

**STATE COURT OF BIBB COUNTY**  
**CIVIL JURY VERDICT REPORT**

PLAINTIFF: Cydney Puryea

DEFENDANTS: Christopher Campbell, Purveebhavini, LLC, and Steven Robinson

CIVIL ACTION NO.: 81114

JUDGE: Jeffrey B. Hanson

TYPE OF CASE: Intentional Tort/Premises Liability (Security)/Negligence

TRIAL DATE: February 1 – February 4, 2016

VERDICT: For the Defense.

CLAIMED SPECIAL DAMAGES: None.

INSURANCE CARRIER: Auto-Owners Insurance Company

LAST PRE TRIAL OFFER/DEMAND: Christopher Campbell was uninsured and offered nothing; Purveebhavini, LLC/Steven Robinson offered \$10,000.00; last demand unknown.

PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEYS: Jerry A. Lumley, Lauren Childs, and Charles E. Cox, Jr.

DEFENSE ATTORNEYS: R. Lars Anderson (for Mr. Campbell) and Dan Bullard IV and Erin Smith Corbett (for Purveebhavini, LLC and Steven Robinson)

**OTHER INFORMATION:**

The Plaintiff alleged that she had been raped by Mr. Campbell, a Macon police officer, and that Purveebhavini's employee, Steven Robinson, had provided a free hotel room to Mr. Campbell in which the rape occurred. The Plaintiff, age 19, testified she had multiple alcoholic drinks at a nightclub and left shortly before 2:00 AM. Upon exiting the nightclub, she was confronted by an off-duty police officer and cited for underage drinking. Mr. Campbell, who was on-duty police, was present. After the Plaintiff and one of her friends got into an argument, Mr. Campbell allowed the Plaintiff to sit in his patrol car. The Plaintiff was not arrested. The Plaintiff testified the last thing she remembered was getting into the patrol car, and the next thing she remembered was being awakened around 11:00 AM, naked in a hotel room. Purveebhavini, LLC owned and operated the hotel, and Steven Robinson was the night clerk at the hotel.

The evidence was undisputed that Mr. Campbell took the Plaintiff from the nightclub to the hotel, that he asked Mr. Robinson to provide a room for an intoxicated woman, that Mr. Robinson gave him a key for a room, that the Plaintiff spent most of the night in the room, and that Mr. Campbell returned to the hotel multiple times between 2:00 AM and 5:00 AM. Later in the day, the Plaintiff reported the incident to the police, and they sent her to the emergency room for a rape kit.

On the next day, Mr. Campbell was interrogated by Internal Affairs and by superior officers investigating the Plaintiff's report of the incident. The three officers who were involved in the questioning of Mr. Campbell testified that after initially denying that there was any sexual conduct or contact, Mr. Campbell ultimately admitted that he and the Plaintiff had sex in the hotel room but that it was consensual. There were no recordings of the interrogation of Mr. Campbell; however,

there were recordings and/or verbatim transcripts of all of the other interviews/interrogations conducted in relation to this matter. Mr. Campbell denied that he ever admitted having sexual relations with the Plaintiff. Instead he testified that he had ultimately admitted that he had gone into the hotel room to use the restroom and that when he exited the restroom the Plaintiff had kissed him and that he had pushed her away and left. On the day after the incident he resigned as a police officer. He later pled guilty to violation of oath by public officer "in that, while on duty, he did transport an intoxicated female who had been issued a citation for underage drinking in his patrol vehicle to a hotel and engaged in sexual conduct with her." The only evidence as to what happened in the hotel room was the testimony of Mr. Campbell and his contrary admissions to other police officers.

The Plaintiff presented testimony from John Villines, a security expert, who testified that the hotel violated industry standards and ordinary care by failing to see and identify its guest, by issuing a key to a person who was not its guest, and by failing to communicate with its staff regarding policies. The evidence indicated that the hotel had provided a free room to Mr. Campbell when he brought people to the hotel who he indicated were in need of a room on 3 to 5 occasions. The hotel owner testified that he had discontinued this practice but that he had failed to tell Mr. Robinson that this practice was discontinued. Plaintiff introduced evidence of other criminal calls for service and incident reports regarding criminal activity at this location for the three year period preceding this incident.

The Defendants contended simply that no rape, sexual battery, or sexual assault had occurred. The results of the rape kit did not show the presence of male DNA, and the nurse who examined the Plaintiff testified that there were no bruises, abrasions, scratches, or evidence of violence on the Plaintiff's body.

The jury deliberated slightly more than 2 hours before returning a verdict for the defendants.