## **PROFESSION REPOSE SSOR** A Magazine for the Professional Recovery Industry

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EAGLE GROUP XX

#### September 19, 2021—September 23, 2021 South Point Hotel Casino & Spa, LasVegas, NV

Event Hosted by RSIG and Allied Finance Adjusters



**17TH EDITION** 

**CONVENTION INFORMATION INSIDE** 

SUMMER 2021



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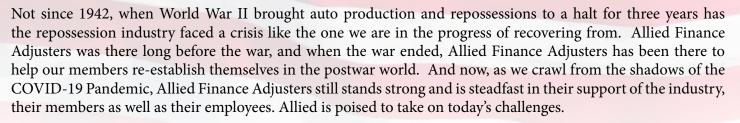




Wade S. Argo President, AFA

### A Letter from the Allied Finance Adjusters President

Hello and welcome to Professional Repossessor Magazine. This complimentary magazine is provided by Allied Finance Adjusters Conference Inc.



Over the past year and a half, we've seen a never-ending stream of legislation aimed at stopping self-help repossession, and all have fizzled into empty threats. In April 2021, California Congresswoman Maxine Waters introduced H.R. 2547, the "Comprehensive Debt Collection Improvement Act" which threatens to redefine repossessors as debt collectors. Not surprising, this bill breezed through the Democrat controlled House in May of this year. While it has advanced to the Senate, as of this date it has not been brought to vote.

However, this is not the only such repossession industry focused legislation being proposed. "Squad" members Ayanna Pressley's "Stop Debt Collection Abuse Act" threatens the same. But like earlier efforts from last year, it's gone nowhere since its introduction. As frightening as these bills are, their probability of passing the almost split Senate, are slim to none.

Let me explain why, because the American Bankers Association, the NAFCU, CUNA and numerous other lobbyists have already warned the more reasonable elements of Congress of the dire ramifications of such actions. These bills are liberal minded eye candy designed to excite the leftist base and introduced with full knowledge that they will not find a receptive audience in the Senate. Two more reasons these pose little threat, is that they are focused on a \$3T infrastructure package with lots of candy to hand out to supporters, and don't forget their summer recess. It is not to say that dangers do not exist, but as time goes by and the pandemic's impact is reduced, the probability of these bills advancing diminishes.

As the current President let me assure you Allied has taken an active role in lobbying against this onslaught of legislation. We have paid attention to the key players and have taken steps to inform them of the ramifications and the dangers to the industry if such bills pass. Our on staff legal counsel has spent hours researching the progress of these fatal bills and continues to communicate with those involved with lobbying for and against the current trash can of legislation.

Conventional wisdom would tell us that the pandemic and its' shutdowns, layoffs and high unemployment, would have resulted in likewise record high delinquency levels and eventual repossession volume. But as the result of unprecedented loan extensions and modifications, the precursor delinquencies never transpired. Likewise, repossession assignment volume never emerged. As the result, we have seen an unfortunate growing trend in repossession agencies closing or retooling themselves for other endeavors.

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#### Allied Executive Committee 2021

Wade Argo President Argo Management Group, Inc. Coal Valley, IL

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Kayihan Seran Executive Secretary Northland Recovery Bureau Minneapolis, MN

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The Professional Repossessor Magazine is published quarterly (January; April; July; October) each year as a courtesy to the members, clients and friends of the Allied Finance Adjusters Conference, Inc. Contributions to The Professional Repossessor Magazine are requested and welcomed, but the right is reserved to select material to be published. Publication of any article or statement is not to be deemed an endorsement of the views expressed therein, nor shall publication of any advertisement be considered an endorsement of the product or service advertised. This Directory is sent to you as a helpful tool to locate quality agents around the country. You should check the website for up to date information and addition information about a member. Allied Finance Adjusters Association maintains a Home Office and communication may be directed to Allied Finance Adjusters Conference, Inc., Editor George Badeen, First Vice President, P.O. Box 3853, Midland, TX 79702.

Email: prm@alliedfinanceadjusters.com

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### A Letter from the President Continued

Exasperating this issue are other factors that squeeze on already thin profit margins. Inflation is rearing its ugly head in the form of rising fuel prices, the largest expense of every repossession company. Federal and state subsidies to unemployment benefits are also creating hiring deficiencies that weigh on operational efficiency and production. And let's not forget the ever-rising costs of insurance that contribute to profit margins that were unreasonably low even before the pandemic struck.

Let's not forget, these repossession fees are almost completely in the control of the nation's largest lenders who have for many years now, been partnering with the repossession forwarding industry. Forwarding itself is inherently wrong and has always been a negative part of the industry, either formally or informally between companies. However, the combined downward pressure on both repossession and ancillary fees by the lenders they partner with are often unfair pay or no-pay policies of the forwarding industry who control somewhere between 70-80% of the nation's repossession volume and have pushed our struggling industry to the breaking point.

The forwarders and the lenders have their own needs. The repossession industry has its own as well. There will never come a time when forwarders or lenders say "hey, I really care a lot about the repossession agencies' survival, so I'm going to pay more." It's just not going to happen.

Sitting in a room with groups of lenders and forwarders strategizing how to help the repossession industry thrive will always look like a "what's in it for me?" proposition to them. The repossession agency is nothing more than paid muscle for the forwarders and lenders. So, what is to be gained by these interactions? Not much. We have allowed the forwarding companies to infiltrate our industry by selling the lenders their own bill of goods. The forwarders walk in and offer a substantial benefit package to our lenders all designed to line the pockets of the owners, board of directors or anyone willing to invest in these predators. As we have all discovered most of the time these profits are based on how much the forwarding companies can steal from the hard-working professional agents doing the dirty work while the forwarding companies reap the rewards.

Allied Finance Adjusters is the only repossession agency owner association in the nation, period. Just as in the beginning, Allied has focused on the repossession agency owners and their staff with no conflicting motives. Membership in the Allied Finance Adjusters is an investment in your business and an investment in your industry. Unlike other associations that are owned and designed for someone to profit from membership, Allied Finance Adjusters is member owned.

Since 1936, The Allied Finance Adjusters then known as the "The National Association of Allied Finance Adjusters" have been there for the then fledgling industry. Early on, the primary benefit of the Allied Finance Adjusters was part of "The Book", the only marketing material available to the lending industry at its time. But as competing associations developed, so did other "Books." The primary difference between the associations then became, aside from name of course, the value of membership.

Membership has always been more than a word or recognition of paid dues for Allied. While there are some outstanding state associations, Allied Finance Adjusters is the only national repossession industry association representing the agency owners and agency employees. Other books are riddled with forwarding companies advertising their services in areas once serviced by you the private company owner. My question (as well as yours as a company owner) should be "why did we let the fox in the hen house and what can we do to get our industry back? Its time to start building value in our companies. It's important that the lenders we are indirectly servicing are made aware of the actual professionals doing the actual repossessions and not the individual's that are sucking the industry dry. Allied member owners and their employees are some of the finest individuals in the industry who put their lives on the line everyday they head out to do the job that very few want to do. Our members are highly trained and are offered additional training through Allied's online training program. Allied Finance Adjusters Book is designed to highlight our members by not including outside forwarding companies that are killing your futures in the industry.

Continued on page 6

### A Letter from the President Continued

Through our working relationship with the Eagle XX Group, and their best in industry compliance training, and our \$1,000,000 Client Protection Policy, along with our on staff legal counsel, we remain steadfast and dedicated in our investment to our members.

Allied Finance Adjusters members, their companies and employees combined with their dedication to professionalism within the industry are the most valuable tool any lender can possess to safely and professionally recover their delinquent collateral. Through membership in Allied and with my plans to implement a client relations committee to begin showing the value of offering direct work to our members your EC is looking at a brighter future for the industry. Its going to be an uphill battle however I believe as a team we can do it. It won't happen overnight but if we don't begin to take a stand the industry that has fed our families and sent our children to college will die.

As President of Allied Finance Adjusters, I am proud to lead this group of individuals during these trying times. I look forward to working through today's ever-increasing challenges with this amazing team. With your help and dedication, combined with Allied lobbying efforts, we can weather the storm and remain on top of the industry as an association.

We've Got This!

Wade S. Argo, President Allied Finance Adjusters Conference Inc.

> The Recovery Agents Benefit Fund Dec 2002 ~ \_\_\_\_ Has had to step up to help provide these More than it should have to... But we can't without your help!

Donate Today at: www.recoveryagentsbenefitfund.org



Helping fallen repossessors and their families since 2002 with over \$495,000 distributed to date. Will you support us in supporting the repossession industry? www.recoveryagentsbenefitfund.org + 703.365.0409

### Lender Leniency on Forbearances Fading



CICERO, Ill. (CBS) — Forbearance – that act of putting your debts on hold – is a word many people heard for the first time during the pandemic. But now, with the economy climbing back, lenders are losing their leniency. CBS 2's Tim McNicholas met a Cicero man who learned the hard way.

Playing sad songs is Dan Kalena's specialty lately. He's a Social Security and disability recipient who recently fell on hard times.

Music is one of the only things helping him cope.

"Keeps my mind off of things to some degree," Kalena said.

But he can't sing away his troubles.

Kalena said his car was recently repossessed. He walked outside and saw the car was gone from its parking spot.

He said he was making partial payments, but PNC Bank rejected his forbearance application – even though the bank's website touts its financial hardship policies.



*"You're going to take this away from me and punish me for something I had no control over?" Kalena said. "I didn't expect the pandemic. I didn't expect my health problems. All I was asking was for a little leeway."* 

A recent study from the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago found forbearance on auto loans surged during the pandemic.

"At the beginning of the pandemic, April or May of last year, lenders were very willing to approve forbearance," said Jon Rose of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.

Experts say lenders are now raising the bar – in some cases requiring more information on how the pandemic is hurting you.

McNicholas: "Is that leniency we've seen from some of these banks, is that leniency dwindling now?"

Teresa Murray: "I think it probably is."

Murray is the consumer watchdog director with the U.S. Public Interest Research Group.

"Because things are bouncing back, I think that these banks feel like they have space to come down a little harder on consumers," Murray said.

PNC Bank sent Kalena a warning letter that the car could be repossessed. But when he called, he says PNC sang a different tune — and said his partial payments might help him out.

"They said, 'As long as you can try to do something, something is better than nothing,' is what they said," Kalena said.

Now he's left with an empty driveway, and another sad song.

After we reached out, PNC Bank called Kalena directly and said they're looking into his case to see if they can work something out with him.

Experts say if you need forbearance, ask for it early before you get behind on your loan.

Source: CBS Chicago

### **Allied supports State Associations**

#### **CRAI – Collateral Recovery Association of Illinois**

CONTACT: 225 Middle Ave., Aurora, Il 60506, Reposunl@yahoo.com • 630-340-5642

The Collateral Recovery Association of Illinois has been created in order to:

- To promote and enhance positive working relationships among professional recovery firms throughout the state.
- To establish a reliable platform by which industry specific information is openly accessible to all operators in the recovery field.
- To continually evolve as the industry expands through the process of education and innovative thought.
- To encourage an industry consistency, validated by the merits of integrity in the business and honesty in practice.

Our goal is to establish a problem-solving desk for any issues the Illinois that recovery firms may encounter in renewing the Collateral Recovery license or tickets that may have been issued for violations. We will also have an open door for all Illinois Repossession companies for their issues and ideas for improvements. We also will ask different vendors to come and show their latest equipment and tools.

We aim to make this an organization that all Illinois Repossession Companies will be proud to be a member.

Please contact John Fiorelli 630-340-5642 for more information.

#### California Association of Licensed Repossessors (CALR)

History has shown that many states in our nation adopt the laws passed in California. Become a CALR Supporter or Member Today! Visit www.CALR.org for more information or call 818-945-CALR (2257) **Marcelle Egley - President** 

#### **Carolina Finance Adjusters (CFA)**

The Carolina Finance Adjusters Association(CFA) has accepted your request to bring together all who are involved in the business of recovering collateral for the lending industry in South Carolina. Our mission is to bring together recovery agents and their clientele, appropriate government agencies and regulatory authorities in hopes of improving the professionalism of collateral repossession as an honorable profession and to improve the image of those who work within the industry.

#### Become a CFA Supporter or Member Today!

For more information www.carolinafinanceadjusters.org or call 843-760-0520 **Scott Chambers - President** 

#### Georgia Association of Licensed Repossessors (GALR)

We invite everyone to join, your voice matters, and we need your support as a member to fulfill this grand vision to bring back the level of professionalism this industry deserves. Please let me know if you have ideas you want to be heard or discussed. Contact us at Office@GALR.org or call 888-425-7324. John Newberry - President

#### Massachusetts Association of Professional Recovery Agents (MAPRA)

Repossession volumes are up, but we are still operating lean. "We believe that working together we can make change. One united voice for the betterment of our industry in Massachusetts and surrounding states." Become a MAPRA Supporter or Member Today! Contact us at info@mapra.org or call 508-930-2106. Wendy Sousa - President

#### Michigan Association of Repossession Agencies (MARA)

Repossession volumes are up, but we are still operating lean. Become a MARA Supporter or Member Today! Contact us at michassocrepo@gmail.com or call 616-552-5674. Mark S. Haskins - President

Texas Accredited Repossession Professionals (TexasARP)

Visit www.TexasARP.org for more information and on how to become a member. **Stephanie Findley, President** info@TexasARP.org











#### **Certification For Professional Repossession Agents**

The field of self-help repossession is changing at a rapid pace. New and constantly evolving laws, client requirements, technology enhancements and account brokers are some of the many changes the industry must deal with on a daily basis. The cost of these changes and the nature of the services performed by repossession agents have increased the potential that unqualified and or uninformed repossession agents could seriously affect our industry.

The need to remain informed is most evident with the changing and evolving laws, which give the repossession agent the authority to practice his or her trade. Some states have mandated knowledge requirements including testing, such as California and Florida. Other states, such as Louisiana and Wisconsin, have unique laws regarding who can self-help repossess and what has to happen when self-help repossession occurs.

Many members of the repossession community have long held the selfhelp repossession as an alternative to the use of the judicial process option allowed by the law. It goes without saying that both clients and courts need more confidence in the competence of repossession agents before they will be fully accepted as legitimate and professional participants in the world of lending and law.

RSIG has been training repossessors for 30 years through our annual seminars, training seminars and most formally through our certification program now available online through the RSIG University at www. rsiguniveristy.com. This is an online program available to students 24/7 when it is convenient for them. Our proctored exam ensures that the test

taker is the one taking the test. The fact that our exam is not an open book test means that the student has to prove their retention of the information and not just their ability to look back and find it.

The obvious benefits of certification are professional satisfaction, peer recognition, risk avoidance and economic advantage. In addition, recognized certification provides the availability of an acceptable marketing tool, the creation of a nationwide group of specialists and the establishment of uniform standards.

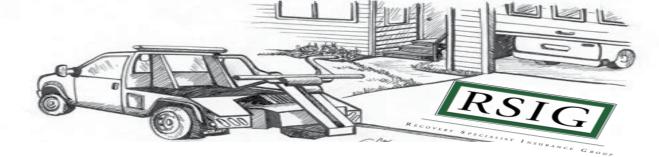
The arguments in favor of such a certification program are that they would improve quality for users of repossession services and reduce risk making insurance coverage more available and enhance the prestige and legitimacy of the repossession field.

The industry has changed and needs to continue to change. Government is calling upon lenders to be more consumer conscience and lenders are passing those expectations to their repossession service providers. If you are not educating your workforce you are being left behind.





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### HR 2547 - DEATH BY FDCPA

By Kevin Armstrong editor of CUCollector.com

#### Bill Seeks to Place Repossession Activity Under the FDCPA

In March of 2019, the Supreme Court took up the case of *Obduskey v. McCarthy and Holthus LLP* and unanimously voted that "*an entity performing a nonjudicial foreclosure is not generally a "debt collector" under the FDCPA and, thus, cannot be held liable under the statute,*". H.R. 2547, the Comprehensive Debt Collection Improvement Act, seeks to unwind that decision and apply the draconian confines of the Fair Debt Collections



Practices Act (FDCPA) to the repossession industry. The ramifications of which, would be devastating to not only the repossession industry, but the American economy and the entire auto industry.

While different activities in form of process, the non-judicial foreclosure and repossession processes are very similar. Taking the word *foreclosure* from the Supreme Court ruling and replacing it with *repossession* and you can easily see that this statement holds the same value to non-judicial repossessions. This is the current legal statute that protects the repossession industry from having to comply with a nearly impossible set of restraints posed by the FDCPA.

Within the FDCPA (15 USC 1692a(6)) are definitions of what a debt collector is not;

(F) any person collecting or attempting to collect any debt owed or due or asserted to be owed or due another to the extent such activity (i) is incidental to a bona fide fiduciary obligation or a bona fide escrow arrangement.

The Obduskey v. McCarthy decision agreed that non-judicial foreclosure was covered under this in that the action was considered **incidental to a bona fide fiduciary obligation or a bona fide escrow arrangement and not an actual act of collecting a debt.** 

Incidental defined; /,inse'den(t)l/ - adjective; "liable to happen as a consequence of (an activity)."

A repossession is a consequence of the activity of non-payment. As such, non-judicial repossession activity is **incidental to a bona fide fiduciary obligation** (auto loan contract.)

**Title VIII of H.R. 2547**, submitted by Rep. Jake Auchincloss (D-MA); titled "**Non-Judicial Foreclosure Debt Collection Clarification Act**" is the specific section of this massive bill that is attempting to rewrite 15 USC 1692a(6) of the Fair Debt Collections Practices Act. This two-sentence Title states;

#### SEC. 801. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Non-Judicial Foreclosure Debt Collection Clarification Act".

#### SEC. 802. ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTERESTS.

Section 803(6) of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (15 U.S.C. 1692a(6)) **is further amended by striking** "For the purpose of section 808(6), such term also includes any person who uses any instrumentality of interstate commerce or the mails in any business the principal purpose of which is the enforcement of security interests.".

In not one, but two sections of this economy killing bill, the clear line between collector and repossessor is under attack.

### HR 2547 - DEATH BY FDCPA

**Title VI – Stop Debt Collection Abuse Act** Originally introduced by "Squad" member Rep. Ayanna Pressley as H.R. 1657, also (D-MA),

"(5) The term 'debt' means any obligation or alleged obligation of a consumer-

"(C) which is secured by real or personal property that is used or was obtained primarily for personal, family, or household purposes, where such **property is subject to forfeiture or repossession upon nonpayment of the obligation or alleged obligation**.

The enforcement of a debt described in subparagraph (C) is deemed to be a collection of a debt."; and

(C) by amending clause (vi), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

"(vi) any person collecting or attempting to collect any debt owed or due or asserted to be owed or due another to the extent such activity—

"(I) is incidental to a bona fide fiduciary obligation or a bona fide escrow arrangement;

The affect of required compliance with the FDCPA by the repossession industry looks like a mine field of litigation with every step and turn of operations.

Under a new classification as debt collectors, repossession agents would be required to notify debtors in writing of; the amount of debt owed, who the assigning lender/creditor is and provide specific instructions to the contesting of the debt in question.

The mere act of being witnessed repossessing collateral by a third party could be grounds for an FDCPA lawsuit for "third-party disclosure" violations.

A "Mini-Miranda" notice containing specific language identifying the repossessor as a debt collector would need to be provided with each contact.

Even accidental contact with a borrower during a repossession after 9PM and before 8AM would be an FDCPA violation.

Any accidental slip of the tongue could trigger claims of the use of profane or abusive language and be the source of FDCPA violations.

The devastating implications of this bill are not only obvious to both the collections and repossession industries but have also caught the attention of many national trade organizations who have made their opposition as clear.

In an April 20 letter to the House Financial Services Committee, the Credit Union National Association (CUNA) wrote, *"This provision will expose mortgage servicers to increased FDCPA* liability and produce regulatory compliance challenges for entities enforcing security interests."

CUNA was also in alliance with their own arch-nemesis, The American Bankers Association (ABA), Consumer Bankers Association (CBA), Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA), Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA), National Association of Federally-Insured Credit Unions (NAFCU), Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA) and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce (COC) in a joint letter sent to congress on May 11 that stated;

Continued on next page

### HR 2547 - DEATH BY FDCPA

" the undersigned organizations are opposed to Title VIII of H.R. 2547, the Non-Judicial Foreclosure Debt Collection Clarification Act, which would reverse the unanimous Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) decision from March 20, 2019 in Obduskey v. McCarthy and Holthus LLP ("Obduskey"). In Obduskey, SCOTUS clarified that entities enforcing a security interest without also seeking repayment or deficiency judgment generally do not qualify as debt collectors under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA)."

Despite all of this unified opposition, Congress passed H.R. 2547 with a vote of 215 to 207, almost completely along party lines with only on Democrat voting against it. Make no mistake, H.R. 2547 is not only a credit killer, it would nearly destroy self-help repossession and set up all recovery agencies across the nation for FDCPA lawsuits with each and every recovery. Your support to stop the bill are urgently needed.

Having cleared Congress, this Bill, and its smaller Bills that it is made up of, are currently under review in the Senate. While infrastructure Bills appear to be dominating the Senate's time, these Bills are still on the table. It's easy to dismiss such threats as impossible, but after a year like 2020, the bar for the conditions of possibility is lower than before.



Kevin Armstrong Editor of CUCollector.com

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#### WRONGFUL REPOSSESSION LAWSUIT FILED AGAINST TITLEMAX

#### Failed to Update Records. Car was Lien Sold a Year Earlier

Fresno, CA – 25 June 2021 - On May 27th, Evelyn Jaramillo filed a <u>complaint</u> against TitleMax and Paramount Recovery, in the Fresno Superior Court for negligence, violation of the Rosenthal Fair Debt Collection Practice Act, violation of the Consumers Legal Remedies Act, violation of Business and Professions Code 17300, Conversion, Alternatively, trespass to chattel, Trespass and violation of Penal Code 496.



According to the complaint, Jaramillo purchased a 2004 Toyota Sequoia for sale by Sierra Towing through a lien sale on March 11, 2019, for \$1,500, which she paid for between April 2019 and Oct 11, 2019. On or about November 9, 2019, a clean and lien-free title was issued to Evelyn by the California Department of Motor Vehicles.

Jaramillo claims that about seven months later, at about 3:00 a.m., a tow truck from Paramount Recovery arrived to repossess the Sequoia. Agents allegedly provided no paperwork showing proof of assignment. After showing agents of Paramount Recovery the title, the agents left.

About three months later, Evelyn and her husband let a friend borrow the Sequoia. On or about October 21, 2020, while the vehicle was parked overnight at the apartment complex where the friend lived, a tow truck from Paramount Recovery came and repossessed it.

On Nov. 20, 2020, almost one month later, the Sequoia was dropped back in front of Jaramillo's house.

There are eight causes of action filed against mostly TitleMax and Paramount Recovery,

According to Jaramillo's lawsuit, *Defendants Paramount and TitleMax failed to exercise reasonable care by failing to check the Sequoia's title, failing to verify ownership and legal interest in the Sequoia, and by towing the Sequoia without authorization by any person or entity with a legal right to authorize the tow.* 

*As a result of Defendants Paramount and TitleMax's actions and failures to act, Plaintiff was deprived of her property and suffered damages, including loss of use of the Vehicle and emotional distress.* 

The conduct of Defendants Paramount and TitleMax showed reckless indifference to the rights of others, and they acted with malice, oppression and fraud toward Plaintiff within the meaning of Civil Code § 3294 and Plaintiff is, therefore, entitled to exemplary and punitive damages in an amount that will adequately punish Defendants Paramount and TitleMax and deter them and others from like conduct.

While MVConnect is listed in the lawsuit, they are only listed in one of the eight complaints. That of Violations of the Consumer Remedies Act, which is puzzling, because MVConnect had neither title, possession or control of the vehicle to provide remedy. This is the only claim against MVConnect.

Jaramillo seeks general and actual damages, treble damages, punitive damages, pre-judgement interest and attorney's fees and cost of suit. Jaramillo is represented by the law office of Colin S. Welsh and Bell Law.

#### LEAVE PERSONAL PROPERTY IN THE VEHICLE? (REALLY?)

#### Guest Editorial by Ron L. Brown

I recently was questioned as to my opinion regarding a current industry contract which instructed the recovery agent to leave all personal property in a recovered vehicle when releasing it to a transporter.

Let me clearly state: I am not an attorney, and I am not giving legal advice related to this issue... but rather my opinion based on 50 plus years of background in the asset recovery industry, education, experience, training, and observations.

I found, after researching the issue of "NON-SECURED PERSONAL PROPERTY IN A REPOSSESSED VEHICLE" in the latest National



Consumer Law Center publication on Repossessions that in most cases which have been filed and litigated the lender (secured party) is ultimately the one who is responsible for non-secured personal property in a repossessed vehicle.

The asset recovery specialist works for the secured party either as an independent contractor or as an agent of their entity, therefore they are bound by an oral or written contractual arrangement to follow their instructions if they wish to perpetuate that business arrangement.

However... this request, instruction, demand on the part of the lender (secured party) opens up a Pandora's Box of potential issues and problems which may ultimately place the recovery agent and the lender or whoever the assigning client might be in a court of law.

Per instructions the recovery agent does not do a thorough inventory and release the vehicle to the transport company with the personal property inside...the chain of custody and control is broken, the consumer claims all of their property was not returned and there are missing items... where did those Rolex watches, credit cards, vital medicines and envelopes full of cash go?

The vehicle was picked up by a recovery agency... did they remove personal property and convert it to their use?

The recovery agent released the vehicle to a transport company... did the transport driver remove personal property?

The transport driver released the vehicle to an auction... did an auction employee remove the personal property?

The lender (secured party) was never in control of the vehicle or the personal property, yet they are the ones who are ultimately responsible for the safekeeping of the property. Who do they look to if there is a claim of missing property?

I think we all know the answer to that question.

#### And now...

#### LEAVE PERSONAL PROPERTY IN THE VEHICLE? (REALLY?)

There is the HIPAA Claim, "any medical related information" which was in the vehicle, prescription pill containers, medical bills, any medical related documents if not handled properly and disposed of or stored with dictated protection will cause rise to a claim under the HIPAA statutes which carry hefty fines for a violation.

There is the GLBA Claim, any non-public personal information such as a checkbook, bank statements, dunning notices, identification documents not properly protected and stored and disposed of in a proper manner will cause rise to a GLBA violation claim.

There is the FDCPA claim, any information indicating a debt or any type of financial obligation, again must be stored properly and if not returned to the consumer, disposed of in a proper manner.

The next time you have the opportunity to talk with a transport driver or auction employee ask them what they know about the HIPAA, GLBA, and FDCPA Rules and Regulations. Prepare yourself for a blank stare and a "HUH". Remember, they do not have to know, it's not in their job description.

It appears to me that it would be a much more sensible concept to avoid all of these potential issues which may lead to costly litigation and adverse publicity for the client to allow a professional and trained asset recovery agent, who is knowledgeable of all the requirements set forth in state and federal statutes related to the proper handling of non-secured personal property, to maintain the control of custody, inventory and properly secure and store the personal property in recovered vehicles.

I wonder why any client (secured party) would make this type of decision. Can they not trust some of the agents they are hiring, have there been claims of theft of personal property, do they not trust their agents to follow statute guidelines and dispose of protected data properly. I question the root cause of this contractual request.

Personally, if I received this contractual instruction from a client my choices would be very simple, either provide me a "Personal Property Specific Hold Harmless", or find an amateur to do your recovery work.

I would remind the lender of a quotation from that famous oilfield firefighter, Red Adair,

" If you think it is expensive to hire a professional to do the job, wait til you hire an amateur."



Author; Ron L. Brown MCE, IFCCE, CCCO, MPRS, CARS, API Facilitator: Eagle Group XX & Eagle Group USA Anything, Anytime, Anyplace... Professionally

## ON THE ROAD TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

### KNOW. WATCH. REPORT.

### KNOW.

#### What is human trafficking?

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery and involves the use of force, fraud or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. Thousands of men, women and children are trafficked into forced labor situations and into the sex trade. Many of these victims are lured from their homes with false promises of well-paying jobs; instead, they are forced or coerced into prostitution, domestic servitude or other types of forced labor. Victims are found in legitimate and illegitimate labor industries, including sweatshops, massage parlors, agricultural fields, restaurants, hotels and domestic service.

#### Human trafficking is different from human

smuggling. Trafficking is exploitation-based and does not require movement across borders or any type of transportation.

### WATCH.

#### **Common indicators**

- Does the victim work and/or live in a location with unreasonable high-security measures such as opaque or boarded windows, bars on windows or barbed wire?
- Does the victim exhibit bruises/wounds in various stages of healing or consistent with the application of physical restraints?
- Is the victim being dropped off and picked up a short time later from a van or RV that seems out of place, near trucks, for example.
- Does the victim exhibit signs of malnourishment, serious dental problems or a lack of healthcare?
- Does the victim exhibit disoriented, confused, depressed, submissive, tense or nervous/paranoid behavior?
- Is the victim accompanied by someone who is controlling them, who provides the victim's information or who does all the communicating?
- Does the victim have trouble communicating due to a language/cultural barrier?
- Does the victim seem submissive or fearful, refuse to make eye contact or seem afraid to speak in the presence of others?

### REPORT.

- Call 911 for emergencies.
- Contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 888-373-7888.
- Text "Help" or "info" to 233733.
- Email Report@PolarisProject.org.
- Scan the QR code for information and help.



Learn more to make a difference on the road to end human trafficking: Visit

https://humantraffickinghotline.org/trainingresources/referral-directory for a list of antitrafficking organizations helping victims in your area.

Watch the Be the One in the Fight Against Human Trafficking training video at https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/

https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov, initiatives/human-trafficking.





TxDOT is committed to ending human trafficking as part of a dedicated community including the Texas Governor's Commission for Women and Child Sex Trafficking Team, state and federal agencies, and industry partners.

#### What does being an Allied Finance Adjusters Member Mean FOR YOU?

"Since 1936, Allied Finance Adjusters is the only true trade association to the repossession industry."

### Membership Has Its Rewards!

#### Allied Finance Adjusters Conventions:

- ✓ Inviting clients to conventions exhibits AFA's professionalism, which in turn, shows your company's professionalism.
- ✓ Meet lenders from throughout the country, which potentially become your new clients.
- ✓ Interact with fellow peers in the industry to discuss what works and what doesn't.
- $\checkmark$  Share techniques and ideas with an interactive audience.
- ✓ See the latest technologies and devices available to recovery agents from our vast number of exhibitors.
- ✓ Help shape the future of Allied Finance Adjusters by attending the membership and board meetings.
- ✓ Partake in festive fellowship with peers who treat each other like family.
- ✓ Give your employees and families a deserved holiday while receiving vital education through superb seminars.
- ✓ Take classes that count toward your municipality and state's requirements.
- ✓ CFPB compliance, FDCPA and other educational training.
- ✓ See longtime friends and acquaintances at AFA's convention and Mid-Year Meeting.

#### Allied Finance Adjusters Home Office:

- ✓ Enjoy the power of a brick and mortar office with a staff to help facilitate your needs.
- ✓ Monthly Newsletters to keep you updated on the association and the industry.
- ✓ Conduit for quick information and the ability to expedite requests.
- ✓ Continuity for the longest-standing repossession trade association in the industry. "Since 1936".
- ✓ More than 30,000 AFA Member Directories are mailed to members and clients each year.
- ✓ Every member has a \$1,000,000 Fidelity Protection Policy.
- ✓ Every new member goes through an important screening process "Professionals only hire Professionals"

#### Allied Finance Adjusters Website:

- ✓ Clients have the ability to search by city or ZIP code and locate any AFA member within a 100-mile radius.
- ✓ AFA has its own Face Book, YouTube & LinkedIn pages to keep you up to date.
- ✓ Valuable information regarding our annual and Mid-Year meeting educational conferences.
- ✓ AFA vendors have quick access to nationwide industry information to stay current.
- ✓ AFA members receive discounts from our vendor listings.
- ✓ Your AFA Member profile links to your company's website.
- ✓ Instant printing of your \$1,000,000 Fidelity Protection Policy and other member documents. Lenders love the ease of efficiency, which means more business for you!
- ✓ Member Doc's section to upload your company documents to your profile page. Clients have easy access to review your company.

#### The Members Only Area of the AFA website provides its members:

- ✓ Back office, client and agent forms that are editable for your letterhead condition reports, etc.
- ✓ Allied logos for use on your website and letterhead.
- ✓ Marketing mailing list of nationwide Automobile Dealerships, Credit Unions, Sub Prime Lenders and more! By state.
- ✓ All past and current monthly Allied Finance Adjusters Newsletters.
- ✓ CPFB, Employee and other Manuals available for download.
- ✓ Vendor discounts to AFA Members.

#### Allied Finance Adjusters Outreach:

- ✓ AFA wants to ensure ALL recovery agents are educated, protected and informed.
- ✓ AFA helps state associations by attending conventions, providing educational services and support.
- ✓ AFA monitors legislative issues that might affect the repossession industry on national and statewide levels.
- ✓ AFA is a member-driven association, and member input is welcomed and encouraged.
- ✓ AFA members experience a strong sense of brotherhood and unity a cornerstone of AFA since 1936.
- $\checkmark$  AFA is a major supporter of the Recovery Agents Benefit Fund (RABF).

Allied Finance Adjusters Conference | 800-843-1232 | Fax 888-949-8520 | www.AFArepo.com

## **2021** Annual Convention Agenda

ay	Date	Event	Start	End
unday	9/19/2021	<b>Registration Opens / Vendor Set Up</b>	8:00 AM	5:00 PN
londay	9/20/2021	Optional Defensive Driving Training	10:00 AM	1:00 PN
		ory to attend to earn a CE certificate, but it can count towards your CE requirement. Att can be presented to your personal auto carriers who may offer discounts on your pers <b>Leon Scroggins</b>		
londay	9/20/2021	Lunch On Your Own	1:00 PM	2:00 PN
londay	9/20/2021	Allied New Member Orientation	2:00 PM	3:00 PN
		New Members of AFA Welcome		
londay	9/20/2021	Allied PreConvention Board Meeting	3:00 PM	5:00 PN
londay	9/20/2021	RSIG Board Meeting RSIG Board Members Only	3:00 PM	5:00 PN
londay	9/20/2021	Gathering of State Associations	5:00 PM	6:00 PI
•		nose interested in learning more about how to become involved in the industry on the s	state level.	
londay	9/20/2021	Welcome Reception w/Exhibitors	7:00 PM	9:00 PI
		Light Food & Drinks to Wind Down the Day.	0.0	
uesday	9/21/2021	Breakfast	7:00 AM	8:15 AN
uesday	9/21/2021	Introductions/Welcome Remarks	9:00 AM	9:30 AI
uesday	9/21/2021	Running A Successful Recovery Agency	9:30 AM	10:30 <i> </i>
		Tips and Info on running a successful recovery agency. Code of the West <b>Ron L. Brown</b>		
uesday	9/21/2021	AM Break	10:30 AM	11:00 <i> </i>
iesday	9/21/2021	*CE Training – Federal and State Agency Updates	11:00 AM	12:30 F
	We w	vill review the actions and changes in federal and select state agencies during the past year that could have an effect on the repossession industry. Machelle Morris, attorney for Allied Finance Adjusters Conference Inc.		
uesday	9/21/2021	Lunch	12:30 PM	1:30 PI
uesday	9/21/2021	*Training	2:00 PM	3:30 PI
-		Training for CE		
	9/21/2021	PM Break	3:30 PM	4:00 PI
iesday	9/21/2021	Eagle XX / Eagle USA	4:00 PM	6:00 PI
uesday uesday	5/21/2021			
-	5/21/2021	Meeting for current Eagle XX and Eagle Group USA members		
•	9/21/2021 9/21/2021	Meeting for current Eagle XX and Eagle Group USA members <b>RSIG Business Meeting (Members Only)</b>	4:00 PM	6:00 PI

Tickets to NASCAR races and more available for your bidding.

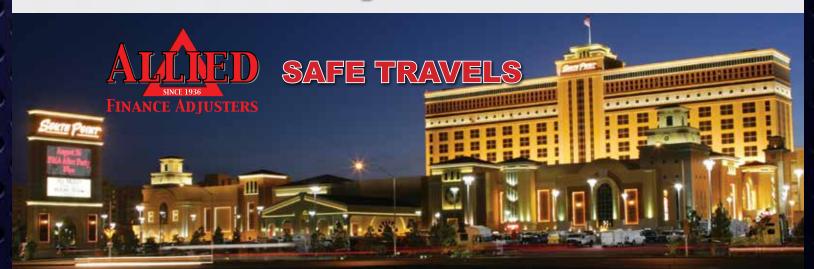
### **2021** Annual Convention Agenda

Wednesday	9/22/2021	Breakfast	7:00 AM	8:30 AM				
Wednesday	9/22/2021	Repossession Case Law Review / What's New in the Courts?	8:30 AM	10:30 AM				
at	the state and fe	ssession case law will update attendees on important and impactful repossession case deral levels. The term Breach of Peace is an evolving idea and defined and redefined th pens in one state impacts another as courts look to other jurisdictions when making de Case law impact insurability. Don't miss this session to learn more!	rough case law.					
Wednesday	9/22/2021	AM Break	10:30 AM	11:00 AM				
Wednesday	9/22/2021	Spy the Lie	11:00 AM	12:30 PM				
Whether we want to admit it or not - everyone lies. Some are just bigger and more costly than others. Join Susan Carnicero former security specialist with the Central Intelligence Agency and be introduced to the basics of Spying the Lie. Susan Carnicero								
Wednesday	9/22/2021	Lunch	12:30 PM	2:00 PM				
Wednesday	9/22/2021	Allied Business Meeting (Members Only)	2:30 PM	5:00 PM				
		Allied Voting Members						
Wednesday	9/22/2021	Exibitor TearDown	4:00 PM	5:30 PM				
Wednesday	9/22/2021	<b>Closing Ceremonies - Awards Dinner</b>	7:00 PM	10:00 PM				
		e with us as we close out another hugely successful education, training and networking Celebrate accomplishments of individuals in the industry who go above and beyond!	event.					
Thursday	9/23/2021	RSIG Board Meeting RSIG Board Members Only	8:30 AM	10:30 AM				
Thursday	9/23/2021	Allied Post Conference Board Meeting	9:30 AM	12:00 PM				

**REPO 2021** 

\* Tentative Agenda - Dates/Meeting Room Locations Subject to Change Hosted by: Recovery Specialist Insurance Group & Allied Finance Adjusters

www.repo2021.com

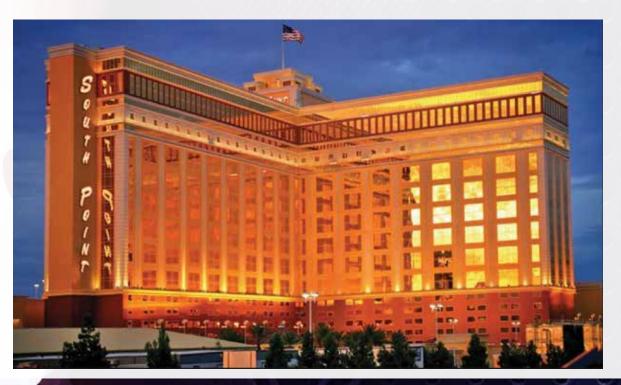


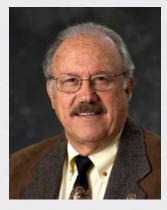


Leon Scroggins National Safety Council - Defensive Driving Course Instructor License Number 2266635

Leon Scroggins began a career in the Repossession Industry with his first repossession in July 1972 while employed in the Auto Finance Industry as a Lending officer, Collector and Branch Manager in California. Leon gained his repossession experience as an employee of a nationally recognized leader in the repossession industry until he started Leon's Quality Adjusters, Inc. in California in 1988. That same year, Leon purchased his first tow truck and taught himself, with the help of the tow truck supplier, how to operate, repair and utilize all the available industry tools to repossess all types of vehicles quickly and safely with a tow truck. Over the years Leon also obtained his Commercial Driver's License, repossessed, operated, and drove commercial tractor-trailer combos, buses and motor homes. Since that first truck purchase, Leon has driven over 2 Million miles citation, crash and collision free.

Leon joined the insurance purchasing membership organization, Recovery Specialist Insurance Group, in 1996 and remained a member of the group until he sold his repossession business in the fall of 2015. Throughout his time in the industry, Leon served eleven years on the board of the California Association of Licensed Repossessors, including two years as the Association's President. Leon also served on RSIG's Board of Directors from 2002 to 2015. In March of 2019 Leon came back to RSIG as an employee. In August of 2019 Leon obtained instructor status with the National Safety Council and has been licensed to teach the NSC's Professional Truck Driver-Driver Safety Training Class, the NSC's Chronic Offender Class and NSC's Attitudinal Dynamics of Driving Class. With his extensive 49 year background in the Repossession Industry, Leon has structured his NSC Class sessions to fit the driving model of the modern Repossessor.





**Ron L. Brown** Allied Finance Adjusters Education Chair



#### \* Ron L. Brown IFCCE, MCE, CCCO, CARS, MPRS, CFA, API

Ron L. Brown is the President and CEO of CSI Group in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, one of the oldest and largest Asset Recovery Investigation Agencies in the Central Plains Region.

A state licensed Private Investigator and member of the National Association of Fraud Investigators, he has over 45 years of experience in the field of locating and recovering lost and missing people and assets and has assisted many law enforcement agencies including the U.S. Marshall's Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Texas Rangers.

He is internationally recognized as one of the leaders in the Tracing and Recovery Industry and spends much of his time acting as an instructor for various credit and collection entities. Having received the ACA International "Fred Kirschner Instructor Achievement Award" for instructing 250 ACA Seminars, he was also three times selected by ACA International as the "ACA Certified Instructor of the Year". Ron also instructs for the Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training and travels across the United States presenting his critically acclaimed "MANHUNT" and "CYBERTRACKING" Seminars.

Nationally recognized as one of the key instructors of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, the Fair Credit Reporting Act, Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act and HIPAA, Ron has written many published articles on these ever-changing federal laws and continues to conduct seminars related to these statutes. Testifying as an "Expert Witness" in numerous wrongful repossession litigations Ron recognized the need for an affordable field agent compliance training program and in collaboration with the members of Eagle Group XX he has developed the asset recovery industry accepted compliance training seminars which include the Field Agent Compliance Training (FACT), the Support Employee Compliance Training (SECT) and most recently the highly praised (SACAT) Situational Awareness and Confrontational Avoidance Techniques.

Ron continues to author numerous industry publication articles on the application of psychology and neuro-linguistics related to tracing, interrogation techniques and consumer motivation in the collection and asset recovery industry as well as co-authoring the best seller, "MANHUNT, The Book".

Currently active in all phases of the Asset Recovery and Collection Industry he continues to personally, handle investigations ranging from Internal Fraud to Homicide and is well known in Debt Collection, Law Enforcement and Asset Recovery circles. He may be contacted at Rbrown@CSI-ARM.com or 800-411-1844.



Susan M. Carnicero Founding Partner

A former security specialist with the Central Intelligence Agency, Susan Carnicero has 20 years of experience in interviewing, interrogation and polygraph examination, focused primarily on national security, employment and criminal issues. Susan is the developer of a behavioral screening program currently used within the federal government and in a variety of private industries, tapping experience gained in government service. She is widely considered a leading authority on interviewing, detection of deception, and elicitation.

Susan has extensive experience in conducting training for federal government agencies and the law enforcement community, as well as for financial services firms and other private-sector companies. Most recently, she has been involved in conducting high-level screening interviews within the U.S. government, and in providing consulting services for Forbes Top 10 families.

Prior to joining the CIA, Susan served in the investor relations and corporate communications field, where she achieved the position of Director of Public Relations for a Fortune 500 company.

Susan is co-author of The New York Times bestsellers Spy the Lie and Get the Truth. She holds an M.A. in Forensic Psychology and an M.A. in Secondary Education/English from Marymount University in Arlington, Va.

## REPO2019!!! Photos





O. Machelle Morris Attorney at Law P.O. Box 2824 Midland, Texas 79702 432-664-5638 Legal@AlliedFinanceAdjusters.com

Machelle Morris is the foremost national legal expert on issues relating to repossession and security interest enforcement. Her focus since the early 1990's has been on repossession laws and regulations, and small business survival.

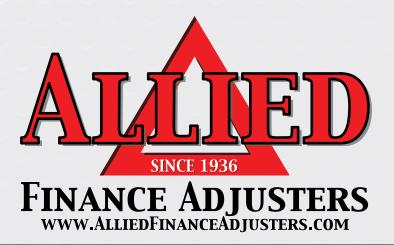
Her vast knowledge of repossession laws in every State, as well as an understanding of how state and federal regulations affect repossession companies, and other small businesses across the country, has made her the go-to legal advisor for Allied Finance Adjusters Association and its members.

Machelle advises and teaches recovery agents, as well as other attorneys, on real-world compliance and contract issues. Several State laws directly reflect her input to the legislature on behalf of repossession business owners.

Machelle is licensed to practice law in Texas, New Mexico and Washington. She is a qualified mediator/arbitrator; is a member of the Intellectual Property Law and Consumer Law Sections of the State Bar of Texas; is a licensed auctioneer; and is available as an expert witness on issues of collateral recovery and financial vendor compliance.

In addition to owning and operating her boutique law firm, Machelle is an active volunteer. She is an Officer and Director of faith-based Through the Storm Ministries (San Antonio, Texas). She is on the Board of Directors and holds the position of Secretary with the former Texas Rangers Foundation (Fredericksburg, Texas) which seeks to teach Texas students about the history of the State of Texas and its premier law enforcement agency. She is also on the Advisory Board of The Life Center (Midland, Texas), a faith-based organization offering an alternative to abortion as well as teaching parenting skills and offering other assistance to expectant parents free of charge.

Machelle is a proud mother of four daughters and loves to travel. She is a lifetime member of the University of Texas Texas-Exes Alumni Association and an avid Red Raider fan as an Alumni of Texas Tech University School of Law.



#### 11TH CIRCUIT COURT RULING OPENS AN FDCPA PANDORA'S BOX OF CONSEQUENCES

## Using a letter vendor is ruled an unauthorized third-party communication. What else then?

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit delivered a very novel and consequential interpretation of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act that could prove transformative for debt collectors and their third-party service providers. And while apparently focused on the collection agency industry, it's application could have reaching effects to the repossession forwarding industry and perhaps the agencies themselves.

On April 21, 2021, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit issued a decision on *Hunstein v. Preferred Collection and Management Services, Inc.*, which on first impression, finds that a debt collector's transmittal of a consumer's personal information to its letter vendor constituted a prohibited third-party communication *"in connection with the collection of any debt"* within the meaning of section 1692c(b) of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act ("FDCPA"). This ruling has broad ramifications for the accounts receivable management industry and will very likely usher in a new wave of FDCPA litigation.

This lawsuit originated from unpaid bills for medical treatment at a hospital. The hospital assigned the unpaid bills to a debt collector that had contracted with a third-party vendor for printing and mailing its collection letters. The collector electronically transmitted to its vendor certain information about the plaintiff/debtor such as:

(1) his status as a debtor, (2) the exact balance of his debt, (3) the entity to which he owed the debt,
(4) that the debt concerned his son's medical treatment, and (5) his son's name.

The vendor then sent the information to generate and send a dunning letter to the debtor. The debtor received the letter and then filed a lawsuit in the Middle District of Florida alleging violations of both the FDCPA and the Florida Consumer Collection Practices Act.

The district court dismissed the lawsuit for failure to state a claim by concluding that the debtor had not sufficiently alleged that the collector's transmittal of information to the letter vendor was a communication *"in connection with the collection of a debt."* The debtor then appealed to the Eleventh Circuit.

The Eleventh Circuit court concluded that a violation of section 1692c(b) gives rise to a clear injury under Article III of the Constitution and found that the plaintiff did have standing to bring this lawsuit. The Eleventh Circuit then turned its focus onto whether the alleged communication was "*in connection with the collection of a debt*" such that it violated section 1692c(b).

The Eleventh Circuit rejected the debt collector's "industry practice" argument that there is widespread use of mail vendors by debt collectors and a dearth of FDCPA cases against them. It commented that none of the cases cited by the debt collector involved Section 1692c(b) claims, the courts in those cases had no obligation to determine whether there was a Section 1692c(b) violation, and the fact that this case "is (or may be) the first case in which a debtor has sued a debt collector for disclosing his personal information to a mail vendor hardly proves such disclosures are lawful."

In the court's decision, they stated: "We presume that, in the ordinary course of business, debt collectors share information about consumers not only with dunning vendors like Compumail, but also with other third-party

#### 11TH CIRCUIT COURT RULING OPENS AN FDCPA PANDORA'S BOX OF CONSEQUENCES

entities. Our reading of § 1692c(b) may well require debt collectors (at least in the short term) to in-source many of the services that they had previously outsourced, potentially at great cost. We recognize, as well, that those costs may not purchase much in the way of "real" consumer privacy, as we doubt that the Compumails of the world routinely read, care about, or abuse the information that debt collectors transmit to them. Even so, our obligation is to interpret the law as written, whether or not we think the resulting consequences are particularly sensible or desirable."

This interpretation of section 1692c(b) of the FDCPA is now wide open and by virtue of it's being a circuit ruling, is the law of the land in the absence of any dissenting circuit or Supreme Court decisions.

While it has been argued many times that repossession agencies nor their employees are "Debt Collectors", the question of whether a reinstatement of a repossession or the threat of repossession, as a form of leverage, are collections tactics?

Like it or not, with this new wide-open definition of communication *"in connection with the collection of a debt"* could find it's way into areas of the repossession and remarketing industry previously unthought of.

I am not a lawyer. This is not legal advice and should not be considered as such. If you seek legal advice, seek out a practicing attorney. I'm not that guy! This case has been appealed to the Supreme Court.

Kevin



#### Alabama

Dothan Southeastern Recovery David Hughes 185 Loraine Rd., Dothan, AL 36301 334-671-1170

#### Alaska

Fairbanks Banker's Collection Co., Inc. Craig Chausse 618 Gaffney Rd., Fairbanks, AK 99701 907-456-2830

#### Arizona

Phoenix Alpha Towing & Recovery Company, LLC Jordan Sawalqah 1838 S. 5th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85003 602-258-3298

Phoenix Desert Auto Recovery Jeff C. Dryer 1019 S. 30th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85009 602-841-0100

Phoenix Innovative Recovery Solutions, LLC Jared D. Bowers 1742 E. University Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85034 623-866-2360

Phoenix Reliable Recovery Services, LLC Dan Ketterer 2401 W. McDowell Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85009 623-934-3599

Phoenix Southwest Recovery, LLC Michael Van Winkle 528 S. Robson, Mesa, AZ 85210 480-699-0138

#### Pinetop

High Country Towing & Recovery Inc dba Navapache Asset Adjusters John W. TenEyck 612 E. White Mountain Blvd., Pinetop, AZ 85935 928-272-7800

Tucson

Automobile Recovery Services of Arizona, Inc. Robert C. Bozarth 3250 S. Dodge Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85731 520-747-0699

Yuma A&A Towing & Recovery Monty W Sanders 13711 S. Ave. 3E, Yuma, AZ 85365 928-581-8884

#### Arkansas

Fort Smith Absolute Towing And Recovery, LLC Josh Niles 4617 Jennylind Rd., Ft. Smith, AR 72903 479-434-6700

North Little Rock *Alert Recovery Inc.* Walter L. Justice Jr. 14514 MacArthur Dr., North Little Rock, AR 72118 **800-643-8362** 

North Little Rock Statewide Towing and Recovery, Inc. Shara Justice 10515 MacArthur Dr., North Little Rock, AR 72118 501-803-3650

Texarkana *Evans Recovery Specialists, Inc.* Arron A Evans 119 Senator St., Texarkana, AR 71854 **903-701-5175** 

#### California

Carson Repossession Empire Inc DBA Legion Lloyd Collins 620 West Rosecrans Avenue, Gardena, CA 90248 **310-995-2657** 

Gardena Coastline Recovery Service, Inc. Scott Fornaro 15133 S. Broadway, Gardena, CA 90248 310-965-0242

Granada Hills *Motion Repossessors, Inc.* Michael Falk 8235 Sepulveda Pl., Van Nuys, CA 91402 818-780-3000

Lancaster All American Recovery Raul Rosales 42302 8th St. E., Lancaster, CA 93535 661-949-0078

Long Beach Action Auto Recovery Chuck Cowherd 3860 Cherry Ave., Long Beach, CA 90807 562-989-1300

Loomis Tracker Auto Recovery, Inc. John N. Dickinson 6301 Angelo Ct. #5, Loomis, CA 95650 916-660-0424

Los Angeles Knight Recovery, Inc. Bob Forester 14036 Avalon Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90065 855-511-7376

#### California

Los Angeles L.A.W. Recovery Misti Benarbachian 2910 Gilroy St., Los Angeles, CA 90039 323-913-9600

Modesto Four Star Recovery, Inc. Cheryl Goodban 1228 Doker Dr., Modesto, CA 95351 209-524-2854

North Highlands Solid Solutions 24/7, Inc. Scott Fornaro 6950 34th St. #230, North Highlands, CA 95660 916-800-1847

Oceano *Cal Coast Recovery* Gary Lee Rayburn 1131 Pike Ln. #10, Oceano, CA 93445 **805-458-3698** 

Panorama City Sterling Asset Recovery, Inc. Adam M. Saltzman 14626 Titus St., Panorama City, CA 91402 818-786-7376

San Diego Lenders Recovery Service-CA Chad Buchanan 9558 Camino Ruis Ste B. San Diego, CA 92126 619-638-8700

Stockton *T. Grant & Associates, Inc.* Tim Grant 4642 E. Waterloo Rd., Stockton, CA 95215 209-931-7090

Vallejo After Hours Auto Recovery Wes Englebrecht 1627 Lewis Brown Dr., Vallejo, CA 94589 707-553-7814

Victorville Inland Valley Recovery Elisa Noreiga Schmid 17393 Jasmine St., Victorville, CA 92395 760-245-9933

#### Colorado

Colorado Springs *Midnight Recovery, LLC* Matt Longo 2737 Delta Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80910 7**19-565-0586** 

Denver Pratt Adjustment Bureau Jeanne Lewis 6810 Downing St., Denver, CO 80229 303-289-7710

#### Connecticut

Pueblo Colorado Asset Recovery Specialists Dorothy D. Carroll 509 E. 11th St., Pueblo, CO 81001 719-676-2617

Branford Collateral Recovery Services, LLC Thomas Farace Jr. 21 Ciro Rd. North, Branford, CT 6471 203-315-9207

Windsor *Auto Lock Unlimited, Inc.* Robert Edwards 1449 John Fitch Blvd. S., South Windsor, CT 6074 **860-282-0065** 

Winsted Confidential Asset Recovery Services, LLC Vallerie Sugerak 120 Colebrook Rd., Winsted, CT 6098 860-379-7914

#### Delaware

Smyrna Hound Dog Recovery Ryan Grelock 2151 S. Dupont Blvd., Smyrna, DE 19977 **302-836-3806** 

#### Florida

**Ft Lauderdale** Southern Adjustment Services Sam Corolla 4250 SW 59th Ave., Ft Lauderdale, FL 33314 **954-797-9997** 

Fort Meyers Speedie Recovery of South Florida Adyleide Guaiz Mai 8041 Mainline Pkwy, Fort Meyers, FL 33912 239-458-4500

Fort Meyers Sun West Recovery, Inc. Barbara Scheele 28053 Mitchell Ave., Punta Gorda, FL 33982 941-637-0157

Fort Pierce Repossessions Inc. South Kathy Kelly 2007 N. Old Dixe, Ft. Pierce, FL 34946 772-461-0755

Gainesville Hyde N Seek Recovery, Inc. Scott M. English 4131 NW 6th St., Gainesville, FL 32609 352-336-5464

Hollywood DCT Recovery Agency, Inc. Dawn Kelly 6014 Hayes St., Hollywood, FL 33024 954-963-7376

#### Florida

Jacksonville *First Coast Florida Recovery, Inc.* Larry Davis 10952 W. Beaver St., Jacksonville, FL 32220 **904-693-1152** 

Miami Specialized Towing & Transportation Inc. Rigoberto Herrera 3250 NW North River Drive, Miami, FL 33142 305-442-9696

Miami *Target Recovery, Inc.* Luz Maestre 10736 SW 188th St., Miami, FL 33157 **305-633-1666** 

Orlando B&P Auto Recovery Services Janette Mojica 11407 Rocket Blvd., Orlando, FL 32824 407-851-3246

**Orlando** *Ketterle & Sons, Inc.* John Ketterle, Jr. 340 Fairlane Ave., Orlando, FL 32809 **407-851-3953** 

Orlando Statewide Auto Tracker Inc. Shea A. Graves 31549 Long Acres Dr., Sorrento, FL 32776 239-458-4500

Sarasota Action Towing & Recovery of Sarasota Vincent J. Payne 5439 Catalyst Ave., Sarasota, FL 34233 941-921-3443

Tampa Nighthawk Towing & Repossession, Inc. Bonnie S. Mathews 7110 E. 14th Ave., Tampa, FL 33619 813-627-0303

Tavernier *Target Recovery Inc.* Luz Maestre 92425 Overseas Hwy 1, Tavernier, FL 33070 **305-633-1666** 

Weeki Wachee *Xtreme Towing & Recovery, LLC* Jeffery P Fletcher 17184 Nicasio Jay Ave., Brooksville, FL 34614 352-232-4717

West Palm Beach Anytime Recovery Inc. Michael L. D'Amelio 6378 Wallis Rd., West Palm Beach, FL 33413 561-318-7072

#### Georgia

Albany Georgia Collateral Recovery Bureau, Inc. David Gabaldon 623 Fussell Rd., Leesburg, GA 31763 229-436-1448

Atlanta National Vehicle Recovery of GA, Inc. Penny Childers 5648 Mableton Pky., Atlanta, GA 30126 770-941-9283

College Park Premier Recovery Solutions, Inc. Eric R. Elder 2459 Roosevelt Hwy., Ste A-5 College Park, GA 30337 404-684-1443

Fort Oglethorpe FSR Services, Inc. Steven Bianco 116 Herron St. Ste A, Fort Oglethorpe, GA 30742 954-448-3434

Lithonia Speedy Recovery Services, Inc. Richard Grosvenor 6905 Chapman Road, Lithonia, GA 30058 770-484-6700

Loganville *Quick Recovery Services, Inc.* Emily E. Hemmings 1031 Karlee Blvd., Loganville, GA 30052 770-554-6474

Mableton *Triton Recovery and Commercial Services, LLC* Ben Edwards 7071 Queens Ferry Dr., Mableton, GA 30126 770-745-5940

Villa Rica Eagle Eye Recovery Inc. John Newberry 104 Hunter Industrial Dr Ste A, Villa Rica, GA 30180 770-783-9811

#### Hawaii

Hilo BB Towing Asset Recovery LLC Paul K. Keolaokalani 888 Kalanianoale Ave., Hilo, HI 96720 808-640-8510

#### Idaho

Blackfoot State Recovery Richard Stallings 100 Mark Ln., Blackfoot, ID 83221 208-785-6591

Idaho Falls B/A Recovery Inc. Jay Eaton 2070 N. Woodruff, Idaho Falls, ID 83402 208-524-5463

#### Idaho

Nampa Gates & Associates Bruce Gates 604 N. 36th St., Nampa, ID 83687 208-461-5981

#### Illinois

Addison Illinois Repossession Agency, Inc. Tony Harraz 814 S. Westwood Ave., Addison, IL 60101 630-458-2200

Aurora *Repos Unlimited Inc.* John S. Fiorelli 225 Middle Ave., Aurora, IL 60506 630-896-7376

Cary Assets Biz Corporation Michael Terreault 302 Cary Point Drive, Cary, IL 60506 224-357-8823

**Chicago** *Silva 24HR Towing, Inc.* Victor H. Silva 5255 W. 47th St., Forest View, IL 60638 773-424-8341

Coal Valley Argo Management Group, Inc. Wade S. Argo 2108 East 2nd St., Coal Valley, IL 61240 309-738-2872

Decatur Precision Recovery, Inc. Jason T. Kirby 1322 N. Rt. 121, Mt. Zion, IL 62549 217-864-6943

Hickory Hills Par Towing, Inc. Russell J Lindemann 9851 S. 78th Ave., Hickory Hills, IL 60457 708-430-0275

Lansing Done Rite Recovery Services, Inc Donna L Morandi 3056 E. 170th St., Lansing, IL 60438 708-418-4315

Lynwood MADD Recovery, Inc. dba Bulldog Recovery Sherman Moore 21760 E. Lincoln Hwy., Lynwood, IL 60411 708-898-2710

Peoria Mega Services, Inc. Casey Boulton 140 W. Queenwood Rd., Morton, IL 61550 309-266-8455

#### Indiana

Indianapolis Peter P. Recovery Indianapolis IN Pete Benvenuti 3560 S. Madison Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46227 317-780-8902

Indianapolis Last Chance Wrecker & Sales, Inc. James W. Edsall III 1256 Roosevelt Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46202 317-541-8551

Indianapolis BP Final Notice Recovery Brad Pierson 2801 W. Morris St., Indianapolis, IN 46221 317-786-8653

#### Iowa

Des Moines *Trainwell Creditors Service* Ted Hansen 1418 Madison, Des Moines, IA 50313 515-264-9336

Parkersburg Starlight Recovery & Investigations, LLC James Bellows 33617 6th St., Parkersburg, IA 50665 319-404-9040

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Wichita Prairie Land Services Troy Manzi 135 N. Elizabeth St., Wichita, KS 67203 316-219-2929

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Lexington AA Repo dba Appalachian Auto Recovery Jordan T. Charles 351 United Court, Lexington, KY 40509 859-455-8257

Lexington Imperial Recovery B. Jeff Queens 451 Chair Ave., Lexington, KY 40508 859-254-3396

Louisville *River City Adjustments* Frank C. Corolla 4107 Taylor Blvd., Louisville, KY 40215 502-367-1115

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Baton Rouge Bayou Recovery Service, LLC Jeffery Sommers 5475 Parkview Church Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70816 225-293-4999

Covington Centurion Auto Recovery Nicholas P. Trist III 111 N. Madison St., Covington, LA 70433 888-368-5880

Loreauville Hazelwood Recovery & Investigations, LLC Chad Hazelwood 205 N. Main St., Loreauville, LA 70552 337-380-8547

New Orleans *Guardian Services, LLC* Sidney Jerry McCann 15 W. 23rd St., Kenner, LA 70062 504-464-5778

New Orleans Accurate Recovery Service Joseph L Relf 7848 Chef Menteur Hwy., New Orleans, LA 70126 504-452-5563

#### Maryland

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Detroit Midwest Recovery & Adjustment, Inc. George Badeen 14666 Telegraph Rd., Detroit, MI 48239 313-538-2100

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#### Minnesota

Burnsville Northland Recovery Bureau Kayihan Seran 1800 Hwy. 13 West, Burnsville, MN 55337 952-303-4749

#### Mississippi

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 1966 Country Club Dr., Jackson, MS 39209
 601-923-7900

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#### Missouri

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Kansas City American Collateral Recovery Of Kansas City Tom Healey 3910 Main St., Grandview, MO 64030 816-767-8700

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**St. Charles** *Tri Star Recovery Service, Inc.* Thomas M White 3250 Hwy 94 N., St. Charles, MO 63301 **314-521-6900** 

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Union Unique Towing & Recovery Chris Oliveira 751 Lehigh Ave., Union, NJ 07083 908-451-4666

#### **New Mexico**

**Albuquerque** 24/7 Recovery Tony E. Romero 2000 4th St NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102 505-550-5551

Las Cruces Advanced Towing And Repossession, LLC Eric McNutt 1600 W. Picacho Ste. B, Las Cruces, NM 88005 575-647-4058

#### New York

Amityville Avanti Automotive LI Inc. Ashley R. Guenther 60 Sprague Avenue, Amityville, NY 11701 516-881-0000

Bronx New York Collateral Recovery Corp. Norberto Rivera 499 City Island Ave., Bronx, NY 10464 914-365-2221

Brooklyn City Towing & Recovery Ronald Scott 126-20 Jamaica Ave., Richmond Hill, NY 11418 718-416-2000

Brooklyn *Tow Authority, Inc.* Frank Alfano 412 Maspeth Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11211 718-599-1700

Copiague Hooked Up Towing, Inc. Ralph Cahn 125 Lincoln St., Copiague, NY 11726 631-608-8015

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#### North Carolina

Benson NC Recovery Inc. Eddie Stewart 578 Old Roberts Rd lot 101, Benson, NC 27504 919-300-1520

Burlington Collateral Recovery Solutions, LLC Pete Guelho 1520 Industry Dr., Burlington, NC 27215 336-222-1771

#### North Carolina

Charlotte 123Recovery USA Kevin C Corcoran 8431 Statesville Rd, Charlotte, NC 28269 704-522-7540

Fayetteville Universal Services, Inc Billy C. Whittenton Jr. P.O. Box 2572, Fayetteville, NC 28302 910-678-8866

Raleigh Unlimited Recovery, LLC Tad Lowdermilk 3201 Durham Dr., Raleigh, NC 27603 919-790-9393

Wilmington Atlantic Recovery, Inc. William E Hewett Jr. 1703 Castle Hayne Rd., Wilmington, NC 28401 910-471-2286

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#### North Dakota

Bismarck Midwest Property Recovery LLC George Kuntz 910 Industrial Dr., Bismarck, ND 58501 701-255-4918

#### Ohio

Cincinnati *King's Kars, Inc.* Lisa Matthews 3329 State Route 222, Batavia, OH 45103 513-797-8500

Cleveland *Midwest Recovery* David Keever 15415 Chatfield Ave., Cleveland, OH 44111 **216-252-6843** 

Defiance Fisher Recovery Services Christopher A. Fisher 89222 N. State Rte. 66, Defiance, OH 43512 419-439-2225

Garfield Heights National Asset Recovery Specialists, Inc. Bryan Finn 4875 Osborn Rd, Garfield Heights, OH 44128 440-243-5242

N. Jackson USA Meridian Int'l Inc. Timothy Koskovics 13421 Mahoning Ave., N. Jackson, OH 44451 800-334-0866

#### Ohio

North Royalton Medlock Recovery Services LLC Anthony J Medlock 9552 York Alpha Drive, N Royalton, OH 44133 216-252-3600

#### Oklahoma

Oklahoma City Oklahoma Repossessors Chad Kohmescher 7632 NW 3rd, Oklahoma City, OK 73127 405-789-7376

Oklahoma City Con Sec Investigations Ron L. Brown 2519 NW 23rd St., Ste. 204, Oklahoma City, OK 73107 405-942-4152

Oklahoma City American Recovery Specialists Inc. Charles E. Wilson 3600 S. Prospect, Oklahoma City, OK 73129 405-843-7001 ext 101

**Tulsa** *ALSCO-Tulsa LLC* Lisa Hancock 8512 E. 46th St., Tulsa, OK 74145 **918-794-7714** 

**Tulsa** *Baker Recovery, Inc.* Sam Baker 7509 E. 11th St., Tulsa, OK 74112 **918-832-7181** 

Tulsa Chamras Asset Recovery Specialists Inc dba C.A.R.S. Inc Brandon Chamras 5112 N Mingo Rd, Tulsa, OK 74117 918-693-8993

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Allentown Financial Adjusters Inc Jeffrey Crocus 1634 MacArthur Rd, Whitehall, PA 18052 610-820-8311

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Robert Stankovitch
1401 Industrial Hwy., Cinnaminson, NJ 08077
856-786-7500

Pittsburgh Interlink Recovery Services, LLC Sean Tarr 399 Brentwood Dr., Greenville, PA 16125 724-646-2700

Pittsburgh Recovery America Richard John 4540 New Texas Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15239 800-526-1219

#### **Puerto Rico**

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North Charleston Affordable Towing and Recovery Inc. Scott R Chambers 7124 Cross County Rd., North Charleston, SC 29418 843-760-0520

#### South Dakota

Rapid City Dakota West, Inc. Marty Jacob 1770 E. Centre, Ste. #3, Rapid City, SD 57703 605-348-3731

Sioux Falls Dakota Adjusters Inc. James Day 1425 E. 54th St. North, Sioux Falls, SD 57104 605-338-7331

Watertown Innovative Adjusters Douglas R. Walsh 812 W. Kemp Ave., Watertown, SD 57201 605-868-3023

#### Tennessee

L I Recovery Jodie Kevin Lassiter 2398 Smithville Hwy, McMinnville, TN 37110 931-668-4647

Louisville Damage Free Auto Recovery Michael L Raines 3201 Wrights Ferry Rd., Louisville, TN 37777 865-973-2950

Nashville Connect One, LLC John P. Hanks 80 Cleveland St., Nashville, TN 37207 615-649-0731

Troy Krietman Towing Jackie Lynn Krietman, Jr. 4044 Killion Rd., Troy, TN 38260 731-886-0454

#### Texas

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Beaumont Elite Recovery Services Richard Loden 11181 Keith Rd., Beaumont, TX 77713 409-892-1800

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Dallas Unlimited Asset Adjusters Kim Tucker 712 S Buckner Blvd., Dallas, TX 75217 877-287-0488

#### Texas

Dallas *R. Worthington & Associates* Rick Worthington 2745 Hwy. 175, Dallas, TX 75159 972-287-9878

El Paso *G7M Repossession Specialist Inc.* Cynthia Gomez 9704 Carnegie Ave. Ste. B, El Paso, TX 79925 **915-565-7376** 

Fort Worth Dallas County Adjusters, Inc. K.L.Barnes 1201 Sturgeon Ct. #113, Fort Worth, TX 76001 817-834-6079

McAllen McDaniel Asset Recovery Roel Buentello 2500 N. Moorefield Rd., Mission, TX 78572 956-789-9252

McAllen Weaver Asset Recovery Allen Weaver 401 W. Sioux Rd., McAllen, TX 78589 956-787-2607

San Antonio San Antonio Recovery, Inc. Gary Amezcua 4710 Callaghan Rd., San Antonio, TX 78228 210-438-8280

 Tyler

 Texas Investor Recovery Services (TIRS)

 Steve Sitton

 1010 SSE Loop 323, Tyler, TX 75701

 903-597-1412

Tyler Liberty Recovery Services, LLC Vaunda J. Warnasch 4848 Tidwell Dr., Tyler, TX 75708 903-593-7230

Waco *Texas Recovery Service, Inc.* Justin Buenger 212 Lyndon Dr., Waco, TX 76702 **254-848-2200** 

#### Utah

Ogden Lost Recovery Inc. Casey Snyder 2231 N. Rulon White Blvd, Ogden, UT 84404 801-622-7376

Salt Lake City Patriot Towing and Recovery LLC Brian Edwards 3566 South 300 West, South Salt Lake City, UT 84115 801-975-0201

#### Virginia

Chantilly Virginia Recovery Specialists, LLC Robin Lawrence 44200 Lavin Ln., Chantilly, VA 20152 703-542-8800

Dublin Professional Recovery Specialists David L Salmons 1422 W. Main St., Radford, VA 24141 540-838-2388

Richmond Glen Allen Recovery, Inc. Kirk K Ammons II 8618 Broadway Ave., Richmond, VA 23228 804-266-2700

Rustburg VA, Dragon Recovery LLC Susan Hall 11626 Wards Rd., Rustburg, VA 24588 434-200-9012

#### Washington

**Spokane** *WIRB, Inc.* Curtis Nelson 1609 E. Holyoke, Spokane, WA 99217 **509-484-0464** 

#### West Virginia

Bluefield *F 5 Investigation, Inc.* David White 5429 New Hope Rd., Bluefield, WV 24701 **304-431-3605** 

Charleston *West Virginia Auto Adjustment* Daniel Brent Hoel 2344 Pennsylvania Ave., Charleston, WV 25302 800-926-2436

#### Wisconsin

Elk Mound *Crows Nest Repo, LLC* Nichole Lynn Moriarity 2051 US Hwy 12, Elk Mound, WI 54739 715-917-1080

Milwaukee AMI Asset Management, Inc. Dennis Birkley 807 Swan Dr., Mukwonago, WI 53149 262-662-0467

Milwaukee Badgerland Auto Recovery, Inc. Kurt D. Schwebe 3343 North 30th St., Milwaukee, WI 53216 414-529-0260

#### Wyoming

Cody J & S Recovery, Inc. Jason Kummerfeldt P. O. Box 31292, Billings, MT 59107 406-248-8103

#### **Contact Information**

#### **BLAST FROM THE PAST EXCERPT**

From Kevin Armstrong upcoming book research

#### THE UNLUCKIEST ADJUSTER

Thomas D. Palmer, 29, an Investigator for an automobile finance company, left his wife in an automobile and entered a poolroom near Pico and Figueroa streets "to find a man." That was Thursday night and Palmer has failed to return to his home at 16 Avenue 23, Venice, according to his wife, Mrs. Gertrude Palmer. She told police her husband was attempting to repossess a car purchased by a bad man and ex-bootlegger. Los Angeles Daily News (Los Angeles, CA) – April 23, 1934

No further mention of this missing person case could be found until three years later. Thomas D. Palmer, 29, an investigator for an automobile finance company, left his wife in an automobile and entered a poolroom near Pico and Figueroa streets "to find a man." That was Thursday night and Palmer has failed to return to his home at 16 Avenue 23, Venice, according to his wife, Mrs. Gertrude Palmer.

She told police her husband was attempting to repossess a car purchased by a "bad man"—an exbootlegger.

#### TWO KIDNAPPERS FREE MAN HERE

*"This is the end of your ride."* one of the two kidnappers allegedly advised Thomas D. Palmer, 32-years-of age, before tossing him from his own moving car in the northern California town of Richmond. Walking ten miles, Palmer arrived at the Oakland Police station on May 21, 1937, where he was reported to be *"Unshaven and disheveled" "bruised and near collapse"* after his ordeal that started in LA three days earlier. Palmer claimed that the two men leapt into his car at a stoplight in LA and kidnapped him at gunpoint. *"Keep quiet and keep going if you don't want to get hurt."* the thugs advised, stealing his \$40 and taking him on a wild ride.

Palmer reported to have been tied to trees in the daytime as they hid his car and travelled by night. He reported that he'd only been fed a sandwich and two bottles of soda over the period of his three-day ordeal. A statewide manhunt ensued that located his vehicle further north in Vacaville, CA with switched license plates. - Various sources – Sacramento Bee (Sacramento, CA) – 21 May 1937 and The Oakland Tribune (Oakland, CA) - 21 May 1937

These two events, seemingly connected, were actually three years apart. Both identify Thomas D. Palmer, a collector and adjuster for the Kelley Kar Company of Los Angeles, down to the city, profession, age, and middle initial. Fortunate for him, no further instances of kidnapping or repossession were found in researching newspapers up to the 1950s. He didn't seem well cut out for this profession.



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