

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE
WESTERN DIVISION**

VERONICA DAVIS,

Plaintiff,

v.

CONN APPLIANCES, INC.,

Defendant.

PLAINTIFF’S APPLICATION TO CONFIRM ARBITRATION AWARD

Plaintiff Veronica Davis (“Davis”), through counsel, and pursuant to 9 U.S.C. § 9 of the Federal Arbitration Act (FAA), respectfully requests that this Court confirm the Final Award from the American Arbitration Association in an arbitration captioned *Veronica Davis v. Conn Appliances, Inc.*, Case No. 01-17-0006-8007, and enter judgment in Davis’ favor and against Defendant Conn Appliances, Inc. (“Conn’s”). In support of this motion, Davis shows as follows:

I. Jurisdiction and Venue

1. On August 5, 2015, Davis entered into a Retail Installment Contract and Security Agreement (RISC) with Conn’s at its Memphis, Tennessee location. (Exhibit 1, RISC).

2. The RISC contains an arbitration provision. In pertinent part, the RISC states:

ARBITRATION CLAUSE . . . Arbitration shall be by the American Arbitration Association (“AAA”). The AAA will apply its consumer rules in effect when the claim is filed, ... Any arbitration hearing will take place near your residence. This arbitration clause shall be governed by the Federal Arbitration Act, and not by any state law that might otherwise apply. Judgment on the award may be entered in any court with jurisdiction.

3. On February 5, 2019, an in-person, final evidentiary hearing was conducted by the AAA pursuant to the RISC. The hearing was held in Memphis, Tennessee.

4. Arbitrator Michael L. Russell conducted the final evidentiary hearing and entered his Final Award on March 25, 2019. (Exhibit 2, Final Award).

5. This Court has federal question jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 because the only claim in the Arbitration arises under a federal statute, namely the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA).

6. This Court has diversity jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332. The matter in controversy exceeds the sum of \$75,000, exclusive of interests and costs. Davis is a natural person and resident of Memphis, Tennessee. Conn Appliances, Inc. is incorporated in the State of Texas, and lists its principal place of business with the Tennessee Secretary of State as 2445 Technology Forest Blvd., Suite 800, The Woodlands, Texas 77381-5259.

7. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 9 U.S.C. § 9, as this is the district within which the award was made. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391 as well, as the events giving rise to Plaintiff's claims occurred in Memphis, Tennessee, and movant resides in Memphis, Tennessee.

8. Conn's is registered to, and does in fact conduct business in Tennessee.

9. Conn's operates 6 retail locations in the State of Tennessee: Antioch, Chattanooga, Madison, Knoxville, and two locations in Memphis, Tennessee.¹

10. The phone calls at issue in this case were placed to Davis' cell phone with a Memphis, Tennessee area code, and placed to Davis' cell phone while Davis was present in the State of Tennessee.

¹ Counsel for the Plaintiff is involved in another confirmation proceeding in the Western District of Tennessee, *Johnnie Williams, Jr. v. Conn Appliances, Inc.*, Case No.: 2:17-cv-02052-MSN-cgc. There, after six months of litigation, Defendant has filed a meritless motion to dismiss alleging that this court lacks personal jurisdiction over Defendant. This tactic appears to be part of a larger plot by Defendant to delay confirmation proceedings each time it loses an arbitration hearing.

11. The parties entered into a Retail Installment Sale Contract (RISC) at Conn's location at 3525 Riverdale Road, Memphis, TN 38115. (Exhibit 2, p. 1).

12. The RISC identifies the Plaintiff as residing at a Memphis, TN address. (Exhibit 2, p. 1).

13. The RISC identifies the Plaintiff as having a Memphis area (901) based area code. (Exhibit 2, p. 1).

14. The RISC was executed by the Plaintiff and Francina Bryson, an employee of Conn's retail location at 3525 Riverdale Road, Memphis, TN 38115. (Exhibit 2, p. 1).

15. The RISC specifically provides that "judgment on the award may be entered by any court with jurisdiction." (Exhibit 2, p. 2).

16. The RISC specifically provides that "[t]his contract shall be governed by the laws of the State of Tennessee and applicable federal law." (Exhibit 2, p. 2).

II. The Arbitration Award

17. Beginning in September 2015, Defendant began placing telephone calls to Plaintiff's cell phone. (Exhibit 2, ¶ X).

18. Conn's made calls to Davis' cell phone using an Automatic Telephone Dialing System (ATDS). (Exhibit 2, ¶ X).

19. Davis revoked her consent to receive calls from Conn's on March 13, 2017. (Exhibit 2, ¶ X).

20. Following the hearing, Arbitrator Russell found that Conn's violated the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA) as to a total of 306 calls it placed to Davis' cell phone after March 13, 2017. (Exhibit 2, ¶ X).

21. Arbitrator Russell found that each of the 306 calls Conn's placed to Davis after March 13, 2017 were willful or knowing violations of the TCPA. Accordingly, Arbitrator Russell awarded Davis \$1,500 per call (treble damages totaling \$1,500 per call) for each of the 306 calls Conn's placed to Davis' cell phone after March 13, 2017. (Exhibit 2, ¶ X).

22. Arbitrator Russell awarded Davis a total amount of \$459,000 with the administrative fee of the AAA and the compensation of the arbitrator to each be borne as incurred. (Exhibit 2, ¶ X).

23. Arbitrator Russell gave Conn's thirty (30) days from March 25, 2019 (the date of the Award) to deliver the awarded sum to Davis. (Exhibit 2, ¶ X).

III. The Court Should Confirm the Award.

24. The Federal Arbitration Act governs this matter as the FAA applies to any arbitration agreement in a contract "evidencing a transaction involving commerce," which is defined as a "commerce among the several States." 9 U.S.C. §§ 1-2. Here, the RISC is a contract between Conn Appliances, Inc., a Texas Corporation, and Davis, an individual residing in Tennessee. (Exhibit 2, ¶ X).

25. Under Section 9 of the FAA, "[i]f the parties in the agreement have agreed that a judgment of the court shall be entered upon the award made pursuant to the arbitration, and shall specify the court, then at any time within one year after the award is made any party to the arbitration may apply to the court so specified for an order confirming the award, and thereupon the court must grant such an order unless the award is vacated, modified or corrected as prescribed in Section 10 and 11 of this title." 9 U.S.C. § 9.

26. The RISC specifically provides that "judgment on the award may be entered by any court with jurisdiction." (Exhibit 2, p. 2).

27. In a TCPA suit, directing a call toward a Plaintiff in violation of the TCPA constitutes purposeful direction for purposes of personal jurisdiction. *Weiss v. Grand Campus Living*, No. 1:18-cv-00434, 2019 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 41041 (S.D. Indiana, March 14, 2019).

28. By failing to object to the arbitration being held in Memphis, TN, participating in the arbitration hearing in Memphis, TN, and agreeing to the American Arbitration Association's Rules, pursuant to 9 U.S.C. § 9, the Defendant has waived any personal jurisdiction argument it may have had regarding the confirmation of the award within this district. *Weststar Assocs., Inc. v. Tin Metals Co.*, 752 F.2d 5,6 (1st Cir. 1985).

29. As demonstrated above, this Court has the requisite personal and subject-matter jurisdiction regarding this matter.

30. There are no grounds for vacating, modifying, or correcting the Final Award.

31. Accordingly, this Court must confirm the Award and enter judgment in favor of Davis. *See* 9 U.S.C. § 9 (providing "the court must grant" an application to confirm an arbitration award "unless the award is vacated, modified, or corrected as prescribed in Section 10 and 11 of this title.")).

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Veronica Davis respectfully requests that this Court confirm the Final Award and enter judgment in her favor and against Defendant Conn Appliances, Inc.

Respectfully submitted,

/s Frank H. Kerney, III

Frank H. Kerney, III

TN Bar No. 035859

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ADDITIONAL DISCLOSURES AND CONTRACT TERMS

CONSENT TO TELEPHONE/TEXT MESSAGE/EMAIL CONTACT: FOR EACH TELEPHONE NUMBER YOU PROVIDE TO SELLER (EITHER DIRECTLY OR BY PLACING A CALL TO US), YOU CONSENT AND AUTHORIZE US TO PLACE TELEPHONE CALLS TO YOU AT THAT NUMBER. SUCH CONSENT EXPRESSLY INCLUDES AUTHORIZATION FOR SELLER (AND/OR OUR AFFILIATES AND/OR AGENTS) TO SEND TEXT MESSAGES AND/OR PLACE TELEPHONE CALLS TO CELLULAR OR LANDLINE TELEPHONE NUMBERS USING PRE-RECORDED OR ARTIFICIAL VOICE MESSAGES, AS WELL AS CALLS MADE BY AN AUTOMATIC DIALING SYSTEM. SIMILARLY, FOR EACH EMAIL ADDRESS YOU PROVIDE TO SELLER, YOU AUTHORIZE US TO SEND EMAILS TO YOU AT THAT ADDRESS REGARDING YOUR ACCOUNT.

PROMISE TO PAY/ALLOCATION OF PAYMENTS: All goods and services described in each Prior Contract together with goods and services described herein and purchased under this contract are together referred to as the "Property." Buyer agrees to purchase on credit the Property according to the terms of this contract. Buyer promises to pay Seller the Total of Payments shown on the front of this contract in consecutive monthly installments as indicated in the Payment Schedule. Payments received will be applied first to any late charge that you designate to be paid, then to any deferral charge, and thereafter to the unpaid balance of the Total of Payments, unless applicable law requires a different application. Any amounts remaining unpaid on the final payment due date will be due in full on that date. If the Property consists of more than one item purchased at the same time, each installment payment shall be allocated to all the various purchase obligations in the same ratio that the original cash price of each item bears to the total cash prices of all such items.

SECURITY INTEREST: Pursuant to the Tennessee law, Buyer grants a security interest in the Property and all proceeds of the Property, each insurance policy financed by this contract and all proceeds of those policies, and any refunds of insurance premiums, and any refunds of repair service contracts, to secure payment of the purchase price of the Property. In the event of default, Seller will have the rights of a secured party under applicable law and, following any notice and opportunity to cure that may be required by applicable law, may repossess the Property but only if done lawfully and without breach of the peace. Until the debt is paid in full, Buyer will not transfer, abandon, sell, assign, lease or encumber the Property (except for the security interest granted to Seller) without the Seller's written consent. Buyer agrees that the debt owed under this contract must be paid even if the Property is lost, damaged, or destroyed, and any available property insurance proceeds do not pay off the debt in full.

ARBITRATION CLAUSE: In this clause, "we" and "us" mean Seller and its affiliates, subsidiaries, employees, officers, directors, agents, servicers, or assigns. A "Dispute" is any claim, dispute or controversy arising from or relating to this Agreement, including without limitation disputes relating to the Property, this Agreement, other documents you sign or are provided, any claim, dispute, or controversy alleging fraud, misrepresentation, any other claim, whether under common law, equity, or under federal, state, or local law or regulation, any dispute about collection activity we take regarding monies owed under this Agreement, disputes about the scope and validity of this clause, other disputes as to matters subject to arbitration, and disputes about the enforcement or interpretation of any other part of this Agreement. You agree that upon your election or our election, any Dispute shall be resolved exclusively by binding individual arbitration. Arbitration shall be by the American Arbitration Association ("AAA"). The AAA will apply its consumer rules in effect when the claim is filed. Alternatively, with our consent, you may select another arbitration association and its rules. One arbitrator will arbitrate the Dispute. The arbitrator shall be an attorney, retired judge, or arbitrator experienced in consumer finance and debt collection. The arbitrator shall be registered and in good standing with an arbitration association. The arbitrator shall apply this clause and the rules of the selected arbitration association.

Arbitration will be on an individual basis, not as a class action. You waive your right to be a class representative or class member regarding any claim you may have against us. You also waive any right you may have to any consolidation of individual arbitrations. If we sue in court to collect amounts you owe, you agree that any counterclaim you may bring in any such action shall be brought on an individual basis only and not as a class representative or class member. This paragraph is referred to below as the "Class Action Waiver."

This arbitration clause does not waive any of your rights and remedies to pursue a claim individually (and not as a class action) in binding arbitration. Unless the arbitration organization's rules require otherwise, arbitration costs and fees will be split equally up to \$500 each. Thereafter, Seller will pay all arbitrator's costs and fees subject to reapportionment in the award. Seller will pay all such fees necessary to ensure that this arbitration clause is enforceable. Unless prohibited by law or the arbitration organization's rules, the arbitrator may award or apportion arbitrator's fees, attorney's fees and costs. The arbitrator may not award relief in a form or amount not allowed by law. Any arbitration hearing will take place near your residence. This arbitration clause shall be governed by the Federal Arbitration Act, and not by any state law that might otherwise apply. Judgment on the award may be entered in any court with jurisdiction. This arbitration clause and Class Action Waiver shall survive the termination, payoff, assignment or transfer of this Agreement. It shall also inure to the benefit of and be binding on each party and their respective heirs, successors and assigns. If any part of this arbitration clause and Class Action Waiver is found by a court to be unenforceable, the rest remains enforceable. If this Class Action Waiver is found by a court to be unenforceable, the entire arbitration clause shall be unenforceable. Notwithstanding the foregoing, each party retains the right to seek relief in a small claims court for disputes or claims within the scope of its jurisdiction, but any such lawsuits and counterclaims will be subject to the Class Action Waiver in this arbitration clause.

YOU MAY OPT OUT OF THIS CLAUSE. To opt out of this Arbitration Clause, send us a notice that you do not want this clause to apply to this Agreement. For your opt out to be effective, you must send your opt out notice to the following address, by registered mail, within 14 days of this Agreement: Conn Appliances, Inc., 4055 Technology Forest Blvd. Suite 210, The Woodlands, TX, 77381 Attention: Credit Compliance Officer.

LATE CHARGE: If a scheduled installment payment is not paid in full upon the 10th day after the scheduled due date, you will be charged either \$5 if the installment payment due is \$25 or less, or \$10 if the installment payment due is more than \$25.

RETURNED PAYMENT CHARGE: Buyer agrees to pay a \$30 fee if any check or other instrument tendered as payment is returned or dishonored.

PREPAYMENT: Buyer may prepay the unpaid balance of this contract in full or in part at any time before maturity. Partial prepayment will not excuse payment of any later installment. Upon prepayment in full or if the debt is accelerated after default, Buyer shall receive a refund or credit in an amount that represents at least as great a proportion of the finance charge, after first deducting therefrom an acquisition cost not to exceed the sum of fifteen dollars (\$15.00), as the sum of the monthly time balances beginning one (1) month after prepayment is made bears to the sum of all the monthly time balances under the schedule of payments in this contract. If the amount of the refund or credit is less than one dollar (\$1.00), no refund or credit will be made. In addition, Seller shall be entitled to receive any proceeds or refunds of prepaid insurance premiums from any insurance company issuing a policy in conjunction with this debt, and such amount shall be credited to the debt or refunded.

DEFERRAL CHARGE: Before or after default, Seller and Buyer may agree in writing to a deferral of all or part of one or more unpaid installments, and Seller may make and collect a charge not exceeding the Annual Percentage Rate disclosed on the front side of this contract, applied to the amount or amounts deferred for the period of deferral calculated without regard to differences in the lengths of months, but proportionally for a part of a month, counting each day as one-thirtieth of a month. The deferral charge must be paid at the time it is assessed. If an installment is not paid within 10 days after its due date, Seller may unilaterally grant a deferral and make the charges as provided in this section, but no deferral charge will be made for a period after the date that Seller elects to accelerate the maturity of the debt.

ACCELERATION UPON DEFAULT: Buyer shall be in default hereunder if: Buyer fails to pay any scheduled installment when due or perform any of the Buyer's other obligation hereunder, or Seller believes in good faith that the prospect of Buyer's payment or performance is impaired. If Buyer is in default, Seller may, at its option, following any notice and opportunity to cure that may be required by applicable law, declare immediately due and payable the entire unpaid balance of this contract less any credits or refunds of unearned Finance Charge or insurance premiums as described above under the paragraph entitled "Prepayment". In the event of default, Buyer also agrees that Seller may, at its option and following any notice and opportunity to cure that may be required by applicable law, terminate any insurance contracts purchased through Seller to obtain refunds of unearned charges to reduce what Buyer owes under this contract.

CANCELLATION OF INSURANCE AND REPAIR SERVICE AGREEMENTS: In the event Buyer defaults on this contract which results in subsequent charge off of the contract by the Seller, the Seller may, at its option, without notice or demand, and Buyer hereby authorizes Seller to, cancel any existing insurance policies sold by Seller and/or repair service agreements purchased with this contract. In the event of insurance policy and/or repair service agreement cancellation, any premium refunds will be applied to the balance of this contract. Any amount remaining after repayment of this contract will be refunded to Buyer. If at any time the Buyer elects to cancel the insurance policy or repair service agreement, all refunds due under the policy and/or agreement, as applicable, will be credited to the contract.

MISCELLANEOUS: Buyer represents to Seller that Buyer has not received an extension of credit from any source other than Seller in connection with the purchase of the Property. Buyer agrees that if Seller fails to exercise any of its rights upon default, such failure shall not be considered a waiver of any of Seller's rights with respect to such default or of any rights upon any subsequent defaults. Any part of this contract contrary to the law of Tennessee shall not invalidate other parts of this contract. Buyer and Seller agree to comply strictly with applicable laws and further agree that Seller's rights (a) may not be exercised except to the extent permitted by applicable law, (b) will be construed so as to comply with applicable laws, and (c) are limited by applicable laws to the extent such laws may not be lawfully waived. Under no circumstances will Buyer ever be required to pay a Finance Charge or other amount in excess of what the law allows. This contract shall be governed by the laws of the State of Tennessee and applicable federal law.

The Property is bought for use primarily for personal, family, or household purposes and will be kept at the residence of the Buyer. Buyer agrees to pay reasonable attorney's fees (but not in excess of 15% of the unpaid debt after default) if this contract is referred for collection to an attorney who is not a salaried employee of Seller, and court costs and disbursements as allowed by law.

ALL PROPERTY IS PURCHASED WITHOUT EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES FROM SELLER, EXCEPT TITLE. SELLER DISCLAIMS ANY AND ALL WARRANTIES, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. This provision does not affect any applicable manufacturer warranty. In no event shall Seller have any liability for consequential damages for the use of or any defect in the Property unless this disclaimer is not permitted by applicable law.

NOTICE: ANY HOLDER OF THIS CONSUMER CREDIT CONTRACT IS SUBJECT TO ALL CLAIMS AND DEFENSES WHICH DEBTOR COULD ASSERT AGAINST THE SELLER OF GOODS OR SERVICES OBTAINED PURSUANT HERETO OR WITH THE PROCEEDS HEREOF. RECOVERY HEREUNDER BY THE DEBTOR SHALL NOT EXCEED AMOUNTS PAID BY THE DEBTOR HEREUNDER.

PROPERTY RETURNS OR EXCHANGES: Buyer agrees that the Property may be returned or exchanged only in accordance with Seller's published Return & Exchange Policy from time to time in effect, including payment of any applicable restocking fee. If a return results in cancellation of this contract, and Buyer is due a refund of a down payment or other amount, Seller may apply the amount of the refund to the applicable restocking fee; if the fee is not paid from other funds at the time the Property is returned, and Buyer will receive the excess amount, if any. If the restocking fee exceeds the refund amount, or if no refund is owed, Buyer agrees to pay the amount of the restocking fee upon return of the Property and the obligation will survive the cancellation of this contract.

PARTIAL RETURNS: If this contract finances the purchase of more than one item of Property, and Buyer returns one or more, but not all items, in accordance with Seller's return policy, Buyer will receive a credit to the payoff balance under this contract for the portion of the Amount Financed represented by the purchase price of the returned item(s) and the sales tax and Finance Charge attributed to these amounts. Buyer will also receive credit for the unearned portion of the credit insurance premium added to the contract which was attributed to the returned item(s). If Buyer also cancels any service repair agreement relating to the returned item(s), Buyer will receive a credit for any unearned service repair agreement fee if permitted by, and in accordance with, the terms of that agreement. The aggregate credit for the returned item(s) will be applied to the final installment(s) under this contract in the inverse order of maturity unless applicable law requires a different application. Except for the affected final installment(s), the credit will not be applied to cure any past due amounts owing under this contract, or result in the reduction of future monthly payment amounts or postponement of scheduled future installments.

FURNISHING OF CREDIT INFORMATION: Seller may report information about your account to credit bureaus. Late payments, missed payments, or other defaults on your account may be reflected in your credit report.

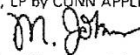
ELECTRONIC CHECK CONVERSION: When you provide a check as payment, you authorize us either to use information from your check to make a one-time electronic fund transfer from your account or to process as a check transaction.

ASSIGNMENT

FOR VALUE RECEIVED the Seller hereby sells, assigns and transfers to Conn Credit I, LP a Texas Limited Partnership ("Assignee") (a) all of its rights, title and interest in and to this contract, (b) all of its right, title and interest in and to the indebtedness evidenced hereby or payable hereunder, and (c) all of its right, title and interest in and to all security interests provided herein, including all of its right, title and interest in and to the Property, together with all monies now and hereafter due and/or to become due thereon. Seller has retained all servicing responsibilities. Unless Seller, Assignee, or Bank notifies Buyer otherwise, all payments under this contract must be made to Seller.

The undersigned warrants that the preceding paragraph signed by the Buyer named on the reverse hereof is accurate, complete and up-to-date in all material respects.

SOLD, ASSIGNED, AND TRANSFERRED TO
CONN CREDIT I, LP by CONN APPLIANCES, INC., dba CONN'S


Authorized Signature of Conn Appliances, Inc.
3295 College Street
Beaumont, Texas 77701

ADDITIONAL DISCLOSURES AND CONTRACT TERMS

CONSENT TO TELEPHONE/TEXT MESSAGE/EMAIL CONTACT: FOR EACH TELEPHONE NUMBER YOU PROVIDE TO SELLER (EITHER DIRECTLY OR BY PLACING A CALL TO US), YOU CONSENT AND AUTHORIZE US TO PLACE TELEPHONE CALLS TO YOU AT THAT NUMBER. SUCH CONSENT EXPRESSLY INCLUDES AUTHORIZATION FOR SELLER (AND/OR OUR AFFILIATES AND/OR AGENTS) TO SEND TEXT MESSAGES AND/OR PLACE TELEPHONE CALLS TO CELLULAR OR LANDLINE TELEPHONE NUMBERS USING PRE-RECORDED OR ARTIFICIAL VOICE MESSAGES, AS WELL AS CALLS MADE BY AN AUTOMATIC DIALING SYSTEM. SIMILARLY, FOR EACH EMAIL ADDRESS YOU PROVIDE TO SELLER, YOU AUTHORIZE US TO SEND EMAILS TO YOU AT THAT ADDRESS REGARDING YOUR ACCOUNT.

PROMISE TO PAY/ALLOCATION OF PAYMENTS: All goods and services described in each Prior Contract together with goods and services described herein and purchased under this contract are together referred to as the "Property." Buyer agrees to purchase on credit the Property according to the terms of this contract. Buyer promises to pay Seller the Total of Payments shown on the front of this contract in consecutive monthly installments as indicated in the Payment Schedule. Payments received will be applied first to any late charge that you designate to be paid, then to any deferral charge, and thereafter to the unpaid balance of the Total of Payments, unless applicable law requires a different application. Any amounts remaining unpaid on the final payment due date will be due in full on that date. If the Property consists of more than one item purchased at the same time, each installment payment shall be allocated to all the various purchase obligations in the same ratio that the original cash price of each item bears to the total cash prices of all such items.

SECURITY INTEREST: Pursuant to the Tennessee law, Buyer grants a security interest in the Property and all proceeds of the Property, each insurance policy financed by this contract and all proceeds of those policies, and any refunds of insurance premiums, and any refunds of repair service contracts, to secure payment of the purchase price of the Property. In the event of default, Seller will have the rights of a secured party under applicable law and, following any notice and opportunity to cure that may be required by applicable law, may repossess the Property but only if done lawfully and without breach of the peace. Until the debt is paid in full, Buyer will not transfer, abandon, sell, assign, lease or encumber the Property (except for the security interest granted to Seller) without the Seller's written consent. Buyer agrees that the debt owed under this contract must be paid even if the Property is lost, damaged, or destroyed, and any available property insurance proceeds do not pay off the debt in full.

ARBITRATION CLAUSE: In this clause, "we" and "us" mean Seller and its affiliates, subsidiaries, employees, officers, directors, agents, servicers, or assigns. A "Dispute" is any claim, dispute or controversy arising from or relating to this Agreement, including without limitation disputes relating to the Property, this Agreement, other documents you sign or are provided, any claim, dispute, or controversy alleging fraud, misrepresentation, any other claim, whether under common law, equity, or under federal, state, or local law or regulation, any dispute about collection activity we take regarding monies owed under this Agreement, disputes about the scope and validity of this clause, other disputes as to matters subject to arbitration, and disputes about the enforcement or interpretation of any other part of this Agreement. You agree that upon your election or our election, any Dispute shall be resolved exclusively by binding individual arbitration. Arbitration shall be by the American Arbitration Association ("AAA"). The AAA will apply its consumer rules in effect when the claim is filed. Alternatively, with our consent, you may select another arbitration association and its rules. One arbitrator will arbitrate the Dispute. The arbitrator shall be an attorney, retired judge, or arbitrator experienced in consumer finance and debt collection. The arbitrator shall be registered and in good standing with an arbitration association. The arbitrator shall apply this clause and the rules of the selected arbitration association.

Arbitration will be on an individual basis, not as a class action. You waive your right to be a class representative or class member regarding any claim you may have against us. You also waive any right you may have to any consolidation of individual arbitrations. If we sue in court to collect amounts you owe, you agree that any counterclaim you may bring in any such action shall be brought on an individual basis only and not as a class representative or class member. This paragraph is referred to below as the "Class Action Waiver."

This arbitration clause does not waive any of your rights and remedies to pursue a claim individually (and not as a class action) in binding arbitration. Unless the arbitration organization's rules require otherwise, arbitration costs and fees will be split equally up to \$500 each. Thereafter, Seller will pay all arbitrator's costs and fees subject to reapportionment in the award. Seller will pay all such fees necessary to ensure that this arbitration clause is enforceable. Unless prohibited by law or the arbitration organization's rules, the arbitrator may award or apportion arbitrator's fees, attorney's fees and costs. The arbitrator may not award relief in a form or amount not allowed by law. Any arbitration hearing will take place near your residence. This arbitration clause shall be governed by the Federal Arbitration Act, and not by any state law that might otherwise apply. Judgment on the award may be entered in any court with jurisdiction. This arbitration clause and Class Action Waiver shall survive the termination, payoff, assignment or transfer of this Agreement. It shall also inure to the benefit of and be binding on each party and their respective heirs, successors and assigns. If any part of this arbitration clause and Class Action Waiver is found by a court to be unenforceable, the rest remains enforceable. If this Class Action Waiver is found by a court to be unenforceable, the entire arbitration clause shall be unenforceable. Notwithstanding the foregoing, each party retains the right to seek relief in a small claims court for disputes or claims within the scope of its jurisdiction, but any such lawsuits and counterclaims will be subject to the Class Action Waiver in this arbitration clause.

YOU MAY OPT OUT OF THIS CLAUSE. To opt out of this Arbitration Clause, send us a notice that you do not want this clause to apply to this Agreement. For your opt out to be effective, you must send your opt out notice to the following address, by registered mail, within 14 days of this Agreement: Conn Appliances, Inc., 4055 Technology Forest Blvd. Suite 210, The Woodlands, TX, 77381 Attention: Credit Compliance Officer.

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RETURNED PAYMENT CHARGE: Buyer agrees to pay a \$30 fee if any check or other instrument tendered as payment is returned or dishonored.

PREPAYMENT: Buyer may prepay the unpaid balance of this contract in full or in part at any time before maturity. Partial prepayment will not excuse payment of any later installment. Upon prepayment in full or if the debt is accelerated after default, Buyer shall receive a refund or credit in an amount that represents at least as great a proportion of the finance charge, after first deducting therefrom an acquisition cost not to exceed the sum of fifteen dollars (\$15.00), as the sum of the monthly time balances beginning one (1) month after prepayment is made bears to the sum of all the monthly time balances under the schedule of payments in this contract. If the amount of the refund or credit is less than one dollar (\$1.00), no refund or credit will be made. In addition, Seller shall be entitled to receive any proceeds or refunds of prepaid insurance premiums from any insurance company issuing a policy in conjunction with this debt, and such amount shall be credited to the debt or refunded.

DEFERRAL CHARGE: Before or after default, Seller and Buyer may agree in writing to a deferral of all or part of one or more unpaid installments, and Seller may make and collect a charge not exceeding the Annual Percentage Rate disclosed on the front side of this contract, applied to the amount or amounts deferred for the period of deferral calculated without regard to differences in the lengths of months, but proportionally for a part of a month, counting each day as one-thirtieth of a month. The deferral charge must be paid at the time it is assessed. If an installment is not paid within 10 days after its due date, Seller may unilaterally grant a deferral and make the charges as provided in this section, but no deferral charge will be made for a period after the date that Seller elects to accelerate the maturity of the debt.

ACCELERATION UPON DEFAULT: Buyer shall be in default hereunder if: Buyer fails to pay any scheduled installment when due or perform any of the Buyers other obligation hereunder, or Seller believes in good faith that the prospect of Buyer's payment or performance is impaired. If Buyer is in default, Seller may, at its option, following any notice and opportunity to cure that may be required by applicable law, declare immediately due and payable the entire unpaid balance of this contract less any credits or refunds of unearned Finance Charge or insurance premiums as described above under the paragraph entitled "Prepayment". In the event of default, Buyer also agrees that Seller may, at its option and following any notice and opportunity to cure that may be required by applicable law, terminate any insurance contracts purchased through Seller to obtain refunds of unearned charges to reduce what Buyer owes under this contract.

CANCELLATION OF INSURANCE AND REPAIR SERVICE AGREEMENTS: In the event Buyer defaults on this contract which results in subsequent charge off of the contract by the Seller, the Seller may, at its option, without notice or demand, and Buyer hereby authorizes Seller to, cancel any existing insurance policies sold by Seller and/or repair service agreements purchased with this contract. In the event of insurance policy and/or repair service agreement cancellation, any premium refunds will be applied to the balance of this contract. Any amount remaining after repayment of this contract will be refunded to Buyer. If at any time the Buyer elects to cancel the insurance policy or repair service agreement, all refunds due under the policy and/or agreement, as applicable, will be credited to the contract.

MISCELLANEOUS: Buyer represents to Seller that Buyer has not received an extension of credit from any source other than Seller in connection with the purchase of the Property. Buyer agrees that if Seller fails to exercise any of its rights upon default, such failure shall not be considered a waiver of any of Seller's rights with respect to such default or of any rights upon any subsequent default. Any part of this contract contrary to the law of Tennessee shall not invalidate other parts of this contract. Buyer and Seller agree to comply strictly with applicable laws and further agree that Seller's rights (a) may not be exercised except to the extent permitted by applicable law, (b) will be construed so as to comply with applicable laws, and (c) are limited by applicable laws to the extent such laws may not be lawfully waived. Under no circumstances will Buyer ever be required to pay a Finance Charge or other amount in excess of what the law allows. This contract shall be governed by the laws of the State of Tennessee and applicable federal law.

The Property is bought for use primarily for personal, family, or household purposes and will be kept at the residence of the Buyer. Buyer agrees to pay reasonable attorney's fees (but not in excess of 15% of the unpaid debt after default) if this contract is referred for collection to an attorney who is not a salaried employee of Seller, and court costs and disbursements as allowed by law.

ALL PROPERTY IS PURCHASED WITHOUT EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES FROM SELLER, EXCEPT TITLE. SELLER DISCLAIMS ANY AND ALL WARRANTIES, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. This provision does not affect any applicable manufacturer warranty. In no event shall Seller have any liability for consequential damages for the use of or any defect in the Property unless this disclaimer is not permitted by applicable law.

NOTICE: ANY HOLDER OF THIS CONSUMER CREDIT CONTRACT IS SUBJECT TO ALL CLAIMS AND DEFENSES WHICH DEBTOR COULD ASSERT AGAINST THE SELLER OF GOODS OR SERVICES OBTAINED PURSUANT HERETO OR WITH THE PROCEEDS HEREOF. RECOVERY HEREUNDER BY THE DEBTOR SHALL NOT EXCEED AMOUNTS PAID BY THE DEBTOR HEREUNDER.

PROPERTY RETURNS OR EXCHANGES: Buyer agrees that the Property may be returned or exchanged only in accordance with Seller's published Return & Exchange Policy from time to time in effect, including payment of any applicable restocking fee. If a return results in cancellation of this contract, and Buyer is due a refund of a down payment or other amount, Seller may apply the amount of the refund to the applicable restocking fee if the fee is not paid from other funds at the time the Property is returned, and Buyer will receive the excess amount, if any. If the restocking fee exceeds the refund amount, or if no refund is owed, Buyer agrees to pay the amount of the restocking fee upon return of the Property and the obligation will survive the cancellation of this contract.

PARTIAL RETURNS: If this contract finances the purchase of more than one item of Property, and Buyer returns one or more, but not all items, in accordance with Seller's return policy, Buyer will receive a credit to the payoff balance under this contract for the portion of the Amount Financed represented by the purchase price of the returned item(s) and the sales tax and Finance Charge attributed to these amounts. Buyer will also receive credit for the unearned portion of the credit insurance premium added to the contract which was attributed to the returned item(s). If Buyer also cancels any service repair agreement relating to the returned item(s), Buyer will receive a credit for any unearned service repair agreement fee if permitted by, and in accordance with, the terms of that agreement. The aggregate credit for the returned item(s) will be applied to the final installment(s) under this contract in the inverse order of maturity unless applicable law requires a different application. Except for the affected final installment(s), the credit will not be applied to cure any past due amounts owing under this contract, or result in the reduction of future monthly payment amounts or postponement of scheduled future installments.

FURNISHING OF CREDIT INFORMATION: Seller may report information about your account to credit bureaus. Late payments, missed payments, or other defaults on your account may be reflected in your credit report.

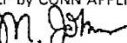
ELECTRONIC CHECK CONVERSION: When you provide a check as payment, you authorize us either to use information from your check to make a one-time electronic fund transfer from your account or to process as a check transaction.

ASSIGNMENT

FOR VALUE RECEIVED the Seller hereby sells, assigns and transfers to Conn Credit I, LP a Texas Limited Partnership ("Assignee") (a) all of its rights, title and interest in and to this contract, (b) all of its right, title and interest in and to the indebtedness evidenced hereby or payable hereunder, and (c) all of its right, title and interest in and to all security interests provided herein, including all of its right, title and interest in and to the Property, together with all moneys now and hereafter due and to become due thereon. Seller has retained all servicing responsibilities. Unless Seller, Assignee, or Bank notifies Buyer otherwise, all payments under this contract must be made to Seller.

The undersigned warrants that the preceding paragraph signed by the Buyer named on the reverse hereof is accurate, complete and up-to-date in all material respects.

SOLD, ASSIGNED, AND TRANSFERRED TO
CONN CREDIT I, LP by CONN APPLIANCES, INC., dba CONN'S



Authorized Signature of Conn Appliances, Inc.
3295 College Street
Beaumont, Texas 77701

THE AMERICAN ARBITRATION ASSOCIATION

VERONICA DAVIS,

Claimant,

v.

Case No. 01-17-0006-8007

CONN APPLIANCES, INC.,

Respondent

AWARD

I, Michael Russell, the arbitrator in the above captioned action, having been appointed in a manner consistent with the parties' agreement, having heard the proof during an in-person hearing in Memphis, Tennessee on February 5, 2019, and having considered both the oral and written arguments of counsel, make the following award in accordance with the Consumer Rules of the American Arbitration Association.

1. Veronica Davis (hereinafter "Claimant") and Conn Appliances, Inc. (hereinafter "Respondent") entered into a valid retail installment contract on or about August 5, 2015. The contract was for the purchase of certain home furnishings and specifically provided that Claimant may be contacted by Respondent using an automated dialing system for the telephone numbers that Claimant provided.
2. The contract provided that payments were due on fifth (5th) day of each month, though no late fees would be assessed until the tenth (10th) day after the due date.
3. Claimant credibly testified that Respondent's representative told her at the time of the contract that the payment would not be considered late until the tenth (10th) day after the due date.
4. Proof at the hearing corroborated that a "grace period" was a concept that had been used in Respondent's organization. One of Respondent's telephone representatives used that phrase without being prompted, and Clint Walton, Respondent's corporate representative at the hearing, admitted that was a phrase that had been used by company employees in the past.

5. Respondent systemically and repeatedly called Claimant after the fifth (5th) day of the month but before the tenth (10th) day after the due date using its telephone dialing system, which I find was an automated telephone dialing system.

6. Claimant brought the present action pursuant to the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. 227 *et seq* (hereinafter the “TCPA”), arguing that Respondent violated the TCPA by repeatedly calling her cellular telephone number after Claimant had revoked consent to be called.

7. As a threshold matter, Respondent argues that the system it used to call Claimant was not an automated telephone dialing system (“ATDS”). The Arbitrator disagrees and finds that the system used by Respondent was an ATDS.

8. Based upon the testimony at the hearing about the nature of the system, the documentary evidence, the credibility determinations made regarding the witnesses, and the legal authority before me, I find that Respondent’s system satisfies the definition of an ATDS.

9. I find that Claimant revoked her consent to be called by an ATDS on March 13, 2017.

10. Nevertheless, Respondent continued to call Claimant, and Claimant continued to revoke her consent to be called.

11. Respondent argues that, even if Claimant revoked consent at some point, she gave re-consent on subsequent telephone calls. Respondent’s argument, however, fails for at least two reasons.

12. First, the Arbitrator has reviewed the totality of the telephone calls at issue. Respondent’s argument attempts to take isolated comments out of context. Based on the context of those calls, the tone and inflection in Claimant’s voice, and the totality of the statements made, I find that Claimant did not re-consent to the calls.

13. Second, in the alternative, I find that Respondent is equitably estopped from arguing that Claimant re-consented to calls after previously withdrawing her consent. The conversations where Respondent claims that Claimant re-consented would never have taken place had Respondent not continued to violate the TCPA by calling Claimant after consent was withdrawn. To find that Claimant had re-consented would allow Respondent to benefit from its continued violation of the TCPA.

Accordingly, I find that Respondent is equitably estopped from claiming re-consent as a result of telephone calls that never would have taken place had Respondent complied with the TCPA.

14. Respondent violated the TCPA with respect to 306 calls it made after March 13, 2017.

15. When Claimant withdrew her consent, Respondent made an annotation in its records as follows: "STATED IKKNOW [sic] WHO SHE IS DID NOT WANT TO VERIFY AND STATED SHE WILL SUE FOR HARASSMENT . . ." Nevertheless, Respondent continued to call Claimant, and Claimant continued to object to the calls. Accordingly, I find that Respondent's violation of the TCPA was willful and knowing.

16. Because Respondent's violation of the TCPA was willful and knowing, Claimant is entitled to \$1500 per call.

17. Accordingly, I hereby award Claimant \$459,000.00.

18. The administrative fees of the American Arbitration Association, totaling \$2,400, shall be born as incurred, and the arbitrator's compensation, totaling \$2,250 shall be born as incurred.

19. Respondent shall have thirty (30) days from the date of this Award to deliver the awarded funds to Claimant.

20. This Award is in full settlement and resolution of all claims and counterclaims in this arbitration. All claims not expressly granted are hereby denied.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



Michael L. Russell
Arbitrator

Date: March 25, 2019