IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION

CALVARY SPV I, LLC, AS ASSIGNEE OF CITIBANK, N.A.

CASE NUMBER:

Plaintiff

50-2021-CC-000114-XXXX-MB

VS

DEFENDANT'S ANSWER

EVAN S GUTMAN

Defendant

ANSWER

- I, Evan Gutman, CPA, JD, Defendant, Pro Se Answer the Complaint as follows:
- 1. Defendant lacks sufficient information to Admit or Deny Paragraph (1) based upon his Counterclaim filed concurrently. The counterclaim may likely result in Plaintiff being liable for damages to Defendant in an amount exceeding \$ 30,000.00, which Defendant understands is the jurisdictional limit of this Court.
- 2. Defendant Admits Paragraph (2).
- 3. Defendant Denies Paragraph (3),
- 4. Defendant lacks sufficient knowledge to Admit or Deny Paragraph (4), as no legal document of assignment is attached to the complaint which therefore is not in compliance with FRCP 1.130; Defendant has not seen a legal document of assignment that identifies the subject account; and Defendant is unable to speak regarding the actions of Citibank, the alleged assignor.
- 5. Defendant Admits Paragraph (5) in part, to the extent Defendant and Citibank, N.A., who is not a party in this action, had business transactions between them. Defendant Denies Paragraph (5) to the extent it falsely contends they agreed to the resulting balance.
- 6. Defendant Denies Paragraph (6).
- 7. Defendant Denies Paragraph (7).
- 8. Plaintiff's attempt to collect amounts from Defendant based upon a claim of "Account Stated" constitutes illegal conduct including but not limited to Unfair and Deceptive Acts and Practices, as set forth in Affirmative Defenses below and

Defendant's Counterclaim filed concurrently. An "Account Stated" legal claim is predicated upon an agreement between the parties as to the balance due and a Defendant's failure to object to the alleged debt. Plaintiff has actual knowledge Defendant expressly objected in writing as shown by Exhibits 1-3 herein. Those exhibits show Defendant sent multiple letters to Plaintiff and Plaintiff's Counsel expressly stating he disputed the alleged debt. Additionally, as shown by Exhibit 4, Defendant sent a letter to Counsel of Citibank, on August 28, 2019, (prior to any alleged assignment to Plaintiff) expressly stating he disputed the alleged account debt. Citibank Counsel acknowledged receipt of the letter as shown by Exhibit 4. Defendant expressly utilized the term "validity" in his letters thereby indicating his position was the amount due was "ZERO" and not the amount claimed by Plaintiff.

- 9. Plaintiff expressly acknowledged in writing their receipt of Defendant's letters disputing the debt. Additionally, <u>Plaintiff themselves reported the alleged debt as disputed, rather than agreed upon</u>, upon receipt of Defendant's letters. (See Exhibit 1).
- 10. Plaintiffs Complaint fails to state a cause of action for reasons including but not limited to the fact, Plaintiff failed to present a prima facie case for an "Account Stated" claim and also did not comply with the requisites of FRCP 1.130.
- 11. Plaintiff and Defendant never engaged in business transactions with each other and have had no prior business relationship.
- 12. No privity exists between Plaintiff and Defendant.
- 13. Plaintiff, as an alleged assignee, may not assert Citibank's rights in an "Account Stated" action, for reasons including but not limited to the lack of any prior business relationship or business transactions between Plaintiff and Defendant.
- 14. Plaintiff, as an alleged assignee, may not legally contend business transactions between Citibank and Defendant overcomes the NONEXISTENCE of a prior business relationship or business transactions between Plaintiff and Defendant.

AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

(Unfair and Deceptive Business Acts and Practice)

- 1. Defendant realleges Paragraphs (1) (14) set forth in his Answer above.
- 2. Plaintiff engaged in Unfair and Deceptive Business Acts and Practices by pursuing collection efforts and asserting a claim against Defendant based upon an assertion of "Account Stated."

SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Unclean Hands)

- 1. Defendant realleges Paragraphs (1) (14) set forth in his Answer above.
- Plaintiff engaged in acts constituting Unclean Hands by pursuing collection efforts and asserting clams against Defendant based upon an assertion of "Account Stated."

THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Negligence)

- 1. Defendant realleges Paragraphs (1) (14) set forth in his Answer above.
- 2. Plaintiff engaged in acts constituting Negligence by pursuing collection efforts and asserting clams against Defendant based upon "Account Stated."

FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Gross Negligence)

- 1. Defendant realleges Paragraphs (1) (14) set forth in his Answer above.
- 2. Plaintiff engaged in acts constituting Gross Negligence by pursuing collection efforts against Defendant based upon an assertion of "Account Stated."

FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Violation of FI. Stat. 559.72 (9)) (Florida Consumer Collection Practices Act)

- 1. Defendant realleges Paragraphs (1) (14) set forth in his Answer above.
- 2. The actions of Plaintiff and particularly Plaintiff's Counsel, as set forth herein, violate Fl. Stat. 559.72 (9), which prohibits a person in attempting to collect a debt from asserting "the existence of some other legal right when such person knows that the right does not exist."

SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Violation of Florida State Bar Rule of Professional Conduct 4 -3.3(a)))

- 1. Defendant realleges Paragraphs (1) (14) set forth in his Answer above.
- 2. The actions of Plaintiff's Counsel, the law firm of Hayt, Hayt & Landau, P.L. violate Florida State Bar Rule 4-3.3(a) requiring Candor to the Tribunal. Plaintiff's Counsel knowingly advanced legal claims regarding Defendant, even though said Counsel is fully aware such meritless claims are based upon false statements of law and fact.

SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Violation of Florida State Bar Rule of Professional Conduct 4 -1.3)

- 1. Defendant realleges Paragraphs (1) (14) set forth in his Answer above.
- 2. Plaintiff's Legal Counsel, Hayt, Hayt & Landau, P.L., violated Florida State Bar Rule 4 -1.3. Specifically, in the law firm's letter of November 13, 2020 (second page of Exhibit 3), the law firm represented on law firm letterhead, that they were a "Law Office" representing the Plaintiff regarding the subject account. The law firm then expressly stated (emphasis added):

"At this time, no attorney with this law firm has personally reviewed the particular circumstances of your account."

One would be hard-pressed to find a more blatant violation of a State Bar rule than lawyers confessing in writing no attorney even reviewed the matter before legal representation was pursued. Rule 4-1.3 expressly requires a lawyer "shall act with reasonable diligence." Since the letter confesses no attorney even reviewed the matter, reasonable diligence was not performed. Had reasonable diligence been performed, Counsel would have known of all the letters disputing the alleged debt, and Plaintiff's letter admitting the existence of a dispute.

EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Failure to State a Cause of Action)

1. The Complaint fails to state a cause of action on grounds including but not limited to that it is not in compliance with FRCP 1.130, which requires attachment of all contracts and other documents on which an action may be brought. In this instance, Plaintiff has failed to attached required documents including but not limited to a document showing assignment of the alleged debt by Citibank, or the underlying contract related to the alleged Account Stated debt.

ADDITIONAL AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

- 1. Defendant realleges Paragraphs (1) (14) set forth in his Answer above.
- 2. Defendant asserts the following additional Affirmative Defenses based on matters including, but not limited to those in Paragraphs (1) (14) herein
 - a. Estoppel.
 - b. Statute of Limitations.

WHEREFORE, having fully answered Plaintiff's Complaint with specificity and definiteness, Defendant requests Plaintiff's Complaint be Dismissed With Prejudice, and the relief requested in Defendant's Counterclaim filed concurrently be granted.

Dated this 17th day of January, 2021.

Evan Gutman CPA, JD

Member State Bar of Pennsylvania Member District of Columbia Bar

Admitted to Bar of Federal Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Admitted to Bar of Federal Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals

Admitted to U.S. Tax Court Bar Florida Certified Public Accountant

1675 NW 4th Avenue, #511

Boca Raton, FL 33432

561-990-7440

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Evan Gutman, hereby CERTIFY a true copy of the foregoing has been furnished by

Electronic Mail and U.S. Mail this 17th day of January, 2021 addressed as follows to:

Hayt, Hayt & Landau, P.L. Attn: Jason S. Dragutsky, Esq. 7765 SW 87th Avenue, Ste. 101 Miami, Florida 33173

DATED this 17th day of January, 2021.

Evan Gutman CPA, JD

Member State Bar of Pennsylvania Member District of Columbia Bar

Admitted to Federal Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals

Admitted to Federal Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals

Admitted to Federal Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals

Florida Certified Public Accountant

New Jersey Certified Public Accountant

1675 NW 4th Avenue, #511 Boca Raton, FL 33432 561-990-7440

EXHIBIT

PO Box 520 Valhalla, NY 10595



Phone: (866) 434-2995

www.cavps.com

RE: Original Institution: Original Account No.: Cavalry Account No.:

Current Creditor:

Citibank, N.A.

Cavalry SPV I, LLC

December 2, 2020

մինեվիլՈրժիլեցիինիներիի ենիրիների և հերև

Evan S Gutman 1675 Nw 4th Ave Apt 511 Boca Raton, FL 33432-3505

Dear Evan S Gutman:

Cavalry is in receipt of a letter of dispute made pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act ("FCRA") on the above-referenced account. Our records indicate the account is presently placed with a law firm. Thus, this notice is for the limited purpose of responding to the dispute.

In acknowledgement of the dispute, we have requested that consumer reporting agencies report the account as disputed.

We have reviewed the dispute and find the dispute lacking in any specific facts or information which would allow us to conduct an investigation. Because the dispute alleges no specific information to form the basis for an investigation, we are unable to investigate the dispute pursuant to the FCRA.

Please provide us with the specific information that is being disputed and an explanation of the basis of the dispute.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to address your concerns.

Sincerely,

Cavalry Portfolio Services, LLC

EXHIBIT 2

1675 NW 4th Avenue, #511 Boca Raton, FL 33432 561-990-7440

November 27, 2020

Cavalry 500 Summit Lake Drive, Suite 400 Valhalla, NY 10595-1340

Re: Cavalry SPV I, LLC

A/C #

Citi Ending in #

To Whom It May Concern:

Please be advised I hereby dispute the validity of any and all alleged debts asserted as owed to Cavalry, including but not limited to the above referenced account numbers. The term validity encompasses any asserted legal ground to collection, nature of the alleged debt and amount asserted as owed. It is my position I do not owe Calvalry any amounts on any alleged accounts, or stated alternatively, the amount of ZERO.

Very truly yours

1675 NW 4th Avenue, #511 Boca Raton, FL 33432 561-990-7440

November 27, 2020

Cavalry PO Box 27288 Tempe, Arizona 85285

Re: Cavalry SPV I, LLC

A/C

Citi Ending in #

To Whom It May Concern:

Please be advised I hereby dispute the validity of any and all alleged debts asserted as owed to Cavalry, including but not limited to the above referenced account numbers. The term validity encompasses any asserted legal ground to collection, nature of the alleged debt and amount asserted as owed. It is my position I do not owe Calvalry any amounts on any alleged accounts, or stated alternatively, the amount of ZERO.

Very truly yours.

1675 NW 4th Avenue, #511 Boca Raton, FL 33432 561-990-7440

November 27, 2020

Cavalry 500 Summit Lake Drive, Suite 400 Valhalla, NY 10595-1340

Re: Cavalry SPV I, LLC

A/C #

Citi Ending in #

To Whom It May Concern:

Please be advised I hereby dispute the validity of any and all alleged debts asserted as owed to Cavalry, including but not limited to the above referenced account numbers. The term validity encompasses any asserted legal ground to collection, nature of the alleged debt and amount asserted as owed. It is my position I do not owe Calvalry any amounts on any alleged accounts, or stated alternatively, the amount of ZERO.

Very truly yours.

1675 NW 4th Avenue, #511 Boca Raton, FL 33432 561-990-7440

November 27, 2020

Cavalry PO Box 27288 Tempe, Arizona 85285

Re: Cavalry SPV I, LLC

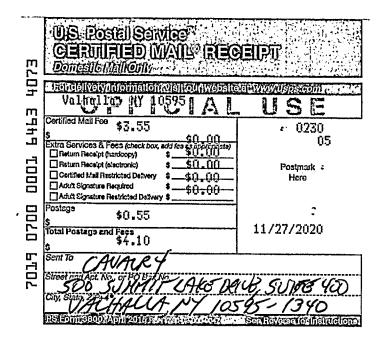
A/C

Citi Ending in #

To Whom It May Concern:

Please be advised I hereby dispute the validity of any and all alleged debts asserted as owed to Cavalry, including but not limited to the above referenced account numbers. The term validity encompasses any asserted legal ground to collection, nature of the alleged debt and amount asserted as owed. It is my position I do not owe Calvalry any amounts on any alleged accounts, or stated alternatively, the amount of ZERO.

Very truly yours



	US Postal Savice		
	GERMAIL MEGELEN		
임임	Donesie Mail Cally	भाग विकास विकास के दोना है है है ।	
53	neachblivervinformation.Visluourwebsite/athyww.usps.com.neach		
រប	Valuation NY 10595 A	USE	
99	Certified Mail Foo & 7 55	0230	
E	*******	05	
0000	Settra Services & Fees (check box, and fee as proportion) Return Receipt (hardcopy)	Postmark . Here	
0600	Postago \$0.55 \$ Total Postago and Fees \$4.10	11/27/2020	
	Sent To CAUALRY		
7020	Stroot and Apt. No., of FO Box No.	WE; STE 400	
-	City, Spigal HALLA, NY 10	595-1340	
	PS Form GBOO April 2015 Pray Sept 20060 1885	eed Heverse for Instructions	

15	US Posici Service" Certiffed MAIL Receipt Computations		
1	Tempę, IAZ (85285) I Q	alwww.sps.com.as.as.	
P463	Certified Mail Fee \$3.55	USE 0230	
	\$ Extra Services & Fees (check box, and fee as appropriate) Return Receipt (handopy)	05	
0007	☐ Ristum Receipt (electronic) \$ \$(1,01) ☐ Certified Moli Restricted Delivery \$ \$(1,01)	Postmark Hero	
	Adult Signature Required \$ \$0.00		
020	S PU. 30 S Total Postage and Foes	11/27/2020	
	s \$4.10 Sent To CALLAL RV		
7019	Street and Application or Politica No. 2725	22	
	City, St216, 21174 TEME; AZ	P5275	
	PSI-0111,3800 April 2016 PSN 24 CARACTA APRIL 2016	. Gee Reverse ior Instructions	

ليرسب		
L580	US Post Service" GERMFIED MAIL REC	I IPT
UI.	MERMANITARINA DEL CONTROLLA MARCOLLA DEL CONTROLLA DEL CON	8:114.5: Taranta and a second
	FordellyeryInformation Visitourwebsite	en www.uepe.com
	Tenpe / AZr85285	USE
m	OH HOUSE	USE
2453	Certified Mail Fee \$3.55	0230
Ξ.	la	
ıu	Extra Services & Fees (check box, add fee a report of the limit of the	05
en 1	☐ Return Receipt (hardcopy) \$ \$U.UU	
-	Ratum Receipt (electronic) \$ \$U.00	Postmark
H	☐ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery \$ \$0.00	Hero
0002	Adult Signature Required \$ \$0.00	rioto •
	Adult Signature Restricted Delivery \$	
	B	
Ī	[cc*na	•
0360	Total Postago and Fees \$4.10	11/27/2020
	\$4.10	*1/2//2020
	3	
7018	Sent To ALAT AL	
	WIIIIUEY	
Ĕ	Street and Apt , or PO Box No) <u>(()</u>
, -	TO BOX 2128	
	City, State, ZIP+4	200
	16178,176	85285
	PS Form \$800 APMIZOTE SNY Street Borners	See Reverse for Instructions

USPS Tracking®

FAQs >

Track Another Package +

Tracking Number: 70190700000164634097

Remove X

Your item was picked up at a postal facility at 6:49 am on November 30, 2020 in TEMPE, AZ 85285.

⊘ Delivered	
November 30, 2020 at 6:49 am Delivered, Individual Picked Up at Postal Facility TEMPE, AZ 85285	Teedback
Get Updates V	acc >
Text & Email Updates	~
Tracking History	~
Product Information	~
See Less ^	

Can't find what you're looking for?

Go to our FAQs section to find answers to your tracking questions.

USPS Tracking®

FAQs >

Track Another Package +

Tracking Number: 70190700000164634073

Your item was delivered at 9:23 am on November 30, 2020 in VALHALLA, NY 10595.

Pelivered

November 30, 2020 at 9:23 am
Delivered
VALHALLA, NY 10595

Get Updates
Tracking History

Product Information

See Less
See Less

Can't find what you're looking for?

Go to our FAQs section to find answers to your tracking questions.

USPS Tracking®

FAQs >

Track Another Package +

Tracking Number: 70200090000089995392

Your item was delivered at 9:23 am on November 30, 2020 in VALHALLA, NY 10595.

Delivered
November 30, 2020 at 9:23 am
Delivered
VALHALLA, NY 10595

Get Updates

Text & Email Updates

Tracking History

Product Information

See Less

See Less

Can't find what you're looking for?

Go to our FAQs section to find answers to your tracking questions.

USPS Tracking®

FAQs >

Track Another Package +

Tracking Number: 70180360000224536580

Remove X

Your item was picked up at a postal facility at 6:19 am on December 1, 2020 in TEMPE, AZ 85285.

December 1, 2020 at 6:19 am Delivered, Individual Picked Up at Postal Facility TEMPE, AZ 85285 Get Updates >	reedback
Text & Email Updates	~
Tracking History	~
Product Information	∨ .
See Less ^	

Can't find what you're looking for?

Go to our FAQs section to find answers to your tracking questions.

EXHIBIT

1675 NW 4th Avenue, #511 Boca Raton, FL 33432 561-990-7440

November 27, 2020

Hayt, Hayt & Landau, P.L. 7765 S.W. 87th Avenue, Suite 101 Miami, FI 33173

Re: Cavalry SPV I, LLC

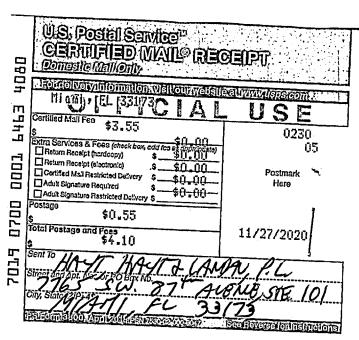
A/C Citi Ending in #

File #1007051

To Whom It May Concern:

I am in receipt of your letter dated November 13, 2020 regarding the above referenced alleged account (copy attached). Please be advised I hereby dispute the validity of this alleged debt, as well as any and all other alleged debts and/or account numbers of Cavalry with the term validity encompassing any asserted legal ground to collection, nature of the alleged debt and delineated amount. It is my position I do not owe Calvalry any amount, or stated alternatively, the amount of ZERO.

Very truly yours



Dana M. Stern*
Jason S. Dragutsky*
Robert J. Orovitz* **
Jennifer Cruz Mesa*
Jonathan D. Stern*
Ralph Breeden, III**
Shenika L. Lee**
Alexandria Veasley**

Licensed in Florida * Licensed in Georgia ** Law Offices of

HAYT, HAYT & LANDAU, P.L.

GALLOWAY PROFESSIONAL PARK
7765 S.W. 87'TH AVENUE
SUITE 101
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33173
TELEPHONE (305) 661-6660
TOLL FREE (877) 474-0834
FACSIMILE (305) 412-3242
November 13, 2020

EMANUEL HAYT (1929- 1983) LILLIAN R. HAYT (1928- 1963) BERNARD D. LANDAU (1930- 2005)

EVAN S GUTMAN 1675 NW 4TH AVE APT 511 BOCA RATON, FL 33432-3505

RE: Current Creditor: Cavalry SPV I, LLC, as assignee of Citibank, N.A.

Customer: EVAN S GUTMAN Original Creditor: Citibank, N.A.

Account Number: File Number: 1007051

Total Amount Due: \$13,084.23

Dear Evan S Gutman:

Our office represents Cavalry Spv I, Llc, As Assignee Of Citibank, N.A. regarding the above account. We are sending this letter based on account information provided by our client. Please direct any future communications to our office. At this time, no attorney with this law firm has personally reviewed the particular circumstances of your account.

Unless the consumer within thirty (30) days after receipt of the notice, disputes the validity of the debt, or any portion thereof, the debt will be assumed to be valid by the debt collector. If the consumer notifies the debt collector in writing within the thirty-day period that the debt, or any portion thereof, is disputed, the debt collector will obtain verification of the debt or a copy of a judgment (if a judgment exists) against the consumer and a copy of such verification or judgment will be mailed to the consumer by the debt collector. Upon the consumer's written request within the thirty-day period, the debt collector will provide the consumer with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor.

This communication is from a debt collector. This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Very truly yours,

HAYT, HAYT & LANDAU, P.L.

EXHIBIT 4

Evan Gutman CPA, JD 1675 NW 4th Avenue, #511 Boca Raton, Florida 33432 561-990-7440

August 28, 2019

Debski & Associates, P.A. Attn: Ms. Rebecca Jean Wilson, Esq. PO Box 47718 Jacksonville, FL 32247

Re: Citibank Accounts Ending In #

Dear Ms. Wilson:

In this regard, although I contest the full amount you allege is due, I would like to Settle all three Citibank accounts. Accordingly, in an effort to amicably Settle all three Citibank accounts in full, I Offer to pay Citibank, N.A. a total sum of \$ 18,000.00; for all three accounts in full, over a period of six years, pursuant to a graduated payment scale as follows:

- 1. \$50.00 per month for a period of 6 months
- 2. \$75.00 per month for the following period of 6 months
- 3. \$ 100.00 per month for the following 12 months
- 4. \$ 300.00 per month for the following 36 months
- 5. \$ 437.50 per month for the following 12 months

Upon receipt of the last payment, all Three accounts will be classified as "Paid in Full." During the interim, the three accounts will all be reflected on my credit report with the delineation of "Paid as Agreed," or a similar delineation we mutually agree upon. If the foregoing is acceptable, please inform me in writing and I will submit the first payment. This Offer is not a waiver of any valid legal Claims, and/or Defenses I have against Citibank, N.A, and/or Debski & Associates P.A.. This Offer will Expire on September 30, 2019, if I do not receive acceptance, prior to that date. To assist you in making a well-informed decision, I am also providing you with the following information:

- 1. I do not own any Stocks, Bonds or Securities
- 2. I do not own any Real Estate
- 3. I have no Retirement accounts
- 4. I live in a one bedroom apartment, approximately 710 square feet, and my monthly rent payment is \$1,240.00. I have lived here for about two years.

Put simply, although my current financial situation is poor, I am quite hopeful and optimistic such will change within the next year or so. That is the reason I make this Offer to you. I look forward to hearing from you, in an effort, to amicably resolve this matter. Please respond in writing only.

Very truly yours,

Evan Guiman CPA, JD

DEBSKI & ASSOCIATES, P.A.

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

(800) 733-0717 (904) 425-0901 Florida Reiny TTY: 711 Post Office Box 47718 Jacksonville, Florida 32247

> Facsimile (904) 425-0906

May 21, 2020

EVAN S GUTMAN 1675 NW 4TH AVE APT 511 BOCA RATON FL 33432-3505

Client: Citibank, N.A.

Account No.:

Brand Name: CITI MASTERCARD

Balance: \$11,292.15 Our File No.: K1903856

Dear Evan S Gutman:

This letter is being sen in response to your correspondence dated August 28, 2019. For your reference, enclosed please find copies of the hist-twelve-(12)-months-of-statements. Additional information about the account is as follows:

Account Open Date: April 27, 2010

Last Payment Date: October 23, 2018

If you have any additional questions or concerns regarding this debt, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

This communication is from a debt collector. This letter is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Sincerely,

Debski & Associates, P.A.

Edward Joseph Brown Attorney at Law

RD:l18.frm AJH

Enclosures: