

1 (Keith Decl. ¶ 4 (Docket No. 17).) On May 7, 2015, defendant was
2 assigned to collect an outstanding medical debt owed by
3 plaintiff. (Id. ¶ 7.) Between 2015 and 2017, defendant called
4 plaintiff about the outstanding debt. (Id. ¶ 10.) Sometimes,
5 defendant called plaintiff more than once in a single day. (Id.
6 ¶ 15.) In September 2017, plaintiff's counsel sent defendant a
7 cease-and-desist letter demanding that defendant not engage in
8 further with plaintiff. (Id., Ex. F.)

9 The parties dispute whether plaintiff told defendant to
10 stop calling her at any point before the September 2017 cease-
11 and-desist letter. Plaintiff contends that she spoke with
12 representatives of Rash Curtis & Associates via telephone in
13 summer 2016 and "repeatedly instructed them to stop calling her."
14 (Pl.'s Opp. to Mot. for Sum. J., Ex. B ("Pl.'s Answers to
15 Interrog.") at No. 7 (Docket No. 23-2).) Defendant denies that
16 any of its representatives or employees ever made any contact
17 with plaintiff. (Keith Decl. ¶ 10.)

18 Plaintiff also contends that defendant "threatened to
19 file suit against [p]laintiff if she did not pay the balance of
20 the alleged debt," but that it "did not follow through with that
21 threat." (Pl.'s Answers to Interrog. at No. 8.)¹ Defendant
22 denies that it ever spoke with plaintiff, let alone threatened
23 legal action against her. (Keith Decl. ¶ 20.)

24 II. Discussion

25 Summary judgment is proper "if the movant shows that
26

27 ¹ The court cites to plaintiff's interrogatory responses
28 because plaintiff has not proffered any declarations or
affidavits in support of these contentions.

1 there is no genuine dispute as to any material fact and the
2 movant is entitled to judgment as a matter of law.” Fed. R. Civ.
3 P. 56(a). A material fact is one that could affect the outcome
4 of the suit, and a genuine issue is one that could permit a
5 reasonable jury to enter a verdict in the non-moving party’s
6 favor. Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc., 477 U.S. 242, 248
7 (1986).

8 The party moving for summary judgment bears the initial
9 burden of establishing the absence of a genuine issue of material
10 fact and can satisfy this burden by presenting evidence that
11 negates an essential element of the non-moving party’s case.
12 Celotex Corp. v. Catrett, 477 U.S. 317, 322-23 (1986).

13 Alternatively, the movant can demonstrate that the non-moving
14 party cannot provide evidence to support an essential element
15 upon which it will bear the burden of proof at trial. Id. Any
16 inferences drawn from the underlying facts must, however, be
17 viewed in the light most favorable to the party opposing the
18 motion. Matsushita Elec. Indus. Co. v. Zenith Radio Corp., 475
19 U.S. 574, 587 (1986).

20 A. FDCPA Claims

21 In 1977, Congress enacted the FDCPA “to eliminate
22 abusive debt collection practices by debt collectors, to insure
23 that those debt collectors who refrain from using abusive debt
24 collection practices are not competitively disadvantaged, and to
25 promote consistent State action to protect consumers against debt
26 collection abuses.” 15 U.S.C. § 1692(e). The Act establishes a
27 nonexclusive list of unlawful debt collection practices and
28 provides for public and private remedies. Id. §§ 1692-1692p.

1 Plaintiffs bringing actions under the FDCPA must do so "within
2 one year from the date on which the violation occurs." 15 U.S.C.
3 § 1692k(d).

4 1. Calling plaintiff despite her alleged cease and
5 desist request

6 Section 1692d of the FDCPA ("Section 1692d") prohibits
7 debt collectors from engaging in "any conduct the natural
8 consequence of which is to harass, oppress, or abuse any person
9 in connection with the collection of a debt." 15 U.S.C. § 1692d.
10 Courts have recognized that contacting debtor who has asked the
11 debt collector to cease and desist communications may violate
12 Section 1692d. See Arteaga v. Asset Acceptance, LLC, 733 F.
13 Supp. 2d 1218, 1227 (E.D. Cal. 2010) (O'Neill, J.) ("[A] debt
14 collector may harass a debtor by continuing to call the debtor
15 after the debtor has requested that the debt collector cease and
16 desist communication.") See also Moltz v. Firstsource Advantage,
17 LLC, No. 08-CV-239S, 2011 WL 3360010, at *3 (W.D.N.Y. Aug. 3,
18 2011) (denying summary judgment for defendant debt collector on
19 Section 1692d claim where plaintiff made verbal, but not written,
20 request that defendant cease calls).

21 Plaintiff alleges that defendant violated Section 1692d
22 by "continu[ing] to call [p]laintiff multiple times daily in
23 spite of [p]laintiff's multiple demands to stop calling her."
24 (Compl. ¶ 20.) Defendant argues that it is entitled to summary
25 judgment on this claim because plaintiff has failed to put forth
26 sufficient evidence to create a triable issue of fact as to
27 whether she ever told defendant to stop calling her. See
28 Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc., 477 U.S. 242, 248 (1986)
(quotation omitted) ("[A] party opposing a properly supported

1 motion for summary judgment may not rest upon the allegations or
2 denials in the pleadings, but . . . must set forth specific facts
3 showing that there is a genuine issue for trial.”). Defendant
4 contends that plaintiff has not set forth any “specific facts”
5 showing that there is a genuine issue as to whether or not
6 plaintiff ever told defendant to stop calling her. In support of
7 this contention, defendant points to its “uncontroverted”
8 evidence that it never spoke to plaintiff. (See Keith Decl. ¶
9 10). Defendant also dismisses plaintiff’s interrogatory answers
10 as a mere “recitation” of the allegations in plaintiff’s
11 complaint. (Def.’s Reply in Supp. of Mot. for Summ. J. at 4
12 (Docket No. 28.)

13 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 56(c) explicitly
14 permits district courts to consider “answers to interrogatories
15 when reviewing a motion for summary judgment so long as the
16 content of those interrogatories would be admissible at trial.”
17 Johnson v. Holder, 700 F.3d 979, 982 (7th Cir. 2012) (quoting
18 Hardrick v. City of Bolingbrook, 522 F.3d 758, 761 (7th Cir.
19 2008)). See also Alaska Ctr. for Env’t v. Browner, 20 F.3d 981,
20 986 (9th Cir. 1994) (“The federal rules specifically authorize
21 the use of interrogatory answers in summary judgment
22 practice[.]”). In order to be admissible at trial, an
23 interrogatory answer must be made on personal knowledge.
24 Johnson, 700 F.3d at 982.

25 In the instant case, plaintiff’s opposition to
26 defendant’s Motion for Summary Judgment relies on her response to
27 Interrogatory Number Two. That interrogatory read:

28 INTERROGATORY NO. 2:

1 For each and every date identified in YOUR
2 response to Interrogatory No. 1, please state
3 with specificity the substance of each
4 conversation.

5 Plaintiff's response to it was:

6 While Plaintiff does not recall the exact dates
7 of each telephone conversation she had with
8 Defendant, she remembers repeatedly telling
9 Defendant's collectors to stop the harassing
10 collection calls.

11 (Pl.'s Answers to Interrog. at No. 2.)

12 This interrogatory response is based on plaintiff's
13 personal knowledge, and there is no indication that plaintiff is
14 incompetent to testify on this issue at trial. As such, under
15 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 56(c), plaintiff's response to
16 Interrogatory Number Two is properly considered as evidence at
17 the summary judgment stage. This evidence directly contradicts
18 defendant's evidence that it never made contact with plaintiff.
19 (See Keith Decl. ¶ 10.) The fact that plaintiff does not
20 remember exactly when she told defendant to stop calling her does
21 not fatally undermine the credibility of her evidence. See
22 Krapf, 2010 WL 2025323, at *2 (denying summary judgment for
23 defendant in FDCPA case even though the plaintiff "could not
24 specifically remember the dates when the [defendant] calling
25 started or stopped." (emphasis in original)).² Defendant does

26 ² In Mammen v. Bronson & Migliaccio, LLP, 715 F. Supp. 2d 1210
27 (M.D. Fla. 2009), the court considered a Section 1692d claim
28 brought by plaintiffs, one of whom who testified that the
defendant debt collector told him "you're lying" during a debt
collection call. Defendant's discussion of Mammen in its reply
brief asserts that the Mammen court considered the plaintiffs'
inability to specifically identify the phone call or caller he
alleged harassed him in deciding to grant the defendant's motion
for summary judgment. (Def.'s Reply in Supp. of Mot. for Summ.

1 not cite, and the court is not aware of any, caselaw requiring
2 that a FDCPA plaintiff produce detailed contemporaneous notes
3 authenticating the time and date of every call with a defendant
4 debt collector in order to survive a motion for summary judgment.

5 Plaintiff's opposition to defendant's Motion for
6 Summary Judgment also relies on defendant's call logs. (Pl.'s
7 Opp. to Mot. for Summ. J., Ex. A (Docket No. 23-1).) Defendant's
8 call log lists dozens of calls as "answered" and lasting for
9 relatively long periods of time, e.g., 72 seconds, 39 seconds,
10 and 84 seconds. Defendant claims that despite these nearly three
11 dozen "answered" calls, it never spoke to plaintiff. (Keith
12 Decl. ¶ 11.) Defendant explains that it has collection software
13 and that if a live person had been detected when it called
14 plaintiff, the software would have transferred the call to a
15 collector and automatically notated the time and date of the
16 connected call. (Id. ¶ 13.) Thus, the "answered" notation next
17 to the outgoing calls, defendant contends, does not mean that it
18 actually spoke with plaintiff.

19 Plaintiff offers a different interpretation of
20 defendant's call logs: the calls demarcated as "answered" were
21 answered by her, and, on at least one occasion in summer 2016,

22 J. at 4.) This is technically true: the court did note that the
23 plaintiffs were "unable to provide detailed information about the
24 telephone calls [p]laintiffs received, including date, time, or
25 day of the week." Id. at 1219. However, this does not appear to
26 be the primary substantive reason that the Mammen court granted
27 defendant's motion for summary judgment on the plaintiff's
28 Section 1692d claim. The Mammen court held that calling someone
a liar is not "akin to profanity or obscenity." Id. It was, in
other words, the inadequacy of plaintiffs' allegations, not their
lack of authentication, that was fatal to the plaintiffs' Section
1692d claim in Mammen.

1 she told defendant to stop calling her, a request it allegedly
2 ignored. (Pl.'s Answers to Interrog. at No. 2.) The court
3 agrees that, when viewed in the light most favorable to the non-
4 moving party, defendant's call logs could be interpreted as
5 corroborating plaintiff's contentions. Plaintiff's answer to
6 Interrogatory Number Two and the defendant's call logs raise a
7 "genuine dispute" as to whether or not plaintiff told defendant
8 to stop calling her at any point before her counsel mailed a
9 cease and desist letter to defendant. Based on the factual record
10 in this case, a reasonable jury could thus find that plaintiff
11 and defendant spoke and that, on at least one occasion in summer
12 2016, plaintiff orally told defendant to stop calling her. To
13 the extent that this oral request also preceded any of
14 defendant's calls, its materiality is undisputed. Defendant
15 itself admits that a plaintiff would have a viable Section 1692d
16 claim against a defendant that called the plaintiff "after
17 receiving a cease and desist." (Mot. for Summ. J. at 6.) See
18 Arteaga, 733 F.Supp.2d at 1227. See also Tucker, 710 F. Supp. 2d
19 at 1305 (describing hypothetical repeated calls to a debtor who
20 asked debt collector to cease calling as "oppressive conduct").

21 Defendant also argues that plaintiff's Section 1692d
22 claim is time-barred. The FDCPA's one year statute of
23 limitations is subject to the discovery rule, under which the
24 limitations period begins to run only when a plaintiff "knows or
25 reasonably could have become aware of" an alleged violation.
26 Bondi v. Nationstar Mortg. LLC, 752 F. App'x 431, 433 (9th Cir.
27 2018) (internal quotations and citation omitted). Defendant
28 contends that plaintiff's Section 1692d claim is not timely

1 because it was not brought within one year of plaintiff's
2 "discovery" of the defendant's first alleged Section 1692d
3 violation in summer 2016, i.e., the first time that defendant
4 allegedly called plaintiff after orally being asked not to.

5 This argument fails because under plaintiff's theory of
6 defendant's Section 1692d liability, each of the fourteen calls
7 that occurred after May 2017 was harassing and abusive since it
8 occurred after plaintiff repeatedly told defendant not to call
9 her. The fact that plaintiff allegedly learned of defendant's
10 first alleged violation in summer 2016 does not bar her from
11 asserting claims based on subsequent violations which occurred
12 within the statutory period. As such, when the evidence is
13 viewed in the light most favorable to the non-moving party,
14 plaintiff's Section 1692d claim is not time-barred because it is
15 based, in part, on conduct which occurred within the applicable
16 statutory period.

17 2. Excessive Calling

18 Although plaintiff states that her claim of excessive
19 calling is based on both Section 1692d and Section 1692d(5), the
20 court considers that claim only under Section 1692d(5).³

21 ³ Numerous courts have found that "concurrent claims for
22 violations of § 1692d and § 1692d(5) must be treated as a single
23 claim under § 1692d(5) where . . . the underlying conduct fits
24 squarely within § 1692d(5)." Hollis v. LVNV Funding, No. EDCV
25 18-1866 JGB KKx, 2019 WL 1091336, at *3 (C.D. Cal. Jan. 2, 2019)
26 (internal quotations and citation omitted). See, e.g., Fields v.
27 Credit Mgmt. Sys., No. EDCV 14-1853 JGB (SPx), 2015 WL 11367930,
28 at *6 (C.D. Cal. Nov. 23, 2015) ("[W]here there is no factual
distinction between the underlying allegations, bringing two
separate claims under sections 1692d and 1692d(5) for harassment
by telephone is redundant, and as such, improper."); Stirling v.
Genpact Servs., LLC, No. 2:11-CV-06369-JHN, 2012 WL 952310, at *3
(C.D. Cal. Mar. 19, 2012) (declining to allow a plaintiff to

1 Section 1692d(5) of FDCPA specifically prohibits
2 “[c]ausing a telephone to ring or engaging any person in
3 telephone conversation repeatedly or continuously with intent to
4 annoy, abuse, or harass any person at the called number.”

5 Plaintiff alleges that defendant called her cellphone
6 “daily, often multiple times per day.” (Compl. ¶ 11.)

7 Defendant’s records indicate it called plaintiff 18 times in
8 2015, approximately 90 times in 2016, and approximately 12 times
9 from the number 866-729-2722 in 2017. (Keith Decl. ¶ 10.)

10 Plaintiff has not produced any evidence that defendant called her
11 more frequently than defendant’s records indicate. Plaintiff
12 alleges that the mere volume of calls she received from defendant
13 raises a triable issue of fact as to defendant’s intent in
14 placing those calls. Defendant disputes this claim and cites
15 several district court opinions holding that a FDCPA defendant’s
16 high call volumes alone did not evidence abusive intent. See
17 e.g. Jiminez v. Accounts Receivable Mgmt., Inc., No. CV 09-9070-
18 GW AJWx, 2010 WL 5829206 at *5 (C.D. Cal. Nov. 15, 2010)
19 (granting summary judgment on Section 1692d claim where defendant
20 called plaintiff 72 times in 115 days because, absent some
21 unacceptable pattern of calls, “any reasonable juror” could only
22 find that the debt collector’s calls were placed “with the intent

23 concurrently pursue Section 1692d and Section 1692d(5) claims on
24 the grounds that doing so would “effectively eviscerate the
25 requisite intent contemplated in situations governed by §
26 1692d(5)” and “render that entire subsection superfluous.”).
27 Plaintiff’s excessive calling allegations fit squarely within the
28 purview of Section 1692d(5). Given this, the court declines to
consider plaintiff’s redundant Section 1692d claim for excessive
calling and will evaluate plaintiff’s excessive calling
allegations exclusively under Section 1692d(5).

1 to reach [plaintiff] to collect the [debt]" and not with the
2 intent to annoy, abuse, or harass); Tucker v. CBE Grp., Inc., 710
3 F. Supp. 2d 1301 (M.D. Fla. 2010) (granting summary judgment for
4 defendant on Section 1692d because 57 calls, seven of which were
5 on a single day, do not evidence an intent to annoy); Jones v.
6 Rash Curtis & Assocs., No. C 10-00225 JSW, 2011 WL 2050195, at *3
7 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 3, 2011) (granting summary judgment for defendant
8 on Section 1692d claim because 179 calls in a year, in and of
9 itself, did not raise a triable issue as to whether the calls
10 were initiated with intent to harass).

11 Defendant also relies heavily on Arteaga, 733 F. Supp.
12 2d 1218. In that case, Judge O'Neill held that absent some other
13 egregious feature of the calls, "daily" or "near daily" telephone
14 calls did not constitute harassment as a matter of law. In
15 granting the defendant debt collector's motion for summary
16 judgment on the plaintiff's Section 1692d and 1692d(5) claims,
17 Judge O'Neill cited the absence of evidence that "[defendant]
18 called [plaintiff] immediately after she hung up, called multiple
19 times in a single day, called her place of employment, family, or
20 friends, called at odd hours, or called after she requested
21 [defendant] to cease calling." Id. at 1229. Relying on Arteaga,
22 defendant contends that plaintiff's Section 1692d(5) claim fails
23 as a matter of law because "in cases where there is only a high
24 frequency of calls, some conduct does not constitute harassment
25 as a matter of law." (Def.'s Mot. in Supp. of Summ. J. at 6
26 (Docket No. 13).)

27 Defendant is correct that many district courts
28 considering Section 1692d(5) claims have granted summary judgment

1 for defendants where there is a high volume of calls but no other
2 factors indicative of an intent to annoy, e.g. calls at
3 inconvenient hours or locations. However, several district
4 courts have been more reluctant to resolve the question of intent
5 at the summary judgment stage. In Akalwadi v. Risk Management
6 Alternatives, Inc., 336 F. Supp. 2d 492 (D. Md. 2004), for
7 example, the court denied cross-motions for summary judgment
8 where the defendant made 26 or 28 calls to plaintiff in a two-
9 month period, including three on one day. After noting the
10 "disagreement among district courts as to the specific volume and
11 pattern of calls that will allow a plaintiff to raise a triable
12 issue of fact of the defendant's intent to annoy or harass," the
13 court in Krapf v. Nationwide Credit Inc., No. SACV 09-00711
14 JVSMLG, 2010 WL 2025323, at *3 (C.D. Cal. May 21, 2010), likewise
15 denied summary judgment to a defendant that had called the
16 plaintiff 180 times in a single month.

17 This court is of the mind that sometimes, as the court
18 in Majeski v. I.C. System, Inc., No. 08 CV 5583, 2010 WL 145861
19 (N.D. Ill. Jan. 8, 2010), noted, "the reasonableness of the
20 volume and pattern of telephone calls is a question of fact best
21 left to a jury." See id. at *3. It is true that in the instant
22 case, plaintiff provides no evidence that defendant called her at
23 an inconvenient location or at inappropriate hours. Nor are
24 there allegations or evidence that defendant used abusive
25 language. There is simply the volume, extent, and frequency of
26 defendant's calls, which occurred between 2015 and 2017, at most
27 90 in a year, and sometimes more than once in a single day.
28 Perhaps defendant's first and second calls to plaintiff were made

1 purely with the intent to reach plaintiff to collect the debt.
2 But was the eightieth? The hundredth? The hundred and
3 twentieth? In the view of this court, these circumstances give
4 rise to a genuine disputed issue of material fact as to
5 defendant's intent that is not appropriately resolved at the
6 summary judgment stage. If, as defendant maintains, it never
7 made contact with plaintiff, why did it persist in calling her
8 after dozens and dozens of unanswered calls? Plaintiff's theory
9 -- that defendant engaged in this conduct because it intended to
10 grind her down, harass and oppress her with the sheer volume and
11 incessance of its calls -- is no less plausible than defendant's
12 explanation that it called merely to collect the debt. As such,
13 there is a genuine dispute as to the material fact of whether or
14 not defendant called plaintiff with the intent to harass, abuse,
15 or oppress her.

16 Defendant also argues that plaintiff's Section 1692d(5)
17 claim is time-barred. Specifically, it contends that all conduct
18 occurring before May 2, 2017 is outside the statutory period and
19 that since defendant only called plaintiff 14 times after May 2,
20 2017, it did not intend to harass her: 14 calls in a year does
21 not, as a matter of law, defendant contends, evidence abusive
22 intent.

23 Plaintiff counters that because of the "continuing
24 violation" doctrine, her Section 1692d(5) claim is not in any way
25 time barred. (Pl.'s Opp. to Mot. for Summ. J. at 8-9 (Docket No.
26 23).) Under that doctrine, which district courts have applied in
27 the FDCPA context, a plaintiff may recover "for actions that take
28 place outside the limitations period if these actions are

1 sufficiently linked to unlawful conduct within the limitations
2 period [.]” Komarova v. Nat’l Credit Acceptance, Inc., 175 Cal.
3 App. 4th 324, 343 (1st Dist. 2009) (quoting Richards v. CH2M
4 Hill, Inc., 26 Cal. 4th 798, 812 (2001)). “The key is whether
5 the conduct complained of constitutes a continuing pattern and
6 course of conduct as opposed to unrelated discrete acts.” Joseph
7 v. J.J. Mac Intyre Cos., L.L.C., 281 F. Supp. 2d 1156, 1161 (N.D.
8 Cal. 2003). If there is a pattern of allegedly unlawful conduct,
9 a suit is timely filed if it is brought “within one year of the
10 most recent date on which the defendant is alleged to have
11 violated the FDCPA.” Id. (quoting Padilla v. Payco Gen. Am.
12 Credits, Inc., 161 F. Supp. 2d 264, 273 (S.D.N.Y. 2001)).

13 Defendant’s call logs evidence a relatively steady
14 stream of telephone calls that began in 2015 and continued up
15 until August 2017. Plaintiff’s Section 1602d(5) claim is
16 predicated on the repetitive and continuous nature of these
17 calls. As such, the fourteen calls which occurred within the
18 statutory period are united with the dozens that preceded them in
19 a single course of conduct. Plaintiff’s 1692d(5) claim was
20 brought “within one year of the most recent date on which the
21 defendant is alleged to have violated [Section 1692d(5)].” See
22 Joseph, 281 F. Supp. 2d at 1161. Accordingly, it is not barred
23 by the statute of limitations.

24 3. Unfair or unconscionable means of debt collection

25 Section 1692f of the FDCPA (“Section 1692f”) prohibits
26 a debt collector from using “unfair or unconscionable means to
27 collect or attempt to collect any debt.” 15 U.S.C. § 1692f.
28 Plaintiff alleges that defendant violated Subsection 1692f of the

1 FDCPA by: (1) calling her an excessive number of times between
2 early 2016 and September 2017; and (2) falsely threatening to
3 pursue legal action against her without actually intending to
4 pursue that course of action. (Compl. ¶ 22.)

5 Section 1692f “serves a backstop function, catching
6 those ‘unfair practices’ which somehow manage to slip by §§ 1692d
7 & 1692e.” Edwards v. McCormick, 136 F. Supp. 2d 795, 806 (S.D.
8 Ohio 2001). Given this purpose, “courts have dismissed claims
9 under 15 U.S.C. § 1692f where such claims are based on facts that
10 are also the basis for another more specific FDCPA claim.”

11 Martin v. Target Card Servs., No. CV 17-5372 PA (MRWx), 2018 WL
12 2723258, at *5 (C.D. Cal. Apr. 24, 2018). See, e.g., Lake v.
13 Consumer Adjustment Co., Inc., No. 4:15-CV-01495-JCH, 2015 WL
14 8770719, at *4 (E.D. Mo. Dec. 14, 2015) (dismissing a plaintiff’s
15 claim under Section 1692f which arose from the same set of
16 factual allegations as his Section 1692e claim); Foti v. NCO Fin.
17 Sys., Inc., 424 F. Supp. 2d 643, 667 (S.D.N.Y. 2006) (holding
18 that the plaintiffs’ Section 1692f claim was deficient where the
19 plaintiffs did not “identify any misconduct beyond that which
20 Plaintiffs assert violate other provisions of the FDCPA.”);
21 Turner v. Prof’l Recovery Servs., Inc., 956 F. Supp. 2d 573, 580-
22 81 (D.N.J. 2013) (granting summary judgment for defendant on §
23 1692f claim based entirely on alleged conduct encompassed by
24 Sections 1692c(a)(1) and 1692d of the FDCPA).

25 Thus, to the extent that plaintiff’s Section 1692f
26 claim is grounded in defendant’s allegedly excessive phone calls,
27 the court will dismiss that claim because those allegations were
28 already considered in the context of plaintiff’s Section 1692d(5)

1 claim.

2 Plaintiff also alleges that defendant violated Section
3 1692f by falsely threatening, in November 2016, to file a lawsuit
4 against plaintiff.⁴ (Compl. ¶ 22.) Defendant contends that this
5 claim is time barred.

6 Though the continuing violation doctrine saves
7 plaintiff's Section 1692d(5) claim from being untimely, it cannot
8 do the same for plaintiff's Section 1692f claim. Plaintiff
9 alleges a single discrete empty threat of litigation that
10 occurred in November 2016, and not, for example, a series of
11 empty threats that began in November 2016 and continued beyond
12 May 2017. The alleged violation is not a "pattern" of behavior
13 that spans across and beyond the limitations period, but a
14 discrete act that occurred well before May 2, 2017. As such,
15 plaintiff's claim that defendant violated Section 1692f by
16 threatening litigation, without intending to pursue it, is time-
17 barred.

18 For the foregoing reasons, the court will grant
19 defendant's Motion for Summary Judgment with respect to
20 plaintiff's Section 1692f claim.

21 B. Rosenthal Act Claim

22 California's Rosenthal Act prohibits debt collectors
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24 ⁴ Since Section 1692e(5) explicitly prohibits debt collectors
25 from makings "threat[s] to take any action that cannot legally be
26 taken or that is not intended to be taken," these facts would
27 arguably more appropriately form the basis of a Section 1692e
28 claim. Since claims arising out of defendant's alleged November
2016 claim are time barred, however, the court declines to grant
summary judgment for defendant merely because plaintiff has
improperly denominated her claims.

1 from engaging in unfair or deceptive practices in the collection
2 of consumer debts. Cal. Civ. Code § 1788.1. Under the Rosenthal
3 Act, "every debt collector collecting or attempting to collect a
4 consumer debt shall comply with the provisions of Sections 1692b
5 to 1692j, inclusive, of, and shall be subject to the remedies in
6 Section 1692k of, Title 15 of the United States Code." Cal. Civ.
7 Code § 1788.17.

8 Because the court finds that summary judgment is not
9 appropriate on plaintiff's Section 1692d and Section 1692d(5)
10 FDCPA claims, the court must also deny defendant's motion for
11 summary judgment on her Rosenthal Act claim, to the extent that
12 that claim is premised on defendant's alleged violation of those
13 sections of the FDCPA.

14 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that defendant's Motion for
15 Summary Judgment (Docket No. 12) be, and hereby is, GRANTED with
16 respect to plaintiff's claim that defendant violated Section
17 1692f by engaging in unfair and unconscionable debt collection
18 practices;

19 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that defendant's Motion for
20 Summary Judgment be, and hereby is, DENIED with respect to
21 plaintiff's claim that defendant violated Section 1692d by
22 calling her after she requested it cease and desist contacting
23 her;

24 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that defendant's Motion for
25 Summary Judgment be, and hereby is, also DENIED with respect to
26 plaintiff's claim that defendant violated Section 1692d(5) by
27 calling her excessively;

28 AND IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that defendant's Motion for

1 Summary Judgment be, and hereby is, DENIED with respect to
2 plaintiff's Rosenthal Act claim.

3 Dated: July 3, 2019

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5 **WILLIAM B. SHUBB**
6 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE**
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