

The March 2026 South Carolina Jury Verdict update

Recent State Court Verdicts

***Horry County

Escalator Negligence - A great-grandmother fell backwards on at a department store escalator in Myrtle Beach that she alleged was moving faster than normal – she settled with the department store (Belk) and advanced a claim against the manufacturer and installer of the escalator – a Conway jury rejected the case and the plaintiff took nothing

Daniel A. Hunnicutt, Conway for the plaintiff
Scott D. MacLatchie, Jr. and Harrison Williams, Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, Columbia defending

Verdict returned on March 11, 2026

Full report coming in the April edition

Sandra Fowler,)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
vs.) VERDICT
)
Schindler Elevator Corporation,)
)
Defendant.)
_____)
(Check one)

We, the jury, find in favor of the plaintiff and award the plaintiff judgment against the defendant for:

\$ _____ actual damages.

We, the jury, find in favor of the defendant.

March 11, 2026


Michael C. Sheffer, Foreperson

***Beaufort County

Medical Malpractice - The plaintiff linked a bleeding complication to his surgeon not discontinuing the plaintiff's use of anti-coagulants in a timely fashion before a hernia surgery, all of which led to a bleeding complication and subsequent hospitalization to evacuate a hematoma - February 25, 2026 defense verdict

David A. Manzi, Schiller & Hamilton, Beaufort for the plaintiff

Chilton Grace Simmons, Beaufort and Elizabeth Ballentine Mason, Charleston, both of Rogers Townsend defending

Full reports on all these cases coming in the April 2026 edition

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*****Charleston County**

Premises Liability - The plaintiff slipped on a wet floor at a grocery and alleged it was related to an ongoing drainage issue the grocery had not repaired – the case was tried for two days, and a Charleston jury returned a defense verdict

Jarrel L. Wigger, *Wigger Law Firm*, North Charleston for the plaintiff

Andrew J. Santaniello, *Aylward Sweeney & Santaniello*.

Charlotte, NC defending

Verdict returned March 3, 2026

Case Document:

[Van Buren v. Harris Teeter jury verdict](#)

JEANE VAN BUREN, Plaintiff, vs. HARRIS TEETER, LLC, Defendant.	VERDICT FORM
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1. Do you find that the defendant Harris Teeter, LLC was negligent and that such negligence proximately caused the plaintiff's injuries?

YES: If you answer yes, **GO TO QUESTION 2**

NO: If you answer no, **STOP AND DELIBERATE NO FURTHER**

2. Please state the total amount of damages, if any, sustained by the plaintiff.

\$ _____

This the 3 day of March, 2026.


FOREPERSON

WHEN YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE QUESTIONNAIRE,
NOTIFY THE BAILIFF.

*****Fairfield County**

ATV Repair Negligence - Plaintiff lost several fingers in a roll-over Razor accident – she blamed the accident on a negligent repair by a dealer – the case came to trial and mistrial was declared on March 9, 2026, the judge explaining cryptically there were “numerous issues with the jury” – a new trial has been set for May of 2026

Lee D. Cope and Ronnie L. Crosby, *Parker Law Group*, Hampton and Jamie L. Walters, *Koon Cook & Walters*, Columbia for the plaintiff

Curtis L. Ott and William E. Whitney, III, *Gallivan White Boyd*, Columbia defending

Federal Court Jury Trials

***False Claims Act

Relators alleged that Fluor Corporation defrauded the U.S. government of millions in fulfilling logistics contracts in the war theater in Afghanistan. A six-week trial in Greenville resulted in a mixed verdict but the included an award of damages of \$15,000,000 that is subject to being trebled. Details coming in the April 2026 edition. The verdict was returned on March 11, 2016.

Jon Loevy, Daniel Twetten, Michael Kanowitz, Anand Swaminathan, Frank T. Newell and Anna C. Dover, *Loevy & Loevy*, Chicago, IL, Richard A. Harpootlian, Columbia, Frank L. Eppes, *Eppes & Plumblee*, Greenville and Judah N. VanSyckel, *Saluda Law*, Lexington for the plaintiff

Mark C. Moore and Michael A. Parente, Columbia and Konstantine P. Diamaduros, Greenville, all of *Maynard Nexsen*, Craig D. Margolis, Tirzah S. Lollar and Christian D. Sheehan, Washington, D.C. and Rachel K. Higgins, New York, NY all of *Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer* for Fluor

Case Documents:

[Rude et al v. Fluor Corporation Jury Verdict](#) (19 pages in PDF)

***Products Liability

Settled - Johnson v. Werner - Plaintiff suffered a disabling T-12 fracture when a Werner-brand aluminum extension ladder "false-locked and he fell ten feet. A jury was picked in Charleston on 2-19-26 before Judge Bruce H. Hendricks. The case was to begin yesterday. The parties settled.

Ronnie L. Crosby and Derek D. Tarver, *Parker Law Group*, Hampton and D. Jay Davis, Jr., *Clement Rivers*, Charleston for the plaintiff

Jonathan E. Hall, *Phelps Dunbar*, Raleigh, NC and Amy Bower, *Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein*, Charleston defending.

Case Documents:

[Plaintiff Trial Memorandum](#) (9 pages in PDF)

The location of the plaintiff's fall from the ladder



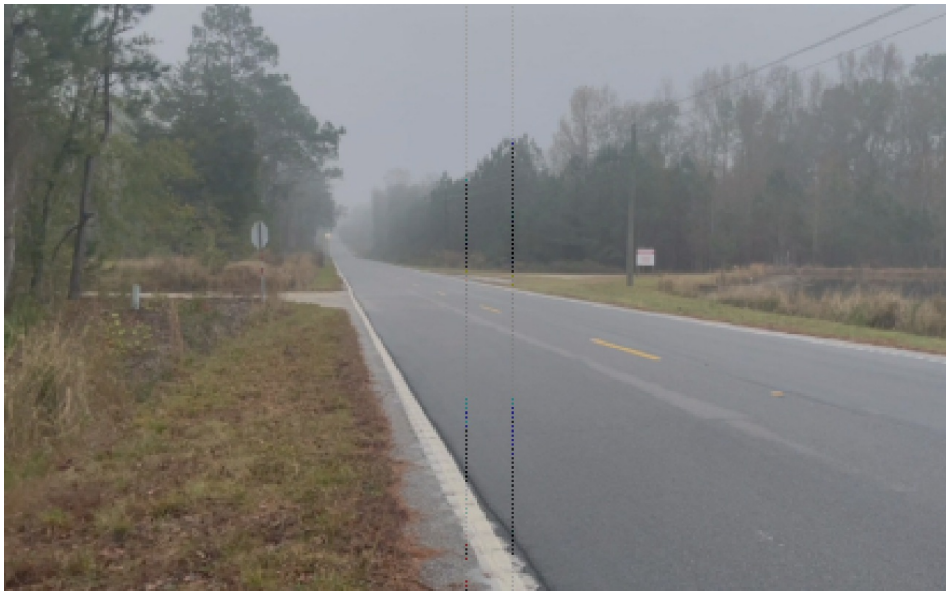
Notable Settlements

***Kershaw County

Wrongful Death/School Bus Stop Negligence - A woman was struck and killed at a rural bus stop in Kershaw County when while crossing the street (the stop was dark, poorly lit and not marked) by a passing car moments after loading her son onto the bus – the estate settled with the school district and state BOE for \$725,000 which included sums for her son’s negligent infliction of emotional distress at seeing this tragic event

Mark J. Bringardner and Mary K. Linton, *Bringardner Injury Law Firm*, Charleston for the plaintiff Joseph D. Thompson, III and Samuel R. Velasquez, *Hall Booth Smith*, Mt. Pleasant for Kershaw County School Board and Lake E. Summers, *Malone Thompson & Summers*, Columbia for SC Department of Education defending

The scene of the bus stop where the plaintiff was killed



*****Dorchester County
Wrongful Death/Motor Carrier
Negligence - A SC DOT employee
(age 23) was killed instantly when
while standing by the road, a
tandem wheel broke loose and
struck him – there was no remedy
against the trucking firm and the
plaintiff pursued a pre-suit claim
against the company that employed
the trucking firm on a negligent
motor carrier selection theory in
selecting such a substandard
trucking firm – the parties settled
the matter for \$16,000,000,
representing the full sum of
available insurance, the settlement
being approved in Dorchester County**



Rose v. Don's Car Crushing, 2026-CP-18-00355

David B. Lail and Brandt R. Horton, Yarborough Applegate, Charleston for the plaintiff

Case Documents:

[Petition to Approve Wrongful Death Settlement](#) (6 pages in PDF)

The defective truck trailer pictured above

**Notable Court of Appeals Opinion
South Carolina Court of Appeals**

Premises Liability - The plaintiff (a teacher at Liberty Hill Academy in Charleston) slipped on a just waxed floor in 2012 and has since suffered from CRPS. The case was tried in May of 2019 and she took \$170,629 in damages (equal to her medicals) assessed equally to her and the company that operated the school building.

Her trial attorneys were Andrew J. McCumber and Daniel S. Slotchiver, *Slotchiver & Slotchiver*, Charleston Robert T. Lyles, *Lyles & Associates*, Charleston defended the case

The plaintiff took an appeal (and now pro se), the Court of Appeals reversed in September 2025 and found error by the trial court (Judge Kinlaw presiding) in admitting testimony from a human factors expert. The defendant sought a petition for rehearing. Denied. It then sought a writ at the Supreme Court. Denied. The case has returned to the trial (the plaintiff is still pro se) fourteen years after the plaintiff suffered her initial injury.

Case Documents:

[Gurwood v. GCS Services Corporation](#) (Appellate Opinion - 13 pages in PDF)