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Robocalls cost bank \$1M

Bank of America is ordered to pay a Tampa family after making hundreds of harassing phone calls.

BY JAMAL THALJI
Times Staff Writer

TAMPA — For four years, Joyce and Nelson Coniglio were haunted by these words:

This is Bank of America calling.

The calls started in 2009 when B of A took over the mortgage the Coniglios used to buy a second home in their Tampa Heights neighborhood. They quickly fell behind.

The bank called, the family said, while they tried to get the loan modified. B of A called even after the cease-and-desist letters. There were hundreds of robocalls, sometimes five a day.

In July, the Coniglios sued in federal court to stop the harassment. Three months later, they won — by default judgment. B of A missed the deadline to oppose the lawsuit.

Now the bank owes the Coni-

glios more than \$1 million.

One of the family's attorneys, John Anthony, said he's trying to collect right now.

"Unlike Bank of America," he said, "we're only going to call them once."

...

The Coniglios are both 69 and have been married for 45 years.

Joyce Coniglio spent 44 years
» See CALLS, 6B



JAMES BORCHUCK | Times

Joyce and Nelson Coniglio sit with attorney David Mitchell, left, after they won a \$1 million judgment against Bank of America.

Shaving for solidarity



Snake handler TV star gets jail

The *Swamp Brothers* star, whose farm is east of Brooksville, is guilty of smuggling.

BY CRAIG PITTMAN
Times Staff Writer

On his reality television show, *Swamp Brothers*, Robbie Kes-