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SC Court of Appeals

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In The Court of Appeals

APPEAL FROM AIKEN COUNTY
Court of Common Pleas

The Honorable Courtney Clyburn Pope, Circuit Court Judge

Case No.: 2023CP0201918

M. Christine Gregory, Plaintiff/Respondent

vs.

Bruce's Bar & Grill (2017), Inc., Bruce's Bar & Grill of the Valley, Bruce's Bar of Warrentville,
Bruce E. Yaun, Jr., and Donald Ray Gibbs, II,

OF WHICH

Bruce's Bar & Grill of the Valley is Defendant/Appellant.

NOTICE OF APPEAL

Defendant/Appellant Bruce's Bar & Grill of the Valley, appeals the Order and Judgment dated October 27, 2025, and the Order of the Honorable Courtney Clyburn Pope Denying Appellant's Motions for JNOV, New Trial Absolute, New Trial Nisi Remittitur, or New Trial Pursuant to the Thirteenth Juror Doctrine, dated June 9, 2026.

Appellants received written notice of the Order Denying the Post-Trial Motions on June 9, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

SWEENY, WINGATE & BARROW, P.A.

s/ Mary Cothonneau Eldridge

Ryan C. Holt

Brian L. Craven

Mary Cothonneau Eldridge

Sweeny, Wingate & Barrow, P.A.

Post Office Box 12129

Columbia, SC 29211

(803) 256-2233

**ATTORNEYS FOR
DEFENDANT/APPELLANT BRUCE'S
BAR & GRILL OF THE VALLEY**

Columbia, South Carolina

June 12, 2026

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA) IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
COUNTY OF AIKEN) THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

M. Christine Gregory,) Civil Action No.: 2023CP0201918
))

Plaintiff,)

v.)

Bruce's Bar & Grill of the Valley and)
Donald Ray Gibbs, II,)

Defendants.)

VERDICT FORM

WE, THE JURY, hereby provide our unanimous findings to the following questions:

1. As to Defendant Bruce's Bar & Grill of the Valley, do you find that it was negligent?

☒ YES ☐ NO

If yes, proceed to Question 2. If no, proceed to Question 3.

2. As to Defendant Bruce's Bar & Grill of the Valley, do you find that its negligence proximately caused the injuries of Plaintiff?

☒ YES ☐ NO

Proceed to Question 3.

3. As to Defendant Donald Ray Gibbs, II, do you find that he was negligent?

☒ YES ☐ NO

If yes, proceed to Question 4. If no, proceed to Question 5.

4. As to Defendant Donald Ray Gibbs, II, do you find that his negligence proximately caused the injuries of Plaintiff?

☒ YES ☐ NO

Proceed to Question 5.

5. The total amount of compensatory damages, if any, sustained by Plaintiff is One million, Two Hundred Fifty Thousand dollars (\$ 1,250,000).

If you answered YES to Questions 1 and 2, proceed to Question 6.

If you answered NO to Question 1 or 2, but answered YES to Questions 3 and 4, proceed to Question 7.

If you answered NO to Question 1 or 2, and you answered NO to Question 3 or 4, sign and return the verdict form.

6. As to Defendant Bruce's Bar & Grill of the Valley, do you find by *clear and convincing evidence* that its conduct leading to Plaintiff's injuries was willful, wanton, or reckless?

X YES _____ NO

If you answered YES to Questions 3 and 4, proceed to Question 7.

If you answered NO to Question 3 or 4, proceed to Question 8.

7. As to Defendant Donald Ray Gibbs, II, do you find by *clear and convincing evidence* that his conduct leading to Plaintiff's injuries was willful, wanton, or reckless?

X YES _____ NO

If you answered NO to Question 6, proceed to Question 9.

If you answered YES to Question 6, Proceed to Question 8.

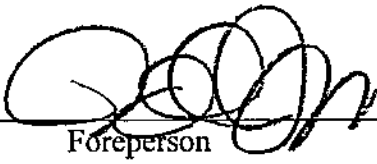
8. The total amount of punitive damages, if any, imposed upon Bruce's Bar & Grill of the Valley is Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand dollars (\$ 750,000).

If you answered YES to Question 7, Proceed to Question 9.

9. The total amount of punitive damages, if any, imposed upon Donald Ray Gibbs, II is One million dollars (\$ 1,000,000.00).

Sign and return the verdict form.

October 24th, 2025
Aiken, South Carolina


Foreperson

FORM 4

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF
IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

JUDGMENT IN A CIVIL CASE

CASE NO. 2023 CP-02-1918

M. Christine Gregory

Bruce's Bar & Grill of the Valley and Donald Ray Gibbs II

PLAINTIFF(S)

DEFENDANT(S)

Submitted by: Judge Courtney Clyburn Pope

Attorney for : ☐ Plaintiff ☐ Defendant
or
☐ Self-Represented Litigant

DISPOSITION TYPE (CHECK ONE)

- ☒ **JURY VERDICT.** This action came before the court for a trial by jury. The issues have been tried and a verdict rendered.
- ☐ **DECISION BY THE COURT.** This action came to trial or hearing before the court. The issues have been tried or heard and a decision rendered. ☐ See Page 2 for additional information.
- ☐ **ACTION DISMISSED (CHECK REASON):** ☐ Rule 12(b), SCRCP; ☐ Rule 41(a), SCRCP (Vol. Nonsuit); ☐ Rule 43(k), SCRCP (Settled); ☐ Other
- ☐ **ACTION STRICKEN (CHECK REASON):** ☐ Rule 40(j), SCRCP; ☐ Bankruptcy; ☐ Binding arbitration, subject to right to restore to confirm, vacate or modify arbitration award; ☐ Other
- ☐ **STAYED DUE TO BANKRUPTCY**
- ☐ **DISPOSITION OF APPEAL TO THE CIRCUIT COURT (CHECK APPLICABLE BOX):**
☐ Affirmed; ☐ Reversed; ☐ Remanded; ☐ Other

NOTE: ATTORNEYS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR NOTIFYING LOWER COURT, TRIBUNAL, OR ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY OF THE CIRCUIT COURT RULING IN THIS APPEAL.

IT IS ORDERED AND ADJUDGED: ☐ See attached order (formal order to follow) ☒ Statement of Judgment by the Court:

This case was tried before a jury on October 20-24, 2025. The jury awarded the Plaintiff, M. Christine Gregory, \$1,250,000.00 in compensatory damages, \$750,000.00 in punitive damages against Defendant Bruce's Bar & Grill of the Valley, and \$1,000,000.00 in punitive damages against Defendant Donald Ray Gibbs II.

ORDER INFORMATION

This order ☒ ends ☐ does not end the case.
Additional Information for the Clerk :

INFORMATION FOR THE JUDGMENT INDEX

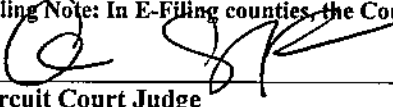
Complete this section below when the judgment affects title to real or personal property or if any amount should be enrolled. If there is no judgment information, indicate "N/A" in one of the boxes below.

Judgment in Favor of (List name(s) below)	Judgment Against (List name(s) below)	Judgment Amount To be Enrolled (List amount(s) below)
M. Christine Gregory	Bruce's Bar & Grill of the Valley and Donald Ray Gibbs II	\$ 1,250,000.00 in compensatory damages

M. Christine Gregory	Bruce's Bar & Grill of the Valley	\$ 750,000.00 in punitive damages
M. Christine Gregory	Donald Ray Gibbs II	\$ 1,000,000.00 in punitive damages
If applicable, describe the property, including tax map information and address, referenced in the order:		

The judgment information above has been provided by the submitting party. Disputes concerning the amounts contained in this form may be addressed by way of motion pursuant to the SC Rules of Civil Procedure. Amounts to be computed such as interest or additional taxable costs not available at the time the form and final order are submitted to the judge may be provided to the clerk. Note: Title abstractors and researchers should refer to the official court order for judgment details.

E-Filing Note: In E-Filing counties, the Court will electronically sign this form using a separate electronic signature page.


Circuit Court Judge

2767

Judge Code

10.27.2025

Date

For Clerk of Court Office Use Only

This judgment was entered on the _____ day of _____, 20____ and a copy mailed first class or placed in the appropriate attorney's box on this _____ day of _____, 20____ to attorneys of record or to parties (when appearing pro se) as follows:

ATTORNEY(S) FOR THE PLAINTIFF(S)

ATTORNEY(S) FOR THE DEFENDANT(S)

CLERK OF COURT

Court Reporter:

E-Filing Note: In E-Filing counties, the date of Entry of Judgment is the same date as reflected on the Electronic File Stamp and the clerk's entering of the date of judgment above is not required in those counties. The clerk will mail a copy of the judgement to parties who are not E-Fileers or who are appearing pro se. See Rule 77(d), SCRCF.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING DECISION BY THE COURT AS REFERENCED ON PAGE 1.

This action came to trial or hearing before the court. The issues have been tried or heard and a decision rendered.

FORM 4

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF Aiken
IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

JUDGMENT IN A CIVIL CASE

CASE NO. 2023CP0201918

M Christine Gregory
PLAINTIFF(S)

Bruces Bar & Grill Of The Valley , defendant, et al
DEFENDANT(S)

DISPOSITION TYPE (CHECK ONE)

- ☐ **JURY VERDICT.** This action came before the court for a trial by jury. The issues have been tried and a verdict rendered.
- ☒ **DECISION BY THE COURT.** This action came to trial or hearing before the court. The issues have been tried or heard and a decision rendered.
- ☐ **ACTION DISMISSED** (CHECK REASON): ☐ Rule 12(b), SCRPC; ☐ Rule 41(a), SCRPC (Vol. Nonsuit); ☐ Rule 43(k), SCRPC (Settled);
☐ Other
- ☐ **ACTION STRICKEN** (CHECK REASON): ☐ Rule 40(j), SCRPC; ☐ Bankruptcy;
☐ Binding arbitration, subject to right to restore to confirm, vacate or modify arbitration award;
☐ Other
- ☐ **STAYED DUE TO BANKRUPTCY**
- ☐ **DISPOSITION OF APPEAL TO THE CIRCUIT COURT** (CHECK APPLICABLE BOX):
☐ Affirmed; ☐ Reversed; ☐ Remanded;
☐ Other

NOTE: ATTORNEYS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR NOTIFYING LOWER COURT, TRIBUNAL, OR ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY OF THE CIRCUIT COURT RULING IN THIS APPEAL.

IT IS ORDERED AND ADJUDGED: ☐ See attached order (formal order to follow) ☒ Statement of Judgment by the Court:

This case was tried on the week of 10/20/2025. Defendant's motions for JNOV, New Trial Absolute, New Trial Nisi Remittitur, or a new trial pursuant to the Thirteenth Juror Doctrine were heard on 12/17/2025. Defendant also requested the Court to review the punitive damages awarded by the jury. The Court finds that the punitive damages are reasonable pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 15-32-520. Defendant's motions are denied.

ORDER INFORMATION

This order ☒ ends ☐ does not end the case.

☐ See Page 2 for additional information.

For Clerk of Court Office Use Only

This judgment was electronically entered by the Clerk of Court as reflected on the Electronic Time Stamp, and a copy mailed first class to any party not proceeding in the Electronic Filing System on 06/09/2026 .

NAMES OF TRADITIONAL FILERS SERVED BY MAIL

Court Reporter:

E-Filing Note: The date of Entry of Judgment is the same date as reflected on the Electronic File Stamp and the clerk's entering of the date of judgment above is not required in those counties. The clerk will mail a copy of the judgment to parties who are not E-Filers or who are appearing pro se. See Rule 77(d), SCRCP.



Aiken Common Pleas

Case Caption: M Christine Gregory VS Bruces Bar & Grill Of The Valley ,
defendant, et al
Case Number: 2023CP0201918
Type: Order/Electronic Form 4

So Ordered

The Honorable Courtney Clyburn Pope