The South Carolina Jury Verdict Reporter

The Most Current and Complete Summary of South Carolina Jury Verdicts

January 2026 **Statewide Jury Verdict Coverage** **1 SCJVR 1**

In This Issue

Civil Jury Verdicts

Timely coverage of civil jury verdicts in South Carolina including court, presiding judge, parties, attorneys and results.

Premises Liability - The plaintiff tripped on a "curled" rug as he exited a Dollar General and sustained a broken hip in the resulting fall – a Rock Hill jury awarded the plaintiff $296,000 – Dollar General appealed the verdict (it called the hazard open and obvious), but the case has since been dismissed as settled

Sullivan v. Dolgencorp,
2022-CP-46-00085
Plaintiff: T. Elaine White, *Love Sloan Law*, Rock Hill
Defense: R. Trippett Boineau, III and Michael Trask, *McAngus Goudelock & Courie*, Columbia
Verdict: $296,000 for plaintiff
Court: **York**
Judge: William A. McKinnon
Date: 6-18-24

Thomas Sullivan, age 68, shopped at a Rock Hill Dollar General on 6-10-19. Dollar General is operated by a Kentucky company, Dolgencorp. As Sullivan walked out of the store pushing a shopping cart, he tripped on a weathered rug that was curled at its edge. Sullivan sustained a left hip fracture in the fall. He was taken to Piedmont Hospital where he underwent a surgery two days later. He was then in rehabilitation for several more weeks. There was proof Sullivan had a gait disturbance that was related to his injury.

Sullivan filed a lawsuit against Dolgencorp and alleged negligence regarding the condition of the rug. He died by suicide in June of 2019. Sullivan, who was on disability at the time, wasn't married and had no children. His sister was appointed as personal representative for the estate and continued to prosecute the case.

The scene where Sullivan fell, approaching the rug (left) and in the midst of his fall (right)

Sullivan was not deposed before his death.

The estate relied on an expert to buttress its case. Rob McNealy of Salt Lake City, UT (he's self-described as a flooring nerd), opined about the worn nature of the rug and that it didn't meet industry standards. Sullivan's injuries were also discussed by a treating orthopedist, Dr. Edward Brown. Sullivan's medical bills were approximately $115,000. There was surveillance video that captured Sullivan's fall.

Dolgencorp replied on several fronts. It was first argued the evidence the rug was "curled" was speculative and that McNealy was just an "alleged" expert who never inspected the mat. The company also argued that whatever the condition of the rug, it was open and obvious. The defense also suggested Sullivan's fall was related not to the rug, but instead to a pre-existing impaired gait that was related to a prior stroke.

The jury in this case answered that Dolgencorp was negligent and this was a proximate cause of Sullivan's injuries. It rejected any apportionment to him. Dolgencorp was 100% at fault. The jury awarded damages of $296,000. A consistent judgment was entered. Dolgencorp's offer of judgment before trial was in the sum of $10,000.

Dolgencorp moved for JNOV relief and repeated its trial arguments. The motion was denied. Dolgencorp took an appeal and both parties filed appellate briefs. While the appeal was pending, the parties settled the case. The appeal was dismissed and the litigation is concluded.

Case Documents:

Defense Summary Judgment Motion
Plaintiff Summary Judgment Response
Jury Verdict
Defense JNOV Motion
Plaintiff JNOV Response
Defense Appellate Brief
Plaintiff Appellate Brief

Golf Cart Assault - In a strange late night incident at a Sullivan's Island bar (Dunleavy's Pub), the then-owner of the Charleston Battery (a wealthy businessman) didn't have cash and couldn't pay his bill at the cash-only Dunleavy's – there was a confrontation between the Battery's owner and the bartender's boyfriend, the owner running over the boyfriend twice with his LSV golf cart – the owner sued the boyfriend and alleged assault and other claims, the boyfriend counterclaiming and the bartender girlfriend filing a third-party claim for assault and outrage – a Charleston jury sorted it all out and rejected the owner's claim, awarded the boyfriend $4.663 million including punitives of $2.798 against the owner and rejected the bartender's claim – the case was just argued on the owner's appeal and a decision is pending

Bowman v. Crosby et al,
2020-CP-10-3043
Plaintiff: M. Dawes Cooke, Jr., *Barnwell Whaley*, Charleston and Michael T. Coulter and Raymond D. Turner, *Clarkson Walsh & Coulter*, Charleston for Bowman (Plaintiff and cross-defendant)
Defense: Clayton B. McCullough, *McCullough Khan Appel*, Mount Pleasant and Daniel S. Slotchiver, *Slotchiver & Slotchiver*, Mount Pleasant for Crosby (defendant and cross-claim plaintiff) and Albert (third-party plaintiff)
Verdict: $4,663,708 for Crosby (cross claim against Bowman) on Assault and Battery; Defense verdict for Crosby (as defendant) as to claim by Bowman for Assault, Battery, Outrage, Slander and False Imprisonment; Defense verdict for Bowman on third-party claim for Outrage by Albert
Court: **Charleston**
Judge: Jennifer B. McCoy
Date: 6-13-24

Eric Bowman spent the evening of 10-5-18 at Dunleavy's Pub on Sullivan's Island. Bowman lived nearby in a nearly 5,000 square foot mansion. His technology company (SPARC) had recently sold for $53 million in 2015. Bowman continued to do software development for cybersecurity and the Defense Department. He'd made a lot of money and was also then the owner of the Charleston Battery soccer team.

It is ironic the trouble in this case would start not with how much money Bowman had, but how much he didn't. Dunleavy's Pub does not accept credit cards. Bowman's bar tab was $124 and he was advised his AMEX was no good. He didn't have cash. By Bowman's telling of the story (he was a regular at Dunleavy's Pub and knew the owner), he would simply drive his LSV golf cart home, get money and pay the bill. The bartender working that night, Samantha Albert, was not pleased by this arrangement. She didn't believe Bowman was a regular and instead thought he was running out on his bill.

As Bowman exited the bar with his wife, he entered the golf cart. Also present that evening was Albert's boyfriend (they've since married), B.J. Crosby, then age 35. There would be fact disputes about what happened here.

Bowman believed that an aggressive Crosby confronted him about the bill. He blocked him from leaving until he paid and was otherwise threatening. Bowman warned he was driving away and Crosby was at danger of being running over. Crosby swung at the golf cart and shattered the windshield. Bowman did drive away and struck Crosby twice in the process.

Crosby had a different memory. He recalled being eight to ten feet away from the golf cart when Bowman drove over him. He then perhaps impacted the windshield when he put his arms up to protect himself. His lawyer would later describe that it was as if Bowman ran him over like a dog. Witnesses at the scene (Albert, other employees and patrons) confirmed Bowman as the aggressor.

In any event Bowman drove (leaving his wife behind) and hid the golf cart at home under a tarp. He then called 911. In that call he alerted emergency officials that a man had tried to kidnap him. While he'd barely gotten away from the kidnapper, his wife was still in peril. He asked for the police to come to Dunleavy's Pub. Thereafter Bowman would be charged with assault regarding this incident, Case No. 2018-A1-01-0215727.

From this basic set of facts, Bowman initiated this litigation. He sued Crosby in July of 2020. He alleged that Crosby had committed assault, battery, false imprisonment, outrage and slander. Bowman developed he was falsely accused of "dining and dashing" (Bowman said he would never do that), and then aggressively prevented from leaving the bar. The jury could award him compensatory and punitive damages.

Crosby answered the complaint and filed his own cross-claim. In that claim he presented several counts, but only one went to trial. He alleged

Truck Negligence - The plaintiff was killed instantly when a speeding trucker hit him head-on on a narrow highway – the plaintiff's five surviving siblings sued the trucking firm and sought wrongful death damages for their loss of consortium – while liability was no issue, the jury rejected the case and concluded the estate had suffered no damages

Parker v. Transport Leasing, 4:22-138
Plaintiff Ellis R. Lesemann and John Taylor Powell, *Lesemann & Associates*, Charleston
Defense: Andrew F. Marquis and Regan M. Sandberg, *Scopelitis Garvin Light Hanson & Feary*, Indianapolis, IN and William Horvath, *Turner Padgett Graham & Laney*, Charleston
Verdict: Defense verdict on damages
Federal: **Florence**
Judge: Joseph Dawson, III
Date: 9-11-25

Vernon Parker, then age 47, traveled on U.S. 15 at Mt. Zion Road near McColl, SC (Marlboro County) on 5-21-20. It is a two-lane road. At the same time Yasiym Bonner approached from the opposite direction. He was driving a tractor-trailer for his co-employers, All Star Logistics and an employee management firm, Transport Leasing. A third vehicle (in front of Bonner) was slowing to make a lawful left turn from U.S. 15 onto Mt. Zion.

Bonner was driving too fast for the conditions and failed to appreciate that the third vehicle was slowing. To avoid that vehicle, Bonner swerved across the centerline and struck Parker's oncoming vehicle. It was a catastrophic collision. Parker was killed instantly. Bonner's fault was not disputed.

Parker's five surviving siblings filed this lawsuit against All Star and Transport Leasing. The theory was simple enough. Bonner was negligent for causing the wreck. The grieving siblings sought damages for their loss of consortium. They recalled their close relationship with Parker in the small community where the family had lived for generations. Days after the accident they put a makeshift memorial at its location. The estate also sought to impose punitive damages as Bonner was an inexperienced driver and he was speeding with his cruise control operating.

The plaintiff settled with All Star's insurer (Canal) for $575,000. The case continued against Transport Leasing. It argued "accord and satisfaction" with All Star barred any additional recovery. While there were accord and satisfaction arguments made at trial, this was not a jury issue. The trial court ruled in a judgment as a matter of law in favor of the plaintiff that the settlement with the servant (Bonner) was not an accord and satisfaction with the master, Transport Leasing.

As fault was no issue, the defense of the case minimized the claimed damages. The plaintiffs, the defense noted, could only produce a single photograph in the last 25 years with their brother. The plaintiffs replied the familial relationship was close and sought $15,000,000 in damages (compensatory and punitive) from the jury.

The case was tried in Florence for three days. The jury was asked to state the amount of damages the estate suffered as a result of the wrongful death. The answer was zero. The jury also rejected the imposition of punitive damages. A consistent judgment was entered.

The Parker estate has moved for a new trial. It argued the verdict was shocking and the jury had nullified

The scene of the collision depicting catastrophic damage to Parker's vehicle

Medical Malpractice - The plaintiff alleged her ENT removed her thyroid glands during a thyroidectomy but did so without her consent as she'd written on the consent form "only if cancer" and later pathology indicated there was no cancer – the doctor replied that the plaintiff only made a "last minute scribble" to the consent form (the doctor didn't see it) and he acted reasonably in removing the glands as their cancerous status could not be known until they were seen by pathology

Boyd v. Osman et al, 2021-CP-26-01360
Plaintiff: James R. Davis, *J. Davis Law Firm*, Charleston
Defense: D. Gary Lovell, Jr. and Kellie E.M. Goldstein, *Copeland Stair Volz & Lovell*, Charleston
Verdict: $5,105,000 for plaintiff
Court: **Horry**
Judge: B. Alex Hyman
Date: 8-29-25

Natalie Boyd, age 53, had treated for a thyroid gland disorder. She was referred to Dr. Richard Osman, an ENT with Coastal Otolaryngology Associates. He performed a thyroidectomy on 12-27-18 at Grand Strand Regional Medical center. During the procedure he removed both of Boyd's thyroid glands. Pathology confirmed there was no cancer – she had a simple goiter.

Thereafter Boyd has suffered complications associated with a thyroid dysfunction. She has hoarseness (her voice is altered) and she has difficulty swallowing. Despite Boyd having hormone replacement, she continues to have difficulty regulating her thyroid levels and suffers chronic debilitating symptoms.

What was the malpractice question? Boyd asserted that she had specifically written on the consent form that she consented to the removal of her thyroid glands "only if they have cancer." Then as she went in to the surgery and before anesthesia, she held up her hands to repeat this message.

> MR. DAVIS: Counsel. Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. A surgeon is required to get patient consent before surgery. If a surgeon does a procedure different from patient consent and causes harm the surgeon is responsible for the harm caused. This case is about a surgeon who did a procedure different from the patient's consent. The evidence that I will show you that Dr. Osman, the Defendant surgeon in this case, in his practice, Coastal Otolaryngology Associates took away from Ms. Boyd her voice and her own healthcare leaving her with a permanent and life altering medical consequence. That is what the case is about. We are here because the Defendant, Surgeon, Dr. Osman and Coastal Carolina Otolaryngology Associates performed a surgery that happened because they didn't listen to their patient. I

The beginning of the opening argument made by Boyd's counsel

The heart of Boyd's case was that Osman had failed to listen to her, all of which led to permanent and life-altering complications which "took away her voice." The plaintiff's standard of care expert, Dr. David Mayer, Surgery, Huntington, NY, believed it was a "black and white" surgical mistake. Moreover Osman had a "non-delegable" duty to review the entire consent form. The plaintiff argued this error rose to the level of gross negligence.

Osman replied that he consulted with Boyd some four times prior to the surgery and fully explained the surgery. The consent form did so too. He argued that after that explanation, Boyd made a "last minute scribble" on the consent form. Osman didn't know about it, and explained that if he had known, he would have postponed the surgery.

The defense experts were Dr. Eric Lentsch, ENT, North Charleston and Dr. David Neskey, ENT, Charleston. The experts explained the consent was adequate and Osman exercised good judgment. Moreover and to causation issues, the experts also explained that one can't tell if a gland has cancer until it is removed and sent to pathology, and in any event because of her prior thyroid dysfunction, Boyd would need hormone replacement therapy regardless of whether the glands were removed.

A Conway jury deliberated this case for two hours. It had two questions for the court:
(1) Were handwritten changes made after the nurse witnessed her signature?,
(2) Did the defendant have a duty to witness her signature?
Judge Hyman told the jury to rely upon its recollection of the evidence. Also as the jury deliberated, the plaintiff asked the court to recharge the jury on gross negligence. Judge Hyman did so.

The jury ultimately returned a verdict for Boyd that Osman and his medical group had breached the standard of care and separately that this caused injury to Boyd. Boyd took economic damages of $105,000. Her non-economic damages were $5,000,000. The jury rejected the allegation that Osman was grossly negligent. The verdict totaled $5,105,000.

The defendants moved for a new trial and/or JNOV relief and challenged the verdict on several grounds. That included that the non-economic damages were excessive, unduly liberal and exceeded the present statutory cap of $581,461. The defense also argued that there be just one award as while there were two defendants (Osman and his medical group), the case was about a single theory.

Boyd replied that the case represented gross negligence and Osman had numerous opportunities to avoid this surgical error. He simply failed to see the "only if cancer" note and didn't listen to his patient. Boyd also argued the facts supported a finding of gross negligence and that, (1) it was thus an exception to the statutory cap, and (2) in any event even if it didn't, there were two providers in the case. The post-trial motion was pending at the time of this report.

Case Documents:
Complaint
Jury Verdict
Plaintiff Expert Disclosure
Defense Motion for a New Trial
Plaintiff New Trial Response
Defense New Trial Reply
Plaintiff New Trial Sur Reply

decision. The plaintiff also thought the verdict form was proper, and in any event Palmetto had waived any objection to it.

Judge Price denied JNOV relief. He did apply a set-off to the verdict to account for the Thompson settlement, reducing the verdict from $8,000,000 to $4.5 million. Palmetto took an appeal and the defense team was joined in the appellate phase by C. Mitchell Brown and A. Mattison Bogan of *Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough*, Columbia. Before the appeal was perfected, the parties settled the case. Palmetto (it had $7,000,000 available in insurance coverage) agreed to pay the plaintiff $4,000,000. Judge Price accepted the settlement agreement and approved a 40% attorney fee. The case is concluded.

Case Documents:

Complaint
Defense Summary Judgment Motion
Plaintiff Expert Disclosure
Defense Motion to Trifurcate Trial
Jury Verdict
Defense JNOV Motion
Plaintiff JNOV Response
Defense JNOV Reply
JNOV Order
Petition to Approve Settlement

Disability Discrimination - A research analyst in the county economic development office (he mostly did IT work) alleged he was fired because of his disability and in retaliation for having complained of discrimination – the government denied it all and claimed the plaintiff was let go for insubordination after letting his boss have it in a three minute rant when invited to speak candidly

Duerr v. Richland County, 3:22-111
Plaintiff: Shannon M. Polvi and Chance T. Sturup, *Cromer Babb & Porter*, Columbia
Defense: Michael B. Wren and John P. Grimes, Jr., *Davidson & Wren*, Columbia
Verdict: $650,000 for plaintiff
Federal: **Columbia**
Judge: Sherri A. Lydon
Date: 1-13-25

Timothy Duerr was hired in February of 2018 by Richland County in its office of Economic Development. He was a research analyst. Duerr described that most of his work was IT and done on the computer. He earned $86,000 per annum. Duerr was a Navy veteran who alleged he had a variety of disabilities including anxiety and an irregular heartbeat.

Against this backdrop, Duerr suffered a tendon tear in his arm at work while helping his boss (Jeff Ruble) install a monitor in July of 2019. He took time off from work and had a repair surgery that October. Duerr made a worker's compensation claim and settled it in June of 2020.

In the midst of the Covid pandemic in late 2020, Duerr secured approval (over Ruble's objections) to work remotely at home. His family all got sick with Covid in early January 2021 and Duerr took FMLA leave. He returned from leave on 1-20-21. A week later at a Zoom meeting, Duerr was terminated. While the reasons tended to shift a bit, he was told he was let go because his IT job had been reassigned to marketing. Duerr thought that was a ruse – there was no marketing job.

Duerr grieved the termination and HR reinstated him. Thereafter Duerr alleged Ruble was hostile to him. That included changing the locks on the doors, restricting his computer access and excluding him from meetings. There was another zoom meeting with Ruble and HR on 2-17-21.

It turned tense. Duerr was invited to speak candidly about Ruble. He accepted that invitation and went on a three-minute rant about Ruble. It is undisputed that Duerr spoke in a loud and stern voice. He declared a commitment to get a lawyer and sue. Duerr believed Ruble was retaliating against him because of a combination of his disability, his FMLA leave and having pursued a worker's compensation claim.

Duerr was fired a second time eight days later. The reason was his insubordination during the zoom call and having threatened legal action. Duerr grieved the second firing. It was upheld.

Duerr sued Richland County in state court (the government removed it to federal court) and alleged several counts. They were disability discrimination, ADA retaliation, FMLA retaliation and worker's compensation retaliation. The heart of his case was that the first firing was discrimination because of his disability, Ruble being hostile to him. The retaliation claim was simpler – Duerr was fired for his protected

Notable and Interesting Complaints

An at-a-glance look at interesting and notable complaints recently filed in South Carolina courts
(The case number is the hyperlink to the complaint – complaints sorted by case type)

Amusement Negligence - Child injured riding The Sizzler at a mall parking lot carnival
White v. Dreamland Amusements, 2025-CP-04-2903
Plaintiff: Daniel L. Draisen, *The Injury Law Firm*, Anderson
Date: 12-8-25
Court: **Anderson**

Auto Negligence - Pedestrian struck and killed by tow truck
Christenson v. AA Recovery, 2025-CP-10-06769
Plaintiff: Phillip H. Gillespie, Charlotte, NC
Date: 12-9-25
Court: **Charleston**

Auto Negligence - Fatal drunk driving incident
Flores v. Covington, 2025-CP-20-00337
Plaintiff: Kenneth E. Berger and Paul J. Coyle, *Law Office of Kenneth Berger*, Columbia
Date: 12-11-25
Court: **Fairfield**

Auto Negligence - Trucker struck and killed the plaintiff who was riding an electric scooter
Corbett v. Gaillard, 2025-CP-19-00384
Plaintiff: Kelsey E. Saalmann, *Morgan & Morgan*, Columbia
Date: 12-6-25
Court: **Edgefield**

Dogbite
Tuten v. Crosby, 2025-CP-15-01051
Plaintiff: Mark D. Ball and V. Caitlin Ball, *Parker Law Group*, Hampton
Date: 12-4-25
Court: **Colleton**

Dog Attack - Equestrian attacked by a pet wolfdog while riding her horse
Wathey v. BE Equestrian, 2025-CP-02-3119
Plaintiff: John D. Hudson, Jr, *McLeod Law Group*, Columbia
Date: 11-10-25
Court: **Aiken**

Dogbite
Hemingway v. Hazelton, 2025-CP-16-01201
Plaintiff: Carles Anderson, *Poules Willey*, Charleston
Date: 12-10-25
Court: **Darlington**

Dog Attack
Bedoya v. Gregory, 2025-CP-23-07866
Plaintiff: E. Julian Cabra, *Cabra Law*, Greenville
Date: 12-1-25
Court: **Greenville**

Dogbite - Plaintiff bitten at a dog-sitting business
Miller v. Woofs & Wags, 2025-CP-29-01639
Plaintiff: Ryan S. Swancy, *Gaston Marion Stubbs Hunter & Swancy*, Chester
Date: 12-8-25
Court: **Lancaster**

Dram Shop
Martin v. World Cup Billiards, 2025-CP-23-08023
Plaintiff: W. Mullins McLeod, Jr and H. Cooper Wilson, III, *McLeod Law Group*, Charleston
Date: 12-9-25
Court: **Greenville**

Dram Shop (Wrongful Death)
Lambon v. Bad Daddy's Burger Bar, 2025-CP-08-03880
Plaintiff: Grahame E. Holmes, *Parker Law Group*, Walterboro and David W. Whittington, Johns Island
Date: 12-3-25
Court: **Berkeley**

Elevator Negligence - Elderly woman trapped in motel elevator
Nelson v. Hotel Blue, 2025-CP-26-08927
Plaintiff: Brandon L. Casey, *The Derrick Law Firm*, Conway
Date: 11-14-25
Court: **Horry**

Employment - Sexual Harassment
Edwards v. Piedmont Medical, 2025-CP-46-04805
Plaintiff: Brian E. Arnold, *Arnold Law Firm*, Greenville
Date: 12-11-25
Court: **York**

Food Server Negligence - Frisco Burger at Hardee's undercooked
Carlton v. Hardee's, 2025-CP-03-00174
Plaintiff: H. Woodrow Gooding, *Gooding & Gooding*, Allendale
Date: 11-12-25
Court: **Allendale**

Food Server Negligence - Tainted salmon alleged at Chili's
Summers v. Chili's, 2025-CP-10-03744
Plaintiff: Laura Wilkes D'Amato and Bert G. Utsey, III, *Clawson Fargnoli Utsey*, Charleston
Date: 7-1-25
Court: **Charleston**

Premises Liability - Trip and fall at a Motel 6 in Greenville
Lewis v. Motel 6, 2025-CP-23-07888
Plaintiff: James W. Segura, *Varner & Segura*, Greenville
Date: 12-4-25
Court: **Greenville**

Premises Liability - Plaintiff injured at entertainment venue
Hinkle v. Pirates Voyage, 2025-CP-26-09409
Plaintiff: P. Brooke Eaves Wright, *Wright Injury Law*, Myrtle Beach
Date: 12-9-25
Court: **Horry**

Premises Liability - Slip on painted lines in convenience store parking lot
Burgess v. Circle K, 2025-CP-26-8985
Plaintiff: Anna Catherine Parham and W. Coleman Lawrimore, *The Derrick Law Firm*, Conway
Date: 11-18-25
Court: **Horry**

Premises Liability - Shopper injured when employee grabbed a hanger from her hand
Martin v. Under Armour, 2025-CP-26-09253
Plaintiff: Daniel A. Hunnicutt, Conway
Date: 12-3-25
Court: **Horry**

Premises Liability - Slip and fall in a spill of grease
Widener v. Piggly Wiggly, 2025-CP-38-01740
Plaintiff: Kerri B. Rupert, *Dial Grimm & Rupert*, Columbia
Date: 12-9-25
Court: **Orangeburg**

Premises Liability - Trip on a stairway at theater promoting a new movie, *It's Only a Test*
Gaines v. Wofford College, 2025-CP-42-05735
Plaintiff: Chad L. Bacon, *Foster Law*, Greenville
Date: 11-10-25
Court: **Spartanburg**

Products Liability - Defective heat wrap burned the plaintiff
Rice v. Wal-Mart, 2025-CP-08-03897
Plaintiff: Emily Hanewicz Tong, *Tong Law Firm*, Summerville
Date: 12-5-25
Court: **Berkeley**

Products Liability - Seatbelt defect in 2010 Volkswagen Tiguan
Loper v. Volkswagen, 2025-CP-10-05945
Plaintiff: Ronnie Crosby, *Parker Law Group*, Hampton and Matthew V. Creech, Ridgeland
Date: 10-23-25
Court: **Charleston**

Ride Sharing Negligence - Drunk Lyft driver picked the plaintiff (he was drunk too) and dropped the plaintiff off on the wrong side of the road, and he was struck and killed by a motorist
Giles v. Lyft, 2025-CP-42-05267
Plaintiff: Andrew C. Evans and Colton Bledsoe, *HawkLaw*, Spartanburg
Date: 11-4-25
Court: **Spartanburg**

School Negligence - Disabled student abused by teacher
Sickles v. Catawba Trails Elementary, 2025-CP-40-08272
Plaintiff: Stephen F. Kryzton and Joseph O. Thickens, *Cavanaugh & Thickens*, Columbia
Date: 12-12-25
Court: **Richland**

Utility Negligence - Electrocution incident
McKee v. Duke Energy, 2025-CP-24-01269
Plaintiff: Tommy L. Stanford, Greenwood
Date: 12-4-25
Court: **Greenwood**

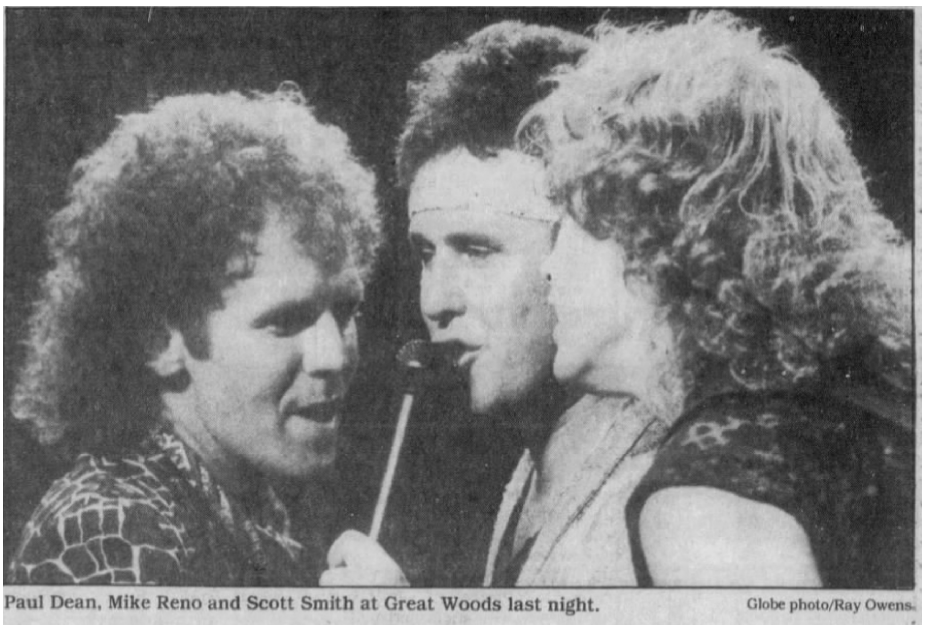
Utility Negligence - Electrical contractor suffered severe burns in a flash fire
Locklear v. Dominion Energy, 2025-CP-32-05310
Plaintiff: Chad A. McGowan and Eve S. Goldstein, *McGowan Hood Felder & Phillips*, Rock Hill
Date: 12-2-25
Court: **Lexington**

Workplace Negligence - Loading dock incident
Bridges v. Corrigan Moving, 2025-CP-42-06091
Plaintiff: Timothy A. Nowacki, *The Clardy Law Firm*, Greenville
Date: 12-2-25
Court: **Spartanburg**

Have you filed an interesting complaint? **Send** us to it at: info@juryverdicts.net

Stadium Negligence - The plaintiff suffered injuries when struck in the head by a glass bottle while attending a Loverboy concert at the Greenville Memorial Auditorium in the summer of 1986 – a jury awarded the plaintiff $12,000 in damages which was subsequently upheld by the South Carolina Supreme Court

Martin v. Greenville Memorial Auditorium, 88-3298
Plaintiff: Douglas F. Patrick, Greenville
Defense: Jeff Weston and Merl Code, Greenville
Verdict: $12,000 for plaintiff
Court: **Greenville** (1989)



Loverboy on tour in August of 1986

Loverboy, a Canadian rock band of 1980's fame, came to play at the Greenville Memorial Auditorium on August 13, 1986. It was the Lovin' Every Minute Tour. A tour review at the time indicated that lyrically Loverboy's music had three themes, (1) We really like girls, (2) Girls really like us, and (3) We like to party. Musically there were just two categories, (1) fast, vaguely metallic thumpers, and (2) slow, vaguely melodic plodders. It was called tired, corporate rock and the band's lead man, Mike Reno, was too clumsy to pass as a sex symbol.

But it was 1986 and this was popular music. Tickets went for $15.25 each, and a crowd of 6,000 assembled in the auditorium. There was no reserved seating on the floor and the crowd simply stood in front of the band.

As patrons entered the auditorium, they were warned not bring in glass bottles or alcohol. Many patrons defied this admonition. There was proof there was a lot of drinking and marijuana was widely smoked. The plaintiff in this case, Thomas Martin, stood on the main floor. He recalled the crowd was unruly and there was a lot of pushing. There were also broken bottles on the ground.

During the concert a bottle was thrown from the balcony. It struck Martin and he sustained injuries. Martin filed this Tort Claims Act against the auditorium and alleged negligent security. The defense argued that the bottle throwing incident was not foreseeable and in any event there could be no liability as the auditorium was not responsible for the criminal act of a third party.

The case was tried to a jury. The date of the trial and the trial judge are not known. Martin prevailed and took an award of $12,000. The government appealed.

The South Carolina Supreme Court decided the case on February 20, 1990. Judge Harwell found that the auditorium was negligent, noting there were just 14 security guards on hand to control the 6,000 patrons. It was also noted that this event was foreseeable for several reasons, (1) the crowd was unruly, drinking and smoking marijuana, and (2) Loverboy's music invited drug and alcohol abuse.

The court also rejected the argument the government should be excused by the unforeseeable criminal act of a third party. Judge Harwell wrote the complained of conduct here wasn't the act of the third party, but rather the negligence of the auditorium in creating a reasonably foreseeable hazard. Justice Harwell was joined in the 4-1 opinion by Justices Chandler, Finney and Toal. Chief Justice Gregory dissented. **See** *Greenville Memorial Auditorium v. Martin*, 391 S.E.2d 546 (1990). The judgment was subsequently satisfied and the case closed.

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