

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Michael Lieder
Sprenger + Lang, PLLC
(202) 772-1159

Beth Terrell
Terrell Marshall & Daudt, PLLC
(206) 816-6605

**Sprenger + Lang, Terrell Marshall & Daudt and the Law Office of Kimberlee L. Gunning,
Announce Class Action Lawsuit Against Qwest Communications International, Inc.**

Qwest Internet Customers Claim \$200 Early Termination Fees Illegal

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON (October 15, 2008) Two former internet service customers of Qwest Communications International, Inc. (“Qwest”) today filed a multi-state class action lawsuit in the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington. The lawsuit seeks to void a \$200 “Early Termination Fee” Qwest charges customers who cancel their service before the expiration of a purported term commitment, generally of two years. The class, if approved, would cover Qwest customers in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

According to the Complaint, Qwest surprises customers with the ETF when they seek to cancel service. The documents that Qwest provides to customers state that the arrangement is month-to-month, but Qwest contends that customers orally agreed to the longer term. When plaintiff Robin Vernon asked for proof of this supposed oral agreement, however, Qwest was unable to provide it. Plaintiffs claim that the supposed oral agreements are unenforceable under the Statute of Frauds, a long-established principle of contract law that requires that agreements for periods of over one year must be set out in signed writings.

“It is shocking that a company as sophisticated as Qwest says in writing that customers have committed to only a month, next tries to spring the supposed term commitment and ETF on them when they wish to cancel, and finally inflicts debt collectors on them when they refuse to pay a \$200 fee that is not payable according to Qwest’s own written document,” said Dan Bryden of Sprenger & Lang, one of the attorneys for plaintiffs. “We are interested in talking with other Qwest customers who have faced similar surprises.”

Plaintiffs also claim that the \$200 ETF is unenforceable because Qwest has not even attempted to estimate its actual losses from early termination of a contract. The fee is the same, regardless of whether the contract is terminated after one month or 23 months. Thus, according to the Complaint, the fee is unreasonably excessive for many consumers.

The lawsuit seeks damages on behalf of customers who were subjected to the fee and an order from the court prohibiting Qwest from engaging in the same practices in the future.

“Consumers deserve better from a company that touts itself as the ‘premier’ provider of high speed internet service,” said co-counsel Beth Terrell of Terrell, Marshall & Daudt.

Added co-counsel Kimberlee Gunning, “\$200 is a lot of money to these consumers, especially in these tough economic times. Qwest’s penalties prevent consumers from changing to a cheaper service or cancelling internet service completely to tighten their belts.”

ABOUT THE FIRMS

Sprenger + Lang, PLLC, with offices in Minneapolis, MN and Washington, D.C., has obtained some of the country’s largest gender, age, and race discrimination judgments on behalf of tens of thousands of discrimination victims. Sprenger & Lang has successfully represented classes of plaintiffs against companies such as Morgan Stanley, CBS, C.H. Robinson, New York Life, Northwest Airlines, First Union, Amtrak and Ceridian Corporation. In addition, the Firm has brought consumer class actions against large scale enterprises such as The United States Department of Education, Homecomings Financial Network and DirectTV. The firm is featured in the book Class Action, which discusses a gender discrimination class action lawsuit that the firm successfully prosecuted for over ten years and inspired the recent feature film North Country. More information is available on the firm’s website, www.sprengerlang.com.

Terrell Marshall & Daudt PLLC (“TMD”), located in Seattle, Washington, prosecutes class and collective action cases on behalf of employees, consumers, investors, and other individuals against defendants ranging from small local businesses to Fortune 500 companies. TMD is currently prosecuting class actions against corporate giants such as Wal-Mart, Microsoft, Best Buy, General Motors, and Dell. TMD currently represents 70,000 current and former Wal-Mart employees in the state of Washington who were denied meal and rest breaks, worked off the clock, and whose time cards were altered to avoid payment of overtime. TMD’s attorneys have successfully obtained settlements for consumers and employees worth hundreds of millions of dollars. More information is available on the firm’s website, www.tmdlegal.com.

The Law Office of Kimberlee L. Gunning, PLLC, located in Seattle, Washington, limits its practice to consumer and employment law, as well as appeals in all areas of civil and administrative law. Before founding the firm, principal Kimberlee Gunning practiced complex civil litigation at a prominent Seattle firm for several years. She has significant experience in prosecuting class action claims against large corporations and has a proven track record briefing complex issues before state and federal trial courts and on appeal. Her reported cases include a recent Washington Supreme Court decision, *Nelson v. Appleway Chevrolet, Inc.*, 157 P.3d 847 (Wash. 2007), upholding class certification and summary judgment orders in favor of a class of consumers who challenged a car dealership’s illegal sales practices.