

Valentine Voice

Personal Finance & Consumer Rights Newsletter

Make Knowledge Contagious

May 2009

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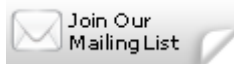
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Greetings!

Welcome to the Valentine Voice. My newsletter is designed to bring you news and information regarding personal finance and consumer rights issues. And, as usual, the "Did You Know..." section will include some personal tidbits about me.



Feel free to provide feedback. Many of the issues written about here in the newsletter are also discussed on my [blog](#) and comments are welcomed!

- Sonya Smith-Valentine

Personal Finance, Consumer Rights, and Identity Theft & Data Breach Issues

Keynote Speaker - Consultant - Trainer

[Sonya Smith-Valentine International](#)

Consumer Rights Attorney

[Valentine Legal Group, LLC](#)

Reform for Credit Card Industry

The Federal Reserve Board approved final rules that would better protect credit card users by prohibiting certain unfair practices and improving the disclosures consumers receive in connection with credit card accounts. Among other things, the rules will:

- Protect consumers from unexpected interest charges, including increases in the rate charged on pre-existing credit card balances
- Forbid banks from imposing interest charges using the "two-cycle" billing method
- Require that consumers receive a reasonable amount of time to make their credit card payments
- Prohibit the use of payment allocation methods that unfairly maximize interest charges
- Address subprime credit cards by limiting the fees that reduce the amount of available credit

The final rules addressing credit card accounts take effect on July 1, 2010.

When Debt Collectors Call

It seems that the current economic climate has given rise to an increase in the number of complaints to my law firm regarding harassment by debt collectors. I wrote an article for the legal profession on debt collection harassment issues for the Winter 2009 ABA Solo Division Newsletter that I think would be a good read even for consumers. While the article was published earlier this

year, the principles in the article still apply now. Click here to read the [full article](#).

Did You Know . . .

. . . that my family is from the country of Jamaica and that I come from a very large family of 11 aunts and uncles and over 20 first and second cousins (and that's just on my mother's side of the family!).

About Sonya

Sonya Smith-Valentine is President of ***Sonya Smith-Valentine International***, a company devoted to empowering consumers and educating corporations about protecting sensitive personal information and understanding consumer protection laws.

If you liked today's issue, you'll love Sonya's upcoming dynamic *consumer protection products* designed to help you take control of your life by **taking control of your personal information and your credit and debt problems** - with straightforward guidance on what to do, when to do it and how to do it.

You can learn more about Sonya and her presentations and upcoming products at www.SonyaSmithValentine.com.



Hope you enjoyed the Valentine Voice Newsletter!

Sincerely,

Sonya Smith-Valentine

Personal Finance, Consumer Rights, and Identity Theft & Data Breach Issues

Keynote Speaker - Consultant - Trainer

[Sonya Smith-Valentine International](http://www.SonyaSmithValentine.com)

Consumer Rights Attorney

[Valentine Legal Group, LLC](http://www.ValentineLegalGroup.com)

If you need a speaker for a conference or corporate function, please contact Sonya Smith-Valentine's booking agent at (877) 860-2390 or info@sonyasmithvalentine.com or visit the website at www.SonyaSmithValentine.com.

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