

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT

SUMMARY ORDER

RULINGS BY SUMMARY ORDER DO NOT HAVE PRECEDENTIAL EFFECT. CITATION TO A SUMMARY ORDER FILED ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2007 IS PERMITTED AND IS GOVERNED BY FEDERAL RULE OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE 32.1 AND THIS COURT'S LOCAL RULE 32.1.1. WHEN CITING A SUMMARY ORDER IN A DOCUMENT FILED WITH THIS COURT, A PARTY MUST CITE EITHER THE FEDERAL APPENDIX OR AN ELECTRONIC DATABASE (WITH THE NOTATION "SUMMARY ORDER"). A PARTY CITING TO A SUMMARY ORDER MUST SERVE A COPY OF IT ON ANY PARTY NOT REPRESENTED BY COUNSEL.

1 At a stated term of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, held at
2 the Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse, 40 Foley Square, in the City of New York,
3 on the 2nd day of May, two thousand seventeen.
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5 PRESENT:

6 GUIDO CALABRESI,
7 SUSAN L. CARNEY,
8 *Circuit Judges,*
9 CAROL BAGLEY AMON,*
10 *District Judge.*

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13 MARY JANE WHALEN,
14 *Plaintiff-Appellant-Cross-Appellee,*

15
16 v.

Nos. 16-260 (L)
16-352 (XAP)

17
18 MICHAELS STORES, INC.,
19 *Defendant-Appellee-Cross-Appellant.***
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23 FOR APPELLANT:

JOSEPH SIPRUT (Gregory W. Jones, *on the*
brief), Siprut PC, Chicago, IL.

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* Judge Carol Bagley Amon, of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York, sitting by designation.

**The Clerk of Court is directed to amend the caption to conform to the above.

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Appeal from a judgment of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of
New York (Seybert, *J.*).

**UPON DUE CONSIDERATION, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED,
ADJUDGED, AND DECREED** that the January 8, 2016 judgment of the District Court is
AFFIRMED.

Plaintiff-appellant Mary Jane Whalen appeals the District Court’s dismissal of her
complaint against defendant-appellee Michaels Stores, Inc. (“Michaels”), asserting claims for
breach of an implied contract and for violation of New York General Business Law § 349. The
District Court dismissed Whalen’s claims for lack of standing, concluding that Whalen had
failed to allege a cognizable injury from the exposure of her credit card information following
a data breach at one of Michaels’ stores. We assume the parties’ familiarity with the underlying
facts and the procedural history of the case, to which we refer only as necessary to explain our
decision to affirm.

1 Whalen made purchases via credit card at a Michaels store on December 31, 2013. Her
2 complaint alleges that

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4 on January 14, 2014, Whalen's credit card was physically
5 presented for payment to a gym in Ecuador for a charge of
6 \$398.16. On January 15, 2014, Whalen's credit card was also
7 physically presented for payment to a concert ticket company in
8 Ecuador for a charge of \$1,320.00.

9 App'x 11. She canceled her card on January 15, 2014. She does not allege that any fraudulent
10 charges were actually incurred on the card, or that, before the cancellation, she was in any way
11 liable on account of these presentations.

12 On January 25, 2014, Michaels issued a press release saying that there had been a
13 possible data breach of its system, apparently involving theft of customers' credit card and
14 debit card data. The company announced that it was investigating the breach, and advised
15 customers to monitor their credit accounts and be vigilant about unauthorized charges. On
16 April 17, 2014, in another press release, Michaels confirmed the existence and scope of the
17 data breach. The press release noted that "[t]he affected systems contained certain payment
18 card information, such as payment card number and expiration date There is no evidence
19 that other customer personal information, such as name, address or PIN, was at risk in
20 connection with this issue." Sp. App'x 6. The company extended an offer of twelve months of
21 identity protection and credit monitoring services to affected customers.

22 The District Court held that these allegations in the complaint did not suffice to
23 establish Article III standing for Whalen to pursue her claims, because Whalen neither alleged
24 that she incurred any actual charges on her credit card, nor, with any specificity, that she had
25 spent time or money monitoring her credit. We agree.

26 We review *de novo* the grant of a motion to dismiss for lack of standing. *See Carter v.*
27 *HealthPort Tech., LLC*, 822 F.3d 47, 56 (2d Cir. 2016). The general Article III standing
28 requirements are familiar: a plaintiff must allege an injury that is "concrete, particularized, and
29 actual or imminent; fairly traceable to the challenged action; and redressable by a favorable

1 ruling.” *Clapper v. Amnesty Int’l USA*, 133 S. Ct. 1138, 1147 (2013) (internal quotation marks
2 omitted); see *Upstate Citizens for Equality, Inc. v. United States*, 841 F.3d 556, 565 (2d Cir. 2016). In
3 *Clapper*, the Court emphasized that, to establish Article III standing, a future injury must be
4 “certainly impending,” rather than simply speculative. It explained that a “theory of standing[]
5 which relies on a highly attenuated chain of possibilities[] does not satisfy the requirement that
6 threatened injury must be certainly impending.” 133 S. Ct. at 1148.

7 Whalen asserts, *inter alia*, the following theories of injury: (1) her credit card information
8 was stolen and used twice in attempted fraudulent purchases; (2) she faces a risk of future
9 identity fraud; and (3) she has lost time and money resolving the attempted fraudulent charges
10 and monitoring her credit. Whalen does not allege a particularized and concrete injury suffered
11 from the attempted fraudulent purchases, however; she never was either asked to pay, nor did
12 pay, any fraudulent charge. And she does not allege how she can plausibly face a threat of
13 future fraud, because her stolen credit card was promptly canceled after the breach and no
14 other personally identifying information—such as her birth date or Social Security number—is
15 alleged to have been stolen. *Cf. Galaria v. Nationwide Mut. Ins. Co.*, 663 F. App’x 384, 386 (6th
16 Cir. 2016) (holding that plaintiffs had standing to bring data breach claims when the breached
17 database contained personal information such as “names, dates of birth, marital statuses,
18 genders, occupations, employers, Social Security numbers, and driver’s license numbers”).
19 Finally, Whalen pleaded no specifics about any time or effort that she herself has spent
20 monitoring her credit. Her complaint alleges only that “consumers must expend considerable
21 time” on credit monitoring, and that she “and the Class suffered additional damages based on
22 the opportunity cost and value of time that [she] and the Class have been forced to expend to
23 monitor their financial and bank accounts.” App’x 22-23. She did not seek leave to amend her
24 complaint to add anything more substantial. Accordingly, she has alleged no injury that would
25 satisfy the constitutional standing requirements of Article III, and her claims were properly
26 dismissed.¹

¹ These shortcomings in Whalen’s complaint distinguish her case from two Seventh Circuit cases, both involving vendor data breaches, upon which she heavily relies, *Remijas v. Neiman Marcus*

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We have considered Whalen’s remaining arguments and find them to be without merit. Accordingly, we **AFFIRM** the judgment of the District Court.

FOR THE COURT:
Catherine O’Hagan Wolfe, Clerk of Court

Grp., LLC, 794 F.3d 688 (7th Cir. 2015), and *Lewert v. P.F. Chang’s China Bistro, Inc.*, 819 F.3d 963 (7th Cir. 2016).