own generosity. It is clear that Mr. Tyner alleges in his pleading that he did not receive all funds he thought were due from Callan and that he was harmed by the conduct. What Mr. Tyner did not know was that it was his own lawyers that were intercepting the funds and that his own attorney failed to place them in an IOLTA account. Even worse, these same attorneys have attempted to conceal their own shameful conduct and transform it into a larger damage award for their client. It was the conduct of the Responsible Third Parties that created the lawyer induced disappointment of Mr. Tyner in his employer Callan. It was these same lawyers, and this law firm, who failed to protect said funds in an IOLTA account or distribute them properly to Mr. Tyner.

- 21. In *Haywood v. Univ. of Pittsburgh*, a federal court invalidated Buzbee's referral agreement as "invalid as a matter of public policy." No. 11-1200, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 179045, at \*2.
- 22. In *In re Lowe's Home Ctrs., LLC*, Buzbee was found to be filing "venue pleadings and [his client's] affidavit" was "at best, incorrect, and at worst, fraudulent." 531 S.W.3d 861 (Tex. App. 2017). To avoid consequences, Buzbee unilaterally nonsuited the case and refiled it elsewhere.
- 23. Tony Buzbee's misconduct apparently is not limited to client finances. According to a news report less than a month ago, Tony Buzbee flew into a fit of rage and physically assaulted a client that he was representing in a divorce. The client alleges that after Buzbee assaulted her in public, his focus became concealing the assault rather than protecting her interests in the divorce action.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Attorney Repping Alleged Victims Sued for Assault, Nov. 21, 2024, <a href="https://www.tmz.com/2024/11/21/diddy-attorney-tony-buzbee-sued-accused-of-assault/">https://www.tmz.com/2024/11/21/diddy-attorney-tony-buzbee-sued-accused-of-assault/</a> ("[S]he is alleging she was in a public place when Buzbee saw her, flew into a 'fit of rage' and allegedly pushed a champagne flute into her face, chipping her tooth. She says she has both medical and dental records to prove her injuries. . . . The woman's lawyer, Jeremy Bohrer, tells TMZ, 'Tony Buzbee is a hypocrite. There is nothing worse than when a black hat masquerades as a white hat.'").

#### **CAUSES OF ACTION**

#### **COUNT I: BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTIES**

- 24. Guidry incorporates the preceding paragraphs by reference, as if restated fully herein.
- 25. Guidry had an attorney-client relationship with Buzbee Defendants. As his attorneys, Buzbee Defendants owed Guidry duties of loyalty and care including to act in his best interests, to keep him informed, to advise him concerning options, to safeguard his funds, to put his interests above their own, and to provide competent representation.
- 26. Buzbee Defendants breached these duties to Guidry including by failing to keep him informed regarding his litigation; failing to advise him concerning his options; misleading him concerning the value of his claim; failing to manage expenses reasonably in relation to the value of his claim; charging him excessive interest on advances; and claiming a grossly excessive portion of Guidry's settlement for themselves.
- 27. Buzbee Defendants' acts, omissions, and breaches have damaged Guidry in an amount that will be proven at trial.

#### **COUNT II: UNJUST ENRICHMENT**

- 28. Guidry incorporates the preceding paragraphs by reference, as if restated fully herein.
- 29. Buzbee Defendants, along with John Does 1-10, intentionally and/or negligently exploited their position of trust and authority as Guidry's attorneys to unjustly enrich themselves at Guidry's expense. Without limitation, the Buzbee Defendants failed to keep Guidry informed during the representation, failed to advise him of his options, and failed to disclose to him the ramifications of settlement versus trial. The Buzbee Defendants denied Guidry opportunities to approve or reject costly experts; inflated and concealed expenses that were not reasonable given

the value of Guidry's settlement; and failed to reasonably manage, protect, and preserve Guidry's funds. Additionally, the Buzbee Defendants overcharged Guidry by running up expenses and charging excessive interest on loans.

- 30. John Does 1-10 are individuals or entities whose identities are currently unknown but who participated in, contributed to, or benefited from the wrongful actions described herein, including the acts and omissions that led to the unjust enrichment of themselves and the Buzbee Defendants.
- 31. A claim for unjust enrichment requires proof of five elements: (1) an enrichment of the defendant; (2) an impoverishment of the plaintiff; (3) a causal connection between the enrichment and the impoverishment; (4) an absence of justification or cause for either the enrichment or the impoverishment; and (5) the lack of any other remedy at law. *See Moroux v. Toce*, 06-831 (La. App. 3 Cir. 11/02/06), 943 So. 2d 1263, 1273. The Buzbee Defendants and John Does 1-10 were enriched by appropriating Guidry's settlement funds, inflating and concealing expenses, and imposing excessive interest and fees on loans for living expenses. Guidry was correspondingly impoverished by these actions, as these funds, intended to support his recovery, were unjustly diverted for the benefit of the Buzbee Defendants.
- 32. There is no justification or cause for attorneys using concealment and deceit to enrich themselves while impoverishing their client. Guidry lacks an adequate remedy at law because, among other things, the Buzbee Defendants violated fiduciary duties that do not exist in traditional contract claims.
- 33. As a direct result of their intentional and/or negligent acts and omissions, Buzbee Defendants and John Does 1-10 wrongfully obtained financial benefits to which they were not entitled. Their unjust enrichment was at the expense and impoverishment of Guidry.

34. Guidry seeks restitution and an award of damages in an amount, to be proven at trial, sufficient to disgorge improper financial benefits obtained by the Buzbee Defendants and John Does 1-10 and to compensate Guidry for his losses.

#### **COUNT III: NEGLIGENCE**

- 35. Guidry incorporates the preceding paragraphs by reference, as if restated fully herein.
- 36. Buzbee Defendants and John Does 1-10 negligently failed to exercise reasonable care and skill of competent attorneys while representing Guidry. Without limitation, the Buzbee Defendants failed to manage Guidry's case and its expenses; failed to keep Guidry informed about material aspects of his case; failed to include Guidry in decisions concerning expenditures on experts; failed to advise Guidry of his options concerning settlement versus trial; and failed to disclose to Guidry the impact excessive expenses would have on his recovery.
- 37. Buzbee Defendants and John Does 1-10 further failed to reasonably manage, safeguard, and protect Guidry's interest in future settlement proceeds by inflating and/or failing to control expenses in a reasonable manner in relation to the value of Guidry's case.
- 38. As a direct and proximate result of the negligent acts and omissions of Buzbee Defendants and John Does 1-10, Guidry suffered financial harm and other damages to be proven at trial.
- 39. Guidry seeks an award that will fully compensate him for the harm caused by the negligent acts and omissions of Buzbee Defendants and John Does 1-10.

#### **REQUEST FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Plaintiff Adam Guidry prays for judgment against Defendants Anthony G. Buzbee, Anthony G. Buzbee L.P. (d/b/a The Buzbee Law Firm), and JOHN DOES 1-10 in the form of a judgment against Defendants on all counts and an award

in excess of \$250,000 including disgorgement of unjustly obtained benefits, actual damages, statutory damages, punitive damages, reasonable and necessary attorney and expert fees, court costs, and all other relief the Court may deem appropriate.

Dated: December 13, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

**ADAM GUIDRY** 

By: *Timothy W. Porter* 

Tim Porter, La. Bar No. 24863

Kelley Berry (Lead Counsel) (Pro Hac Pending) BERRY & MUNN, P.A. P.O. Drawer 768 201 Downing Street Hazlehurst, MS 39083 (601) 894-4150 kberry@berrymunnpa.com

Tim Porter, La. Bar No. 24863 PORTER & MALOUF, P.A. 825 Ridgewood Road Ridgeland, MS 39157 (601) 957-1173 tim@portermalouf.com

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.)

| purpose of initiating the civil d                | ocket sheet. (SEE INSTRU              | CTIONS ON NEXT PAGE C                    | )F THIS F    |  |                    |                                   |                |                            |            |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--------------|--|--------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|------------|
| I. (a) PLAINTIFFS                                |                                       |  |              | DEFENDANTS   |                    |                                   |                |                            |            |
| ADAM GUIDRY                                      |                                       |  |              | ANTHONY G. BUZBEE; ANTHONY G. BUZBEE, LP (d/b/a                            |                    |                                   |                |                            |            |
| , 15, 1111 GG 51(1)                              |                                       |  |              |  |                    |                                   |                |                            |            |
| <b>(b)</b> County of Residence of                | of First Listed Plaintiff             | _aFourche Parish,                        | La           | The Buzbee Law Firm) a. County of Residence of First Listed Defendant      |                    |                                   |                |                            |            |
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| (c) Attorneys (Firm Name,                        | Address, and Telephone Numb           | er)                                      |              | Attorneys (If Known)   |                    |                                   |                |                            |            |
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| •  | ter, Porter & Malouf                  |  |              |  |                    |                                   |                |                            |            |
| Ridgewood Rd,                                    | Ridgeland, MS 391                     | 157, (601) 957 <b>-</b> 11               | 73           |  |                    |                                   |                |                            |            |
| II. BASIS OF JURISD                              | ICTION (Place an "X" in               | One Box Only)                            | III. CI      | TIZENSHIP OF PI  | RINCIPA            |                                   |                |                            |            |
| 1 U.S. Government                                | 3 Federal Question                    |  |              | (For Diversity Cases Only)   | TF DEF             | u.                                | nd One Box for | PTF                        | DEF        |
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| IV. NATURE OF SUIT                               |                                       |  | E(           |  |                    | for: Nature of S                  |                |                            |            |
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| 130 Miller Act                                   | 315 Airplane Product                  | Product Liability                        | 69           | 0 Other  |                    | USC 157                           | 3729(          |                            | C          |
| 140 Negotiable Instrument                        | Liability                             | 367 Health Care/                         |              |  |                    | CLLECTUAL                         | 400 State      | Reapportion                | nment      |
| 150 Recovery of Overpayment                      | 320 Assault, Libel &                  | Pharmaceutical                           |              |  |                    | ERTY RIGHTS                       | 410 Antitr     |                            |            |
| & Enforcement of Judgment 151 Medicare Act       | Slander 330 Federal Employers'        | Personal Injury Product Liability        |              |  | 820 Cop            |                                   | 450 Comn       | s and Bankii<br>nerce      | ng         |
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| of Veteran's Benefits                            | 350 Motor Vehicle                     | × 370 Other Fraud                        |              | 0 Fair Labor Standards   |                    | end Trade Secrets<br>of 2016      |                | ISC 1681 or                |            |
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| 190 Other Contract                               | Product Liability                     | 380 Other Personal                       | 72           | 0 Labor/Management   | SOCIA              | L SECURITY                        | Protec         | ction Act                  |            |
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| 220 Foreclosure 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment       | 441 Voting<br>442 Employment          | 463 Alien Detainee 510 Motions to Vacate |              | Income Security Act  |                    | es (U.S. Plaintiff                | Act            | om of Infor                | mation     |
| 240 Torts to Land                                | 443 Housing/                          | Sentence                                 | ´            |  |                    | Defendant)                        | 896 Arbitr     | ation                      |            |
| 245 Tort Product Liability                       | Accommodations                        | 530 General                              |              |  |                    | —Third Party                      | _              | nistrative Pr              |            |
| 290 All Other Real Property                      | 445 Amer. w/Disabilities              | - 535 Death Penalty                      |              | IMMIGRATION  |                    | USC 7609                          | 1              | eview or Ap                |            |
|  | Employment 446 Amer. w/Disabilities   | Other:<br>540 Mandamus & Oth             |              | <ul><li>2 Naturalization Application</li><li>5 Other Immigration</li></ul> |                    |                                   |                | by Decision itutionality   |            |
|  | Other                                 | 550 Civil Rights                         | " H          | Actions  |                    |                                   |                | Statutes                   | 01         |
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|  |                                       | Confinement                              |              |  |                    |                                   |                |                            |            |
| V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" i                        | n One Box Only)                       | •  | •            |  |                    |                                   | •              |                            |            |
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| Proceeding Sta                                   | ite Court                             | Appellate Court                          | □ Reop       | ened Another   | r District         | Litigation -                      | - 🗀            | Litigatio                  |            |
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|  |                                       |  | re filing (1 | Do not cite jurisdictional stat  | tutes unless di    | versity):                         |                |                            |            |
| VI. CAUSE OF ACTION                              | ON 28 U.S.C. § 1332 Dive              |  |              |  |                    |                                   |                |                            |            |
|  | Brief description of ca               |  | aliannan     | n connection with legal rep  | nrocentation       |                                   |                |                            |            |
| VII DEOLIECTED IN                                |                                       |  |              |  | -                  | HECK VEC1                         | : 6 1 1 - 1 :  | 1                          |            |
| VII. REQUESTED IN                                |                                       | S IS A CLASS ACTION                      | •            | EMAND \$   |                    | HECK YES only i                   | _              | — ·                        | int.       |
| COMPLAINT:                                       | UNDER RULE 2                          | 23, F.R.CV.I .                           | 0)           | /er \$100,000  | J                  | URY DEMAND:                       | × Yes          | ∐ No                       |            |
| VIII. RELATED CASI                               |                                       |  |              |  |                    |                                   |                |                            |            |
| IF ANY   | (See instructions):                   | JUDGE                                    |              |  | DOCK               | ET NUMBER                         |                |                            |            |
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| 12/13/2024                                       |                                       | /s/ Timothy W. Porte                     | er, La Bar l | NO. 24863  |                    |                                   |                |                            |            |
| FOR OFFICE USE ONLY                              |                                       |  |              |  |                    |                                   |                |                            |            |
| RECEIPT # AM                                     | MOUNT                                 | APPLYING IFP                             |              | JUDGE  |                    | MAG. JUD                          | OGE            |                            |            |

#### 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: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.
- 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 statute.

- 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.

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

|   |  | for the  |
|---|--|--|
|   | Eastern Di   | strict of Louisiana  |
| ADAM GUI  | DRY  | )<br>)<br>)<br>)   |
| Plaintiff()<br>v.<br>ANTHONY G. BUZBEE, ANT<br>(d/b/a THE BUZBEE L<br>JOHN DOES | HONY G. BUZBEE, LP<br>LAW FIRM) and<br>S 1-10                          | ) Civil Action No. 2:24-CV-02873 ) ) ) ) )   |
| Defendant   | (s)  | )  |
|   | SUMMONS  | IN A CIVIL ACTION  |
| To: (Defendant's name and address,  | Anthony G. Buzbee<br>600 Travis Street, Suite<br>Houston, Texas 77002- |  |
| A lawsuit has been file   | ed against you.  |  |
| are the United States or a Unit<br>P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must               | ed States agency, or an of<br>t serve on the plaintiff an              | on you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you fficer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of otion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, |
| If you fail to respond,<br>You also must file your answe                        |  | be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. rt.   |
|   |  | CLERK OF COURT   |
| Date:   |  | Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk   |

Civil Action No. 2:24-CV-02873

#### PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (1))

|        | This summons for (nan  | ne of individual and title, if any) |  |              |  |  |
|--------|--|-------------------------------------|--|--------------|--|--|
| was re | ceived by me on (date)   | ·                                   |  |              |  |  |
|        | ☐ I personally served  | the summons on the individual a     | at <i>(place)</i>                        |              |  |  |
|        |  |                                     | on (date)                                | ; or         |  |  |
|        | ☐ I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with (name) |                                     |  |              |  |  |
|        |  | , a perso                           | n of suitable age and discretion who res | sides there, |  |  |
|        | on (date)  | , and mailed a copy to              | the individual's last known address; or  |              |  |  |
|        | ☐ I served the summo   | ons on (name of individual)         |  | , who is     |  |  |
|        | designated by law to a   | accept service of process on beha   | alf of (name of organization)            |              |  |  |
|        |  |                                     | on (date)                                | ; or         |  |  |
|        | ☐ I returned the summ  | mons unexecuted because             |  | ; or         |  |  |
|        | ☐ Other (specify):   |                                     |  |              |  |  |
|        | My fees are \$   | for travel and \$                   | for services, for a total of \$          | 0.00         |  |  |
|        | I declare under penalty  |                                     |  |              |  |  |
| D-4    |  |                                     |  |              |  |  |
| Date:  |  |                                     | Server's signature                       |              |  |  |
|        |  |                                     | Printed name and title                   |              |  |  |
|        |  |                                     | Server's address                         |              |  |  |

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

### United States District Court

|  | for the   |
|--|---|
|  | rict of Louisiana   |
| ADAM GUIDRY  | )<br>)<br>)   |
| Plaintiff(s) v.  ANTHONY G. BUZBEE, ANTHONY G. BUZBEE, LP (d/b/a THE BUZBEE LAW FIRM) and JOHN DOES 1-10     | ) Civil Action No. 2:24-CV-02873 ) ) )  |
| Defendant(s)   | )   |
| SUMMONS IN   | N A CIVIL ACTION  |
| To: (Defendant's name and address)   |   |
| Anthony G. Buzbee, LP c/o Peter Taaffe, Registere 600 Travis Street, Suite 73 Houston, Texas 77002 US        | 300   |
| A lawsuit has been filed against you.  |   |
| are the United States or a United States agency, or an offi  | you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you cer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. aswer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of ion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, |
| If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be You also must file your answer or motion with the court. | e entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.   |
|  | CLERK OF COURT  |
|  |   |
| Data   |   |

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Civil Action No. 2:24-CV-02873

#### PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (1))

|        | This summons for (nan  | ne of individual and title, if any) |  |              |  |  |
|--------|--|-------------------------------------|--|--------------|--|--|
| was re | ceived by me on (date)   | ·                                   |  |              |  |  |
|        | ☐ I personally served  | the summons on the individual a     | at (place)                             |              |  |  |
|        | 1  |                                     | on (date)                              | ; or         |  |  |
|        | ☐ I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with (name) |                                     |  |              |  |  |
|        |  | , a persor                          | of suitable age and discretion who res | sides there, |  |  |
|        | on (date)  | , and mailed a copy to t            | he individual's last known address; or |              |  |  |
|        | ☐ I served the summo   | ons on (name of individual)         |  | , who is     |  |  |
|        | designated by law to a   | accept service of process on beha   | ulf of (name of organization)          |              |  |  |
|        |  |                                     | on (date)                              | ; or         |  |  |
|        | ☐ I returned the summ  | nons unexecuted because             |  | ; or         |  |  |
|        | ☐ Other (specify):   |                                     |  |              |  |  |
|        | My fees are \$   | for travel and \$                   | for services, for a total of \$        | 0.00         |  |  |
|        | I declare under penalty  |                                     |  |              |  |  |
| D /    |  |                                     |  |              |  |  |
| Date:  |  |                                     | Server's signature                     |              |  |  |
|        |  |                                     | Printed name and title                 |              |  |  |
|        |  |                                     | Server's address                       |              |  |  |

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc: