

**IN THE STATE COURT OF GWINNETT COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

VICTORIA S. BOWLES,)
)
Plaintiff,)
) CIVIL ACTION **23-C-04803-S3**
vs.)
) FILE NUMBER: _____
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA)
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.,)
A Georgia Nonprofit Corporation;)
)
JALEN D. CARTER, individually and)
as an agent and employee of)
BREADMAN JALEN, LLC,)
a Florida Limited Liability Company;)
)
BREADMAN JALEN, LLC, a)
Florida Limited Liability Company;)
)
ROBERT W. HUGHES, in his capacity)
as the Court Appointed Personal)
Administrator of the Estate of)
CHANDLER LECROY, deceased; and)
)
JOHN DOE Nos. 1-5.)
)
Defendants.)
_____)

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

Comes now Plaintiff, Victoria S. Bowles, and hereby submits her Complaint for Damages against each named Defendant as follows:

INTRODUCTION

This case involves a high speed vehicle crash in Athens, Georgia that occurred early in the morning on January 15, 2023 after the UGA Football National Championship Celebration the prior

day. Defendant Jalen Carter, a University of Georgia football player, and Chandler LeCroy (deceased) were driving at extreme speeds, with LeCroy, traveling at least 104.2 mph, while engaged in street racing for 45 seconds or less before the crash (giving the passengers in her vehicle only a brief amount of time to appreciate the high speed and protest).

The crash resulted in the deaths of University of Georgia football player Devin Willock and University of Georgia recruiting analyst Chandler LeCroy (“LeCroy”). Plaintiff Victoria S. Bowles (“Ms. Bowles”), also a University of Georgia recruiting analyst (since 2019), was a backseat passenger in the large Ford Expedition SUV being driven by LeCroy. The SUV had been rented by Defendant University of Georgia Athletic Association (“UGA Athletic Association” or “Association”)¹ and had been entrusted to LeCroy as a permissive user.

As a result of the crash, Ms. Bowles sustained multiple debilitating injuries, including:

- Three lumbar “burst fractures,” with a spinal cord injury sufficient to cause leakage of cerebrospinal fluid;
- Five other fractured vertebrae;
- Approximately ten fractured ribs;
- A fractured clavicle;
- A fractured sacrum;
- Fractured and cracked teeth;
- A kidney laceration;
- A liver laceration;
- A punctured and collapsed lung;
- Intra-abdominal hemorrhaging;
- Facial lacerations and injury to her jaw;
- A closed head injury, and neurological damage, causing severe eye pain;
- Damage to her spinal cord resulting in inflammation of the arachnoid, one of the

¹ The UGA Athletic Association is a separate distinct legal entity from the University of Georgia.

membranes that surrounds the nerves of the spinal cord, with symptoms including burning sensations and severe pain in her extremities, and foot drop syndrome; and

- Developed “significant arachnoiditis” according to her neurosurgeon—normally a permanent neurological condition with no cure, often progressing to permanent paralysis.

Permissive Use

On the evening of the Championship Celebration, LeCroy told Ms. Bowles that she (LeCroy) had “permission” to keep the SUV “until tomorrow.” The UGA Athletic Association issued a public statement following the crash contending that “rental vehicles were to be turned in at the **immediate** conclusion of recruiting duties.” (Emphasis added). Numerous text messages from recruiting staff supervisors to LeCroy, Ms. Bowles and other staff members (detailed and displayed in this Complaint; see ¶¶ 54-61) show the Association’s statement is false.² Recruiting staff were regularly informed they could leave their personal vehicles overnight at the *Butts-Mehre* football facility and permissively use Association rental vehicles through a specified cut-off date and time, unrelated to their assigned recruiting activity duties.

The UGA Athletic Association made a public statement following the crash that rental vehicles were available to be used by staff members during “**recruiting activities only.**” Not only do text communications prior to the crash, as included in their original format in this Complaint, show otherwise, presumed personal use of the rental vehicle provided to LeCroy was authorized by UGA Assistant Football Coach Chidera Uzo-Diribe on the evening of the Championship Celebration, just hours before the crash.

Coach Uzo-Diribe, while at the *Sakura* restaurant with UGA football recruits/prospects and their guests during an unofficial recruiting visit, asked Ms. Bowles to obtain \$1,000.00 in cash from

² It is Plaintiff’s understanding that the UGA Athletic Association claims that it has no actual employees. Assuming this to be true, Plaintiff refers to persons or agents acting on behalf of the Association as “Association staff” and or “staff members” in this Complaint without taking any legal position as to their actual legal status.

an ATM. (The specific details, with documentation, follow below; See ¶¶ 29-43). Ms. Bowles and LeCroy left in LeCroy's UGA Athletic Association rented SUV to obtain the cash, after an effort at a next-door convenience store failed.

Since the prospects and prospects' guests dining at *Sakura* were on unofficial recruiting visits to UGA, the use of the SUV to obtain the requested cash was presumably not for "recruiting activities," but was for personal use—a personal favor to Coach Uzo-Diribe.

In summary, LeCroy had permission from the UGA Athletic Association to drive the vehicle at the time of the crash. Moreover, for insurance purposes, a "permissive use of a vehicle cannot reasonably relate to the particular manner of its operation." *Gaither v. State Farm Fire & Cas. Co.*, 229 Ga. App. 330 (1997); *Strickland v. Ga. Casualty & Sur. Co.*, 224 Ga. 487 (1968); *Great Am. Alliance Ins. Co. v. Anderson*, 847 F3d. 1327 (2017). In other words, as LeCroy had permission to drive and use the vehicle in general, the purpose for which the vehicle was driven, and the manner in which it was driven (even though she may have been legally intoxicated, as was the situation in *Great Am. Alliance Ins. Co.*) is not relevant under Georgia law to preclude or bar the Association's insurers' liability coverage.

Negligent Entrustment

Were it not for the UGA Athletic Association's negligent entrustment of the SUV to LeCroy on January 15, 2023, the crash would have been avoided. The Association was well aware that LeCroy's primary job duty as a recruiting analyst required her to regularly drive UGA football recruits and their families around Athens. Despite the Association's public denials since the crash, it was fully aware, as addressed below, that LeCroy had at least four speeding tickets, which included two "super speeder" violations under Georgia law.

The UGA Athletic Association would have reasonably concluded that LeCroy regularly

drove at extreme speeds when law enforcement was not present. While LeCroy may have been legally intoxicated, the proximate cause of the crash was street racing and extreme speed. The Association's negligent entrustment of the large rental SUV to LeCroy, with knowledge that she was a reckless and habitual speeder, concurs with LeCroy's primary negligence-traveling 104.2 mph.

LeCroy's immediate supervisor, Logen Reed, was personally aware of LeCroy's most recent "super speeder" ticket that was issued on October 30, 2022 while she was returning to Athens following the Georgia-Florida game. Ms. Reed was present in LeCroy's vehicle at the time.

Bryant Gantt ("Gantt"), UGA's liaison between the UGA football program, law enforcement, and the court system – who was paid \$209,914.61 in 2022 for job duties that directly involved getting players out of legal trouble - subsequently attempted, in person, to get a county court clerk to reduce LeCroy's super speeder charge in November of 2022. Between 2016 and 2023 Gantt was personally involved in at least 82 separate legal matters involving players. (The UGA Athletic Association issued a public statement that Gantt's involvement in the LeCroy ticket "was purely in his personal capacity as a favor to a friend" in an attempt to distance itself from his actions).

Prior to January 15, 2023, the UGA Athletic Association was aware, based upon its own public statements, of LeCroy's previous speeding violations, including "super speeder" violations, and that LeCroy was a habitually reckless driver. Gantt's admitted attempt (with LeCroy's knowledge) to reduce her October 2022 "super speeder" violation gave LeCroy an understanding that the Association would continue to intervene on her behalf in relation to future speeding violations, thus encouraging and facilitating her high speed driving and recklessness conduct.

Events Leading to the Crash

Athens-Clarke County video shows that the narrative conveyed to the public of LeCroy driving aggressively and at excessive speeds in the downtown Athens area before the crash is incorrect.

Outside of downtown Athens, and before Barnett Shoals Road, LeCroy did briefly enter a short “no left turn” lane (in her direction), and subsequently drove at an unsafe speed while following Defendant Carter-although approximately 22 mph slower than him. Reports of Defendant Carter’s aggressive and high speed driving are accurate. He was driving a Jeep Cherokee *Trackhawk*, a vehicle recognized as a favorite of street racers, and capable of speeds up to 180 mph. (The exact streets traveled, turns made, driving maneuvers, distances, and speeds detected are detailed in this Complaint; see ¶¶ 85-120).

LeCroy, just four seconds before impact according to the SUV’s airbag control module, was traveling 104.2 mph. Defendant Carter’s admissions, in effect, substantiate, along with video and physical evidence, that he was street racing with LeCroy on Barnett Shoals Road. In a recorded interview with law enforcement, he stated that near the curve of the crash he slowed his vehicle while beside the LeCroy vehicle, and she passed him. He admitted he then, while traveling behind LeCroy, observed her vehicle go off the road and strike a pole, saw the pole falling, and admitted that a wire from the pole came down on his vehicle-a physical impossibility without him traveling a similar speed. (Defendant Carter’s statements to law enforcement following the crash: “I was going an average speed” and “I wasn’t going fast,” must be taken in the context of his normal driving behavior, as addressed below).

Both LeCroy’s Estate and Defendant Carter are liable to Ms. Bowles for engaging in a grossly negligent joint enterprise-tandem driving/street racing. See, *Price v. Thapa*, 323 Ga. App. 638 (2013).

Defendant Carter illegally left the scene without speaking with law enforcement. He did initially stop at the scene and could see “smoke and the car.” (The SUV was crushed beyond recognition). Despite LeCroy’s passenger, Warren McClendon, stating to him that he could not

locate Devin Willock, Defendant Carter left the scene after less than 10 minutes when another UGA football player at the scene yelled at him: “Yo...hey, JC...you might want to go ahead and go get the f*** on yo....” As Defendant Carter was aware at the time, he was jointly responsible for the crash, and had a legal duty to remain on the scene. Instead, in part obviously fearful of bad publicity and the effect on his NFL draft status, he hoped not to be questioned or take any responsibility for his actions.

Ms. Bowles was unaware when entering the UGA Athletic Association rented SUV that LeCroy may have been legally intoxicated. Ms. Bowles likewise had no indication or knowledge (as no reasonable person would) that LeCroy and Defendant Carter would engage in street racing, at speeds exceeding 100 mph.

During the 45 seconds or less during which LeCroy and Defendant Carter began street racing on Barnett Shoals Road, Ms. Bowles verbally protested LeCroy’s speed. LeCroy ignored Ms. Bowles, and continued racing Defendant Carter at speeds in excess of 100 mph until the crash occurred. In summary, Ms. Bowles never assumed the specific risk of LeCroy’s high speed driving in excess of 100 mph, or the risk of LeCroy’s and Defendant Carter’s street racing, when she entered the rental SUV as a passenger.

PARTIES

1. Defendant University of Georgia Athletic Association, Inc. (“UGA Athletic Association” or “Association”) is a Georgia Nonprofit Corporation, and it may be served with a copy of Plaintiff’s Complaint and Summons as follows: University of Georgia Athletic Association, Inc. c/o Ryan Nesbit, Registered Agent, Business Services Building, 456 East Broad Street, Room 225, Athens, GA 30602.

2. Defendant UGA Athletic Association is subject to the jurisdiction and venue of this Court.

3. Defendant UGA Athletic Association is a nonprofit entity as defined by Georgia law, and it is not an agency or entity of the State of Georgia. See O.C.G.A. §§ 14-3-101, 14-3-140, 14-3-301 et seq.; 20-3-78, 20-3-79 & 20-3-80.

4. Defendant UGA Athletic Association has waived its qualified charitable immunity by the purchase of insurance covering its negligent conduct, and to the extent of income from non-charitable sources, including, but not limited to, the face value of athletic event tickets (totaling \$37,192,353 in 2022) and rights/licensing income (totaling \$77,447,079 in 2022).

5. Defendant UGA Athletic Association has further waived its qualified charitable immunity as a result of its negligent entrustment of the rented SUV to LeCroy. See, *YMCA of Metropolitan Atlanta, Inc. v. Bailey*, 107 Ga. App. 417 (1963).

6. Defendant Robert W. Hughes, named only in his representative capacity as the Court-Appointed Personal Administrator of the Estate of Chandler LeCroy, may be served with a copy of Plaintiff's Complaint and Summons as it relates to the claims asserted against LeCroy under this Complaint as follows: Robert W. Hughes as the Court-Appointed Personal Administrator of the Estate of Chandler LeCroy, Robert W. Hughes & Associates, P.C., 390 West Crogan Street, Suite 230, Lawrenceville, GA 30046-6913.

7. Robert W. Hughes, as the Court-Appointed Personal Administrator of the Estate of Chandler LeCroy, is subject to the jurisdiction and venue of this Court.

8. Defendant Jalen D. Carter, individually (hereinafter "Defendant Carter"), and as an agent and employee of Defendant Breadman Jalen, LLC, may be served with a copy of Plaintiff's Complaint and Summons as follows: Jalen Da'Quan Carter, 1184 Heron Sound Drive, Apopka, FL 32703.

9. Defendant Jalen Carter is subject to the jurisdiction and venue of this Court.

10. Defendant Breadman Jalen, LLC (hereinafter “Defendant Breadman LLC”) a Florida Limited Liability Company, may be served with a copy of the Plaintiff’s Complaint and Summons as follows: Breadman Jalen, LLC c/o Tonique Brown, Registered Agent, 4508 Oconee Arbor Circle, Orlando, FL 32808 or Breadman Jalen, LLC c/o Tonique Brown, Registered Agent, 1184 Heron Sound Drive, Apopka, FL 32703.

11. Defendant Breadman LLC is subject to the jurisdiction and venue of this Court.

12. The State Court of Gwinnett County has original jurisdiction over this matter because one of the named Defendants is a resident and citizen of Gwinnett County, State of Georgia, and this action is not subject to federal jurisdiction or removal to federal court under the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 1332 because the claims asserted in this action relate to various torts committed in the State of Georgia and one or more of the parties in interest properly joined and served as a Defendant in this action are citizens of Georgia, the state in which the action has been brought. See, 28 U.S.C. § 1441(b).

FACTS GIVING RISE TO PLAINTIFF’S CLAIMS

13. Plaintiff hereby incorporates and adopts by reference the previous paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully and completely set forth herein.

14. On January 14, 2023, the University of Georgia (“hereinafter “UGA”) and/or the UGA Athletic Association held a parade and *Sanford Stadium* event (hereinafter “Championship Celebration” or “Celebration”), in Athens, Georgia to celebrate UGA winning the 2022 College Football Playoff National Championship.

15. As part of the Championship Celebration activities, Defendant UGA Athletic Association also hosted a number of football recruits and their families on unofficial visits to the UGA campus.

16. The football recruits and their families taking part in the unofficial visits in connection with

the Championship Celebration were hosted by UGA football coaches and UGA Athletic Association staff members, including recruiting analysts, during their visits.³

17. On January 14, 2023 and January 15, 2023, LeCroy was a UGA recruiting analyst who was assigned to host a football recruit from Texas and his family on an unofficial visit in relation to various events occurring as part of the Championship Celebration.

18. On January 14, 2023 and January 15, 2023, Plaintiff Victoria S. Bowles was a UGA recruiting analyst who was assigned to host a football recruit from Georgia on an unofficial visit in relation to various events occurring as part of the Championship Celebration.

19. Following the parade and events at *Sanford Stadium* conducted in connection with the Championship Celebration, Plaintiff Victoria S. Bowles and LeCroy were each issued and provided with separate rental SUVs by the UGA Athletic Association to use over the course of the Championship Celebration weekend.

20. The UGA Athletic Association regularly rents a fleet of large SUVs for use in connection with its recruiting activities that occur at different times throughout the year.

21. The fleet of large SUVs rented by the UGA Athletic Association for use in connection with its recruiting activities are assigned by staff members to coaches, UGA Athletic Association staff members, and UGA recruiting analysts for use, including over the course of a weekend.

22. SUV assignments are normally made via text messages, and keys to the rental vehicles are picked up from the desk of a UGA Athletic Association staff member.

23. Instructions relating to when and where to return the rental vehicles are also normally issued via text messages sent by UGA Athletic Association staff prior to the end of a recruiting weekend or

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event.

24. UGA recruiting analysts normally and customarily retained possession and use of their assigned rental SUVs for the duration of a recruiting event or weekend and were only required to return their rental SUVs by a deadline established in a text message sent to them by UGA Athletic Association supervisors and staff.

25. Due to the nature of recruiting visits, UGA recruiting analysts were often on call during the entire time-period that they were hosting a recruit, or a recruit's family, until the time that a recruit or his family ended their visit and left the campus to return home.

26. UGA recruiting analysts were commonly instructed that they could take their assigned rental SUV's home overnight, and leave their personal vehicles parked at the UGA Athletic Association facilities on campus.

27. On the day of the Championship Celebration, at UGA football headquarters, *Butts-Mehre*, Assistant Director of Football Operations/Recruiting, Anna Courson, gave LeCroy and Ms. Bowles each authority to use UGA Athletic Association rented SUVs, which they picked up in the *Bones* player cafeteria parking lot.

28. On the day of the Championship Celebration, Plaintiff Victoria Bowles was assigned a large red SUV by the UGA Athletic Association for her use over the course of the Championship Celebration weekend.

Events At & From Sakura Restaurant

29. Following the Championship Celebration events at *Sanford Stadium* and later at the *Butts-Mehre* football facility, Ms. Bowles transported, in her assigned red rental SUV, UGA football Coach Glenn Schumann, as well as her assigned recruit (who was at UGA on an unofficial recruiting visit) to an unofficial recruiting event/dinner at *Sakura* restaurant located in "Five Points" in Athens,

Georgia.

30. Following the Championship Celebration events at *Sanford Stadium* and later at the *Butts-Mehre* football facility, LeCroy also transported, in her assigned black rental SUV, her assigned recruit (who was also on an unofficial recruiting visit to UGA), along with the recruit's mother and aunt, to the same unofficial recruiting event/dinner at *Sakura* restaurant.

31. Also in attendance at the unofficial recruiting event/dinner at *Sakura* that evening were UGA football coaches Chidera Uzo-Diribe and Tray Scott, UGA Graduate Assistant, Carson Hall, and Director of Recruiting Administration, Christina Harris, as well as an unknown man with the group.

32. After arriving at the unofficial recruiting event at *Sakura*, but before being able to eat dinner herself, Plaintiff was asked by Coach Uzo-Diribeto to take his personal ATM card and obtain \$1,000.00 in cash from a nearby ATM before the end of dinner.

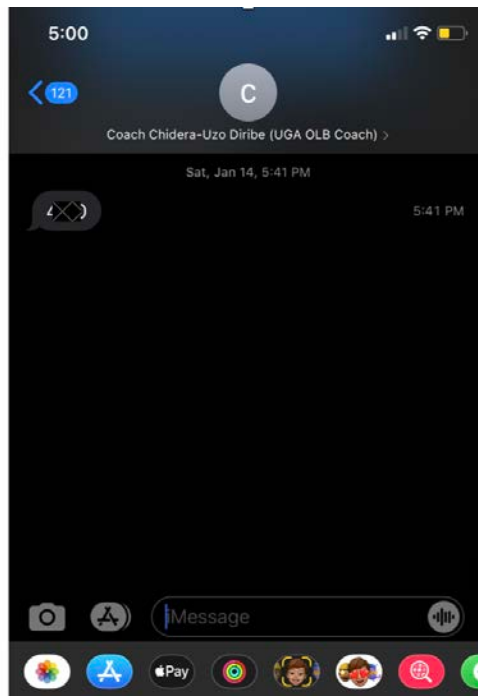


Exhibit A, Screen Shot of Text From Coach Uzo-Diribe to Ms. Bowles, with his (redacted) ATM Pin Number, sent at 5:41 p.m.

33. Plaintiff complied with Coach Uzo-Diribeto’s personal request, and along with LeCroy, left the unofficial recruiting event at *Sakura*.

34. LeCroy and Ms. Bowles initially walked to an ATM inside a convenience store next door to *Sakura*. Coach Uzo-Diribe’s ATM card was declined for any withdrawal amount.

35. When Coach Uzo-Diribe’s ATM card was declined at the first ATM, LeCroy and Ms. Bowles walked back to the rental SUV provided to LeCroy by the UGA Athletic Association, and drove to another convenience store next to the UGA track to use a different ATM. Coach Uzo-Diribe’s ATM card was again declined for any withdrawal amount.

36. After the second denial, Ms. Bowles decided to use her own personal ATM card to obtain as much of the requested \$1,000.00 in cash as possible.

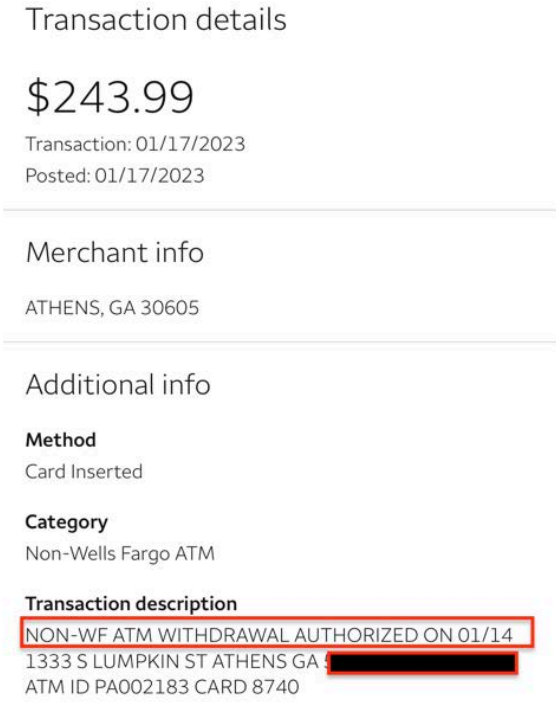


Exhibit B, Ms. Bowles’ Wells Fargo ATM withdrawal record (card number redacted) showing at the bottom “WITHDRAWAL AUTHORIZED ON 01/14”(red box added).

37. At 6:10 p.m., Coach Uzo-Diribe, aware that his ATM card was not working, used his *Venmo* account (a mobile payment application) and transferred \$1,000.00 to Ms. Bowles in return for the \$1,000.00 in cash that she was obtaining for him, listing the “Type of Transaction” as “Payment between friends.”

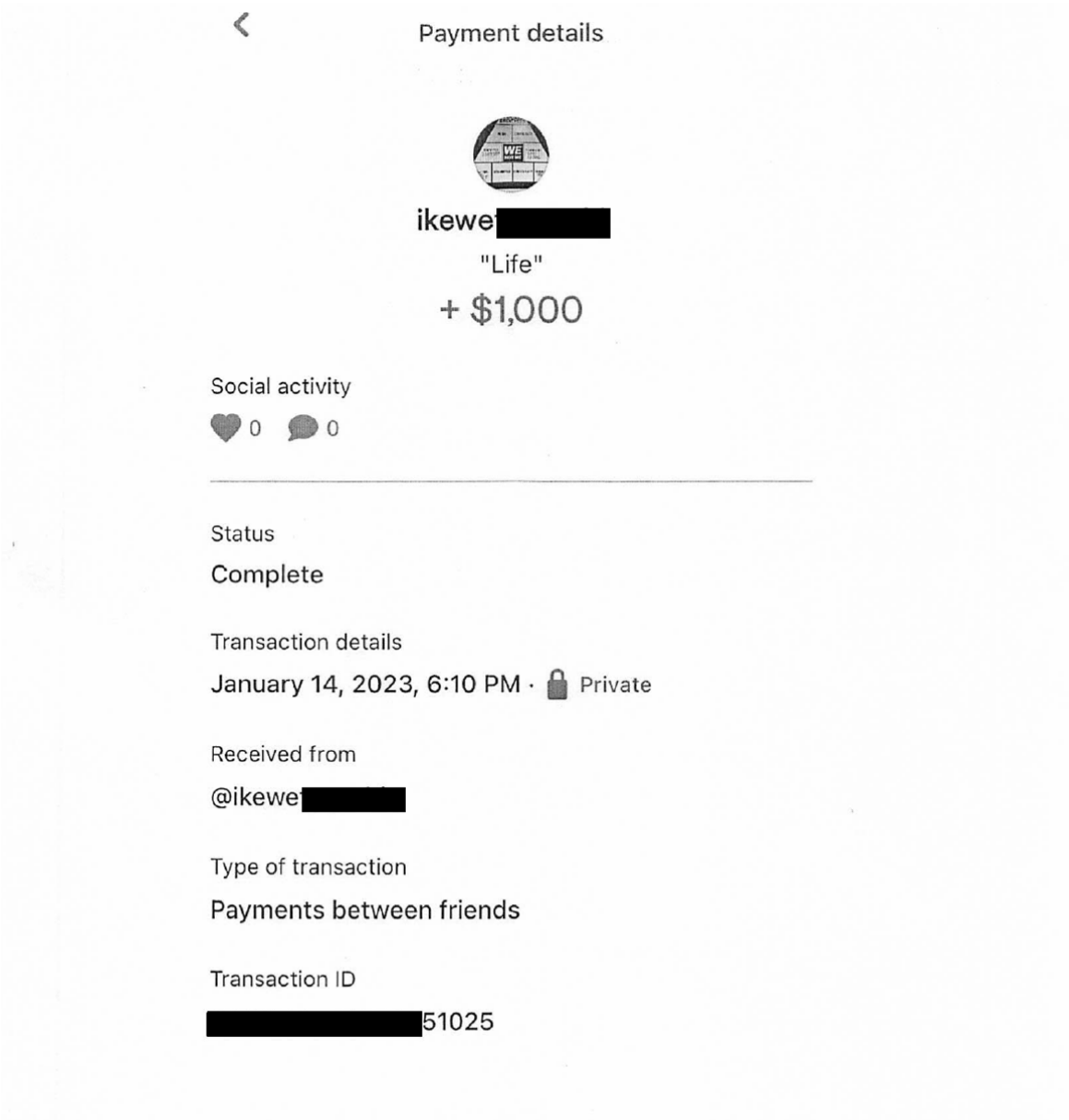


Exhibit C, *The Venmo Receipt (in redacted format).*

38. Ms. Bowles and LeCroy then used LeCroy's UGA Athletic Association rental SUV to obtain the balance of the \$1,000.00 in cash requested by Coach Uzo-Diribe. At approximately 6:20 pm they drove to Ms. Bowles' home, one-and-one-half miles away, to obtain the remainder of the requested cash (from Ms. Bowles' babysitting earnings and Christmas gifts).

39. Ms. Bowles, along with LeCroy, after retrieving cash from her home, returned to the unofficial recruiting event at *Sakura*, and discreetly provided UGA football Coach Uzo-Diribe with his requested cash.

40. Upon information and belief, Coach Uzo-Diribe was aware (as Coach Schumann was), before Ms. Bowles and LeCroy left *Sakura* on both occasions, that they both initially arrived at *Sakura* in UGA Athletic Association rented SUVs.

41. Upon returning to *Sakura*, Coach Schumann advised Plaintiff that he was taking Plaintiff's assigned recruit to go axe throwing at *LumberJaxe's*, located on N. Lumpkin Street in Athens, following the unofficial recruiting dinner.

42. Plaintiff provided Coach Schumann with the keys to her assigned red SUV and subsequently texted James Ellis (UGA Player Personnel Coordinator), one of the UGA Athletic Association staff members responsible for coordinating the return of rental SUVs that weekend, that Coach Schumann now had her red SUV.

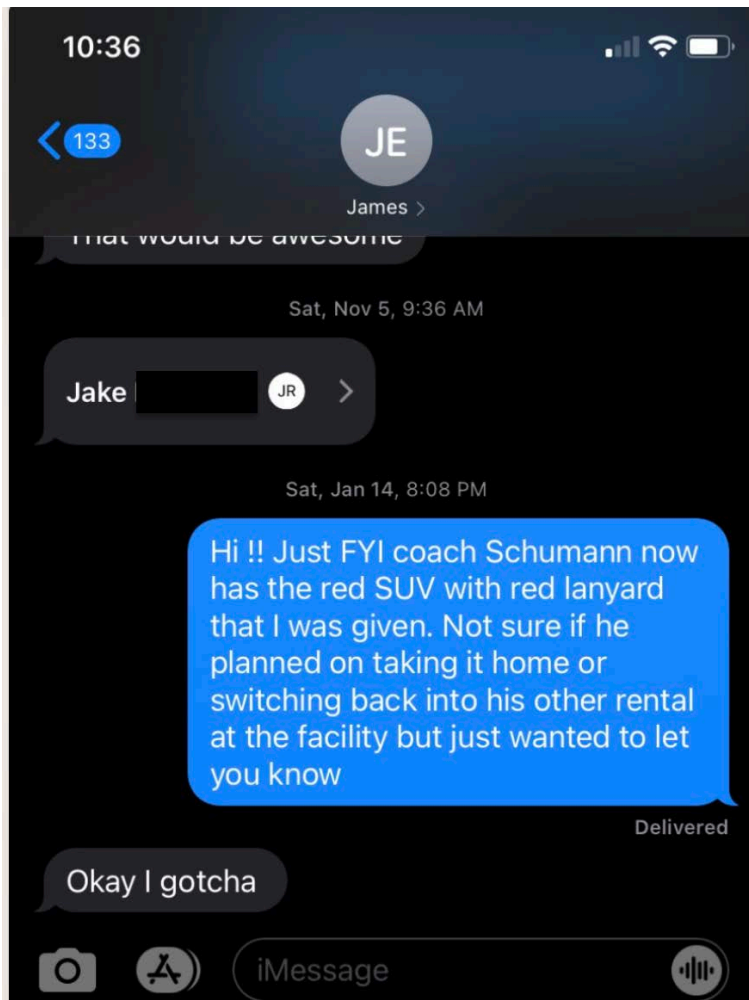


Exhibit D. Screen Shot of Text from Ms. Bowles to James Ellis addressing transfer of the SUV keys to Coach Schumann-stating, in part, “Not sure if he planned on taking it home or switching back into his other rental at the facility. . .”

43. The recruits/prospects and their guests dining at *Sakura* were on unofficial recruiting visits to UGA, and there were no official recruiting visits to Athens during the Championship Celebration weekend. Accordingly, the use of the UGA Athletic Association rental SUV to obtain the requested \$1,000.00 in cash was presumably not for “recruiting activities,” but, was for personal use - a personal favor to Coach Uzo-Diribe.

44. Because Ms. Bowles no longer had any means of transportation, she asked LeCroy if she could ride along with LeCroy, her prospect, and his family in LeCroy’s rental SUV. LeCroy agreed.

45. When Plaintiff and LeCroy returned to the unofficial recruiting event/dinner at *Sakura* from the personal errand to obtain Coach Uzo-Diribe's cash, the recruiting event was concluding. Their meals were provided to them in to-go boxes.

46. Following the unofficial recruiting event at *Sakura*, Plaintiff rode with LeCroy back to *Butts-Mehre* to drop off LeCroy's prospect's family members.

47. After dropping LeCroy's prospect's family members off at the football facility, LeCroy, with Plaintiff riding along, then took LeCroy's assigned prospect back to the *Hampton Inn* located at 2220 W. Broad Street, over one mile from campus, where the prospect and his family were staying.

48. LeCroy's prospect went inside to change clothes. While LeCroy and Plaintiff waited for the prospect to return, they ate their to-go food from *Sakura's* in the drop off area immediately in front of the *Hampton Inn* while in the black rental SUV.

49. When LeCroy's prospect came downstairs from his hotel room at approximately 8:24 pm, they drove the prospect to UGA's East Campus Village to be dropped off with his UGA player host at the *McWhorter Hall* dorm. Prior to being dropped off, the prospect asked LeCroy and Plaintiff to photograph him posing in front of the SUV using the East Campus Village parking deck as a backdrop. LeCroy and Plaintiff complied with the request and the prospect eventually entered the player host's East Campus Village dorm at approximately 9:09 pm.

50. After dropping the prospect off at the East Campus Village dorm, LeCroy and Ms. Bowles then returned to *Butts-Mehre* so that LeCroy could obtain her purse out of her personal car.

51. While at *Butts-Mehre*, LeCroy informed Plaintiff that she had been given permission by the UGA Athletic Association to keep her black rental SUV until the following day.

52. LeCroy's statement to Plaintiff at *Butts-Mehre* that "I was told that I could keep [the SUV] until tomorrow" was consistent with Ms. Bowles' own prior experience and instructions given to her

by her UGA Athletic Association supervisors regarding the use of Association rental SUVs by recruiting analysts.

53. Plaintiff had, prior to the night of the crash, herself specifically inquired as to whether recruiting analysts could keep UGA Athletic Association rental SUVs overnight, and had been told that it was permissible for recruiting analysts to do so.

54. True and accurate copies of some of the actual text messages sent to Plaintiff and other staff members by UGA Athletic Association supervisors confirming that it was permissible for UGA recruiting analysts to keep rental SUVs overnight, while leaving their personal vehicles at the football facility, are set forth in paragraphs 55-61 below.

55. On Friday, December 13, 2019, Logen Reed, Ms. Bowles' immediate supervisor, sent Ms. Bowles a text message that stated: "Haley said you're good! And you can take your car home if you need to." Ms. Bowles responded: "Wait just making sure you mean I can take the SUV with Me." Ms. Reed responded: "Yes! Take it home."

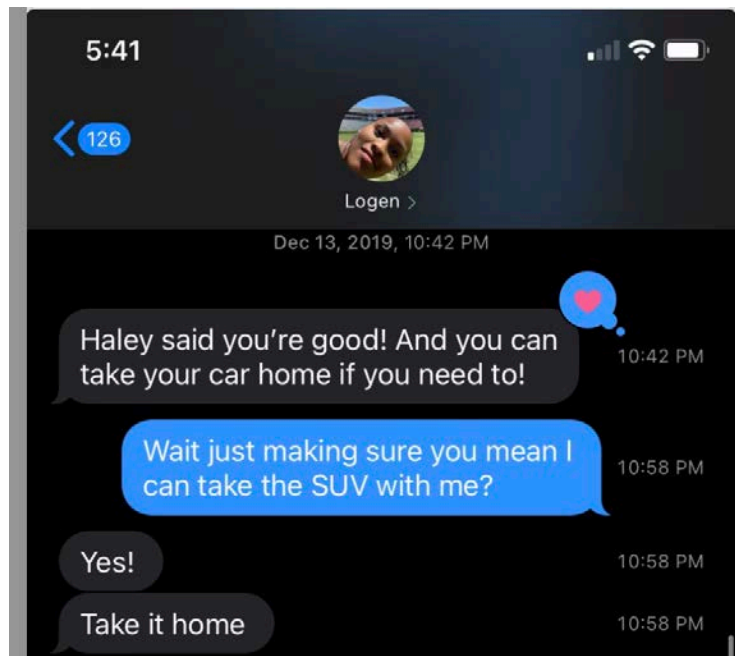


Exhibit E, December 13, 2019 Text Message.

56. “Haley” referred to in the December 13, 2019 text message is Haley Schaafsma, who was Director of Recruiting Operations at the time the text was sent.

57. On Saturday March 19, 2022, Anna Courson, the Assistant Director of Football Operations/Recruiting, copied Ms. Bowles and others on a text message that she sent to LeCroy wherein Courson informed LeCroy that LeCroy could return her UGA Athletic Association rental vehicle “by 11 AM tomorrow!” (i.e. on Sunday).

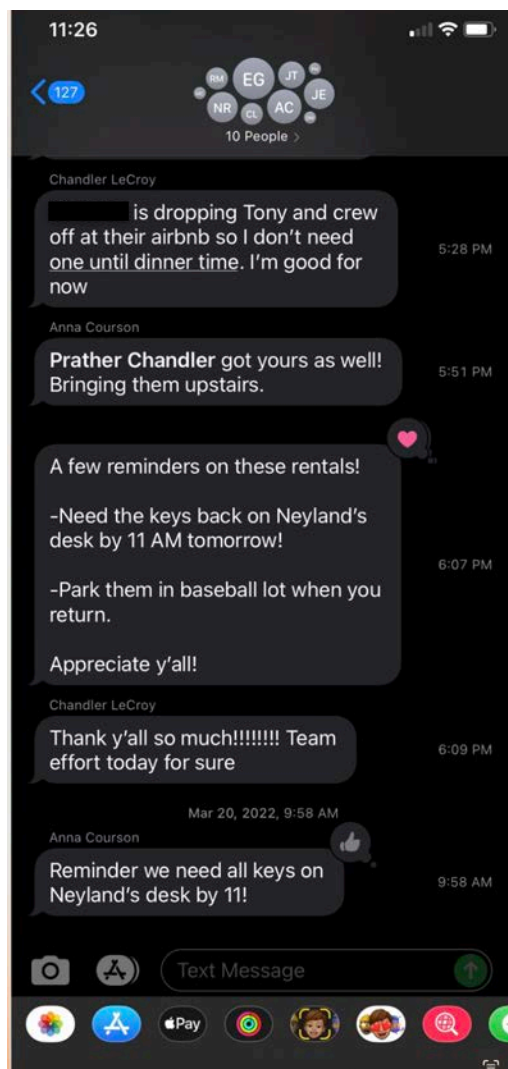


Exhibit F, March 19 & 20, 2022 Text Messages (name redacted).

58. Anna Courson was in charge of allocating UGA Athletic Association rental vehicles to UGA Athletic Association recruiting analysts and other staff.

59. On April 16, 2022, Ms. Courson sent a text message to eight staff members, including LeCroy and Ms. Bowles, stating: “These [keys] will be handed out post game...We MUST have your keys back by 11 AM tomorrow!!!”

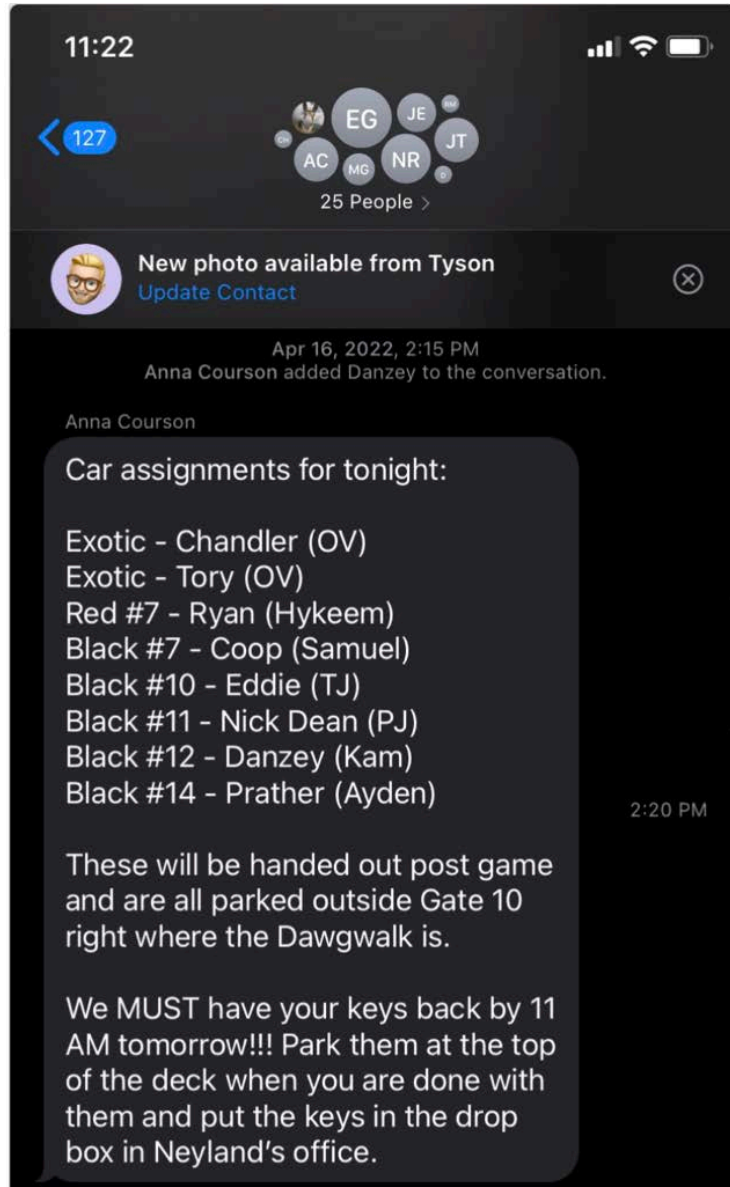


Exhibit G, April 16, 2022 Text Message.

60. A text message dated Friday May 20, 2022 from Ms. Courson, sent to approximately 25 staff members, states: “All keys will need to be returned by 11 AM Sunday.”

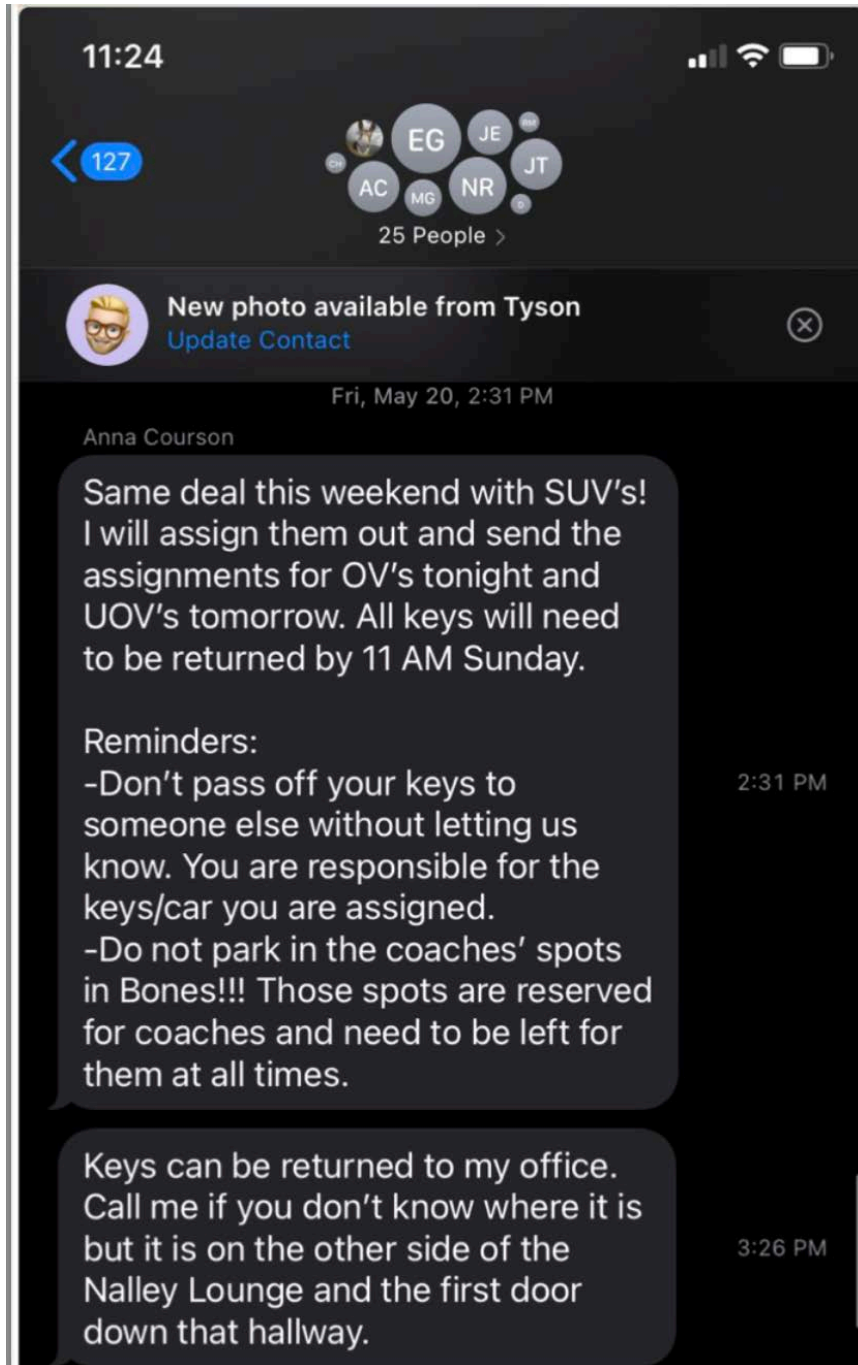


Exhibit H, May 20, 2022 Text Message.

61. A text message dated July 30, 2022 from Ms. Courson to six staff members, directed staff

members to return UGA Athletic Association vehicles by “tomorrow morning.”



Exhibit I, July 30, 2022 Text Message (individual phone numbers redacted).

62. LeCroy expressly told Ms. Bowles on the evening of the Championship Celebration that she [LeCroy] had permission to keep the vehicle “until tomorrow.”

63. Plaintiff had previously left her personal vehicle at the football facility overnight on multiple occasions.

64. Plaintiff is personally aware of multiple prior occasions where UGA Athletic Association vehicles were used for personal purposes by UGA staff, as well as at UGA Athletic Association sponsored events where alcohol was served.

65. Plaintiff and LeCroy, after dropping off the recruit at the *McWhorter Hall* dorm and subsequently arriving at *Butts-Mehre* on January 14, 2023, then left *Butts-Mehre* in the black rental SUV to return to LeCroy's apartment. They stayed at LeCroy's apartment for approximately one hour before traveling to downtown Athens in the black rental SUV to join in the ongoing Championship Celebration.

66. Plaintiff and LeCroy arrived in downtown Athens after 10:00 pm on the evening of January 14, 2023, and parked the SUV near the front entrance of *Starland*, at 145 E. Clayton Street.

67. Plaintiff and LeCroy almost immediately encountered UGA Athletic Association staff member Anna Courson, the supervisor who had assigned LeCroy the black rental SUV earlier that day.

68. After speaking with Anna Courson, LeCroy and Plaintiff then proceeded to several locations including various crowded downtown establishments, where they encountered friends, UGA fans and players.

69. Plaintiff and LeCroy walked to various locations that evening together downtown, but they were often separated. While Plaintiff did observe LeCroy drink limited amounts of alcohol that evening, when they were together she did not observe LeCroy consume enough alcohol to lead Plaintiff to reasonably believe that LeCroy may have been legally intoxicated or in any way impaired.

70. During the course of that evening, Plaintiff and LeCroy encountered UGA football players Devin Willock and Warren McClendon, among others, who at a point in time while Plaintiff was away from the group, invited LeCroy to join them at *Toppers International Show Bar* (“*Toppers*”). LeCroy then told Plaintiff that she was going to *Toppers* with Devin Willock and Warren McClendon and others.

71. Plaintiff had met and interacted with Willock and McClendon at the football facility previously, but did not know either player well.

72. Because LeCroy was Ms. Bowles’ ride and Ms. Bowles did not want to be left downtown alone that evening, she decided to go with the group to *Toppers*.

73. At the time Plaintiff and LeCroy arrived at *Toppers*, Plaintiff had no reasonable basis to believe that LeCroy was intoxicated or impaired by alcohol, based upon the limited amount of alcohol that Plaintiff had observed LeCroy consume over the course of the evening.

74. Once inside *Toppers*, Plaintiff separated from LeCroy. Plaintiff joined a group of UGA football players’ girlfriends and students associated with the football recruiting program, who had gathered immediately inside the main entrance of *Toppers*. Because Plaintiff and LeCroy separated when they entered *Toppers*, Plaintiff has limited knowledge of LeCroy’s activities inside *Toppers*.

75. Plaintiff did not spend any appreciable amount of time with LeCroy inside of *Toppers* and had no basis to know or appreciate the amount of alcohol that LeCroy may have consumed at *Toppers* between the time they arrived together and the time they left *Toppers*.

76. When *Toppers* closed, LeCroy, who was with UGA football players Devin Willock, Warren McClendon and others, found Plaintiff near the main entrance.

77. Plaintiff, who had no basis to know or appreciate what amount of alcohol that LeCroy may have consumed at *Toppers*, left with LeCroy, Willock and McClendon.

78. Athens-Clarke County video surveillance (hereinafter “ACC video”) shows Ms. Bowles walking a considerable distance away from LeCroy and UGA football players Warren McClendon and Devin Willock after they all had exited *Toppers*.

79. ACC video shows LeCroy walked normally, and she did not appear intoxicated.

80. LeCroy, Ms. Bowles, Warren McClendon and Devin Willock walked to the UGA Athletic Association rental SUV- which, as previously stated, was parked near the front entrance of *Starland* on E. Clayton Street.

81. Ms. Bowles entered the LeCroy SUV, as LeCroy was her ride home.

82. Ms. Bowles got into the back seat passenger side of the black rental SUV, where she stayed until the subject crash occurred.

83. When entering as a backseat passenger in the black rental SUV, Plaintiff was unaware that LeCroy may have been legally intoxicated, that LeCroy would be engaging in street racing in concert with Defendant Carter, or that LeCroy would be driving the rental SUV in excess of 100 mph.

84. Warren McClendon and Devin Willock also entered the LeCroy SUV, and LeCroy agreed to take the occupants to a *Waffle House*.

Events of the Fatal Trip

85. After leaving the parking space near *Starland*, both LeCroy and Defendant Carter traveled on E. Clayton Street (a two-lane, one-way street) heading towards N. Thomas Street (which was less than 0.20 miles away).

86. ACC video shows Defendant Carter, in the left lane, and the LeCroy SUV, in the right lane, stopped at a traffic light at the intersection of E. Clayton Street and College Avenue (a very short one-half block away from *Starland*).

87. ACC video shows that Defendant Carter aggressively accelerated into the intersection of E. Clayton Street and College Avenue.

88. ACC video shows that the LeCroy SUV subsequently moved into the intersection at a slow speed.

89. ACC video then shows, a very short block away, Defendant Carter stopped in the right lane of E. Clayton Street, at a traffic light, at the intersection of E. Clayton Street and Jackson Street, with the LeCroy SUV stopped behind him.

90. ACC video shows that Defendant Carter then aggressively accelerated into the E. Clayton Street and Jackson Street intersection and sped away at an excessive speed, and then aggressively, without signaling, moved into the left lane and passed a vehicle that was stopped in the right lane of E. Clayton Street.

91. ACC video shows that the LeCroy SUV, on E. Clayton Street, moved into the E. Clayton Street and Jackson Street intersection at a slow speed, and subsequently, after initiating her left-turn signal, passed the vehicle that was stopped in the right lane of E. Clayton Street.

92. ACC video shows that Defendant Carter made a right turn, without stopping and at a fast pace, onto N. Thomas Street.

93. ACC video shows that after turning, Defendant Carter traveled into the “left-turn only” lane on N. Thomas Street, and stopped behind several vehicles, which were waiting to turn left onto Oconee Street at the N. Thomas Street/E. Broad Street intersection.

94. ACC videos show that the LeCroy vehicle stopped at the above E. Clayton Street turn location, and seventeen seconds after Defendant Carter made his right turn, after signaling, made a slow turn and traveled into the “left-turn only” lane of N. Thomas Street (which was then slowly moving) and traveled behind a vehicle following Defendant Carter.

95. ACC video shows that Defendant Carter and the LeCroy vehicle followed a line of vehicles that were slowly turning onto Oconee Street (also known as the “Lexington Highway”).

96. University of Georgia video shows Defendant Carter, at approximately .175 miles after turning onto Oconee Street, approaching a vehicle in front of him at a high rate of speed, and passing that vehicle at a fast speed in a “left-turn only” lane of travel (in his direction).

97. The “left-turn only” lane turned into Hickory Street.

98. At the end of the brief “left-turn only” lane, Defendant Carter, without signaling, immediately pulled back into his original lane of travel behind a slow moving vehicle.

99. University of Georgia video shows the LeCroy SUV, at a slower speed and four seconds after Defendant Carter entered the “left-turn only” lane of travel, entered the “left-turn only” lane at a slower pace, and passed, it appears, two or three vehicles, and then, after signaling, pulled back into her lane behind a slow-moving vehicle. (There were no on-coming vehicles when she crossed over into the dedicated “left-turn only” lane).

100. At a distance of approximately one-half mile from the end of the “left-turn only” lane, Defendant Carter, law enforcement determined through video surveillance, passed a *Dairy Queen* while traveling 100 mph.

101. Law enforcement determined, through video surveillance, that the LeCroy SUV, behind Defendant Carter, passed the *Dairy Queen* at 78 mph.

102. After passing the *Dairy Queen*, Defendant Carter and the LeCroy rental SUV traveled approximately 0.3 miles before turning into the *Waffle House* on Oconee Street at approximately 2:41:12 a.m.

103. Defendant Carter arrived first at the *Waffle House* located on Oconee Street and parked in a parking space. LeCroy pulled into the *Waffle House* after Defendant Carter and stopped her SUV behind his parked SUV.

104. In the *Waffle House* parking lot, Defendant Carter exited his vehicle, walked to the LeCroy SUV and spoke to someone inside the vehicle on the driver's side.

105. Defendant Carter and LeCroy agreed to go to another nearby *Waffle House* on Barnett Shoals Road in Athens.

106. No one but Defendant Carter exited either of the two vehicles while they were at the Oconee Street *Waffle House*.

107. After the conversation between someone in the LeCroy SUV and Defendant Carter in the parking lot of the Oconee Street *Waffle House*, LeCroy left the *Waffle House* **ahead** of Defendant Carter to go to a *Waffle House* located on Barnett Shoals Road, which was only a short distance away.

108. At 2:42:16 a.m., LeCroy's SUV exited the Oconee Street *Waffle House* parking lot onto the Grove Street Extension, traveling a short distance before making a right turn onto Oconee Street, followed by Defendant Carter, who exited the parking lot at 2:42.23 a.m.

109. Accordingly, Defendant Carter and LeCroy were at the Oconee Street *Waffle House* for approximately 71 seconds.

110. During the brief amount of time between LeCroy leaving downtown Athens driving the black rental SUV and the time LeCroy and Defendant Carter both stopped at the *Waffle House* located on Oconee Street, LeCroy did not engage in any driving maneuvers that Plaintiff, as a backseat passenger, perceived as being dangerous or placing her at risk of being injured in a crash as the result of LeCroy losing control of the rental SUV due to excessive speed.

111. From the Oconee Street *Waffle House*, both subject SUVs traveled approximately 0.3 miles to the intersection of Oconee Street and Barnett Shoals Road, encountering three separate traffic signals, before turning right onto Barnett Shoals Road.

112. UGA football player Jamon Dumas-Johnson informed law enforcement that while stopped at the traffic light at the intersection of Oconee Street and Barnett Shoals Road he spoke with Defendant Carter while both were in their vehicles stopped at the light-a point in time before Defendant Carter and LeCroy began their street racing.

113. At some point along the route between the Oconee Street *Waffle House* and the intended *Waffle House* destination on Barnett Shoals Road, Defendant Carter pulled alongside the left side of LeCroy's black rental SUV and rolled down his passenger side windows.

114. On Barnett Shoals Road, Defendant Carter and LeCroy began street racing.

115. On Barnett Shoals Road, the subject SUVs passed a "76" convenience store, a distance of approximately 0.7 miles from the turn onto Barnett Shoals Road.

116. Video surveillance at the "76" convenience store shows the subject SUVs traveling side-by-side at approximately 2:46:01 a.m., with the LeCroy SUV determined by law enforcement to be traveling 99.472 mph (59.472 mph over the 40 mph posted speed limit), with Defendant Carter traveling at a nearly identical speed.

117. As LeCroy's speed increased on Barnett Shoals Road, Ms. Bowles became alarmed and verbally expressed her concern that LeCroy should slow down.

118. LeCroy failed to heed Ms. Bowles' request to slow down.

119. LeCroy's rental SUV, approximately 0.3 miles past the "76" convenience store, and on a curve while traveling in excess of 100 mph, left the roadway on the right side of the road, hit a utility pole cutting it in half; struck a tree; struck a light pole cutting it in two pieces; hit more trees;

slammed into the side of an apartment building damaging a brick wall; and then rotated counterclockwise into the building where it came to rest.

120. LeCroy, four seconds before impact, was traveling 104.20 mph (64.20 mph over the 40 mph posted speed limit), according to the LeCroy SUV's airbag control module.

121. Defendant Carter, in effect, admits to street racing with Ms. LeCroy - despite his prior denials-as he stated to law enforcement during a February 10, 2023 recorded interview that near the curve of the crash he slowed his vehicle while beside the LeCroy vehicle, and she passed him.

122. Defendant Carter admitted in the interview that he then, while traveling **behind** LeCroy, observed her vehicle go off the road and strike a pole, saw the pole falling, and stated that a wire from the pole came down on his vehicle.

123. Athens-Clarke County Police determined that Defendant Carter's roof had scrape marks consistent with hitting falling power lines.

124. Defendant Carter could not have been further than approximately 0.1 miles (528 feet) from the LeCroy SUV impact area when he observed the crash as a vehicle approaching the area in his direction of travel would have a line of sight of the impact area of approximately 0.1 miles (528 feet), and even less from where LeCroy started leaving the roadway.

125. Defendant Carter's admissions, stated in paragraphs 121-122 above, as well as scrape marks on his SUV, and video at the "76" convenience store, establish that at the moment of the crash he was traveling behind LeCroy at a speed similar to her extreme speed.

126. Defendant Carter stated in law enforcement interviews: "I was going an average speed" and "I wasn't going fast."

127. The UGA Athletic Association rented SUV driven by LeCroy was extensively damaged in the crash beyond recognition.



Exhibit J, *Photograph of damaged LeCroy SUV*



Exhibit K, *Stock Photograph of An Identical 2021 Ford Expedition SUV.*

128. The subject crash resulted in the death of LeCroy and the death of Devin Willock, who was a backseat passenger on the driver's side of the black rental SUV.

Permissive Use

129. Neither the UGA Athletic Association nor LeCroy's supervisors placed any limits or restrictions on the use of her assigned SUV during the day of the Championship Celebration or the morning of January 15, 2023.

130. At the time of the crash, LeCroy was operating the subject rental SUV with the permission of the UGA Athletic Association.

131. The UGA Athletic Association issued a public statement following the crash stating that rental vehicles were available to be used by staff members during "recruiting activities only."

132. The UGA Athletic Association issued a public statement following the crash stating: "Policies and expectations that were well understood by athletics staff dictated that such rental vehicles were to be turned in at the **immediate conclusion of recruiting duties.**" (Emphasis added).

133. Ms. Bowles was never informed by UGA Athletic Association supervisors/staff that vehicles rented by the UGA Athletic Association had to be turned in at "the immediate conclusion of recruiting duties" or could only be used for "recruiting activities."

134. Ms. Bowles, as well as LeCroy and other UGA Athletic Association staff, were allowed on numerous occasions prior to the subject crash to permissively use the UGA Athletic Association rental vehicles for personal use during down time between scheduled recruiting activities, as well as take the SUV's home overnight after the conclusion of their recruiting activities.

135. Ms. Bowles is aware of other occasions prior to the subject crash where staff members used UGA Athletic Association vehicles for personal use.

136. The subject crash, which was proximately caused by Defendant Carter's and LeCroy's

joint enterprise and concerted act of tandem street racing, resulted in Plaintiff Victoria S. Bowles suffering multiple significant and debilitating injuries which included, but are not limited to: three lumbar “burst fractures,” with a spinal cord injury in the lumbar spine area sufficient to cause the leakage of cerebrospinal fluid. She developed “significant arachnoiditis”- damage to the spinal cord resulting in inflammation of the arachnoid, one of the membranes that surrounds the nerves of the spinal cord. Her symptoms include burning sensations and severe pain in her extremities, and foot drop syndrome. Arachnoiditis is normally a permanent neurological condition with no cure, often progressing to permanent paralysis.

137. Ms. Bowles also sustained five other fractured vertebrae; approximately ten fractured ribs; a punctured and collapsed lung; a fractured clavicle; a fractured sacrum; laceration of her kidney; laceration of her liver; intra-abdominal hemorrhaging; facial lacerations; fractured and cracked teeth; and injury to her jaw. Ms. Bowles sustained a closed head injury, and neurological damage, causing severe eye pain.

UGA Athletic Association’s Knowledge of LeCroy’s Prior Reckless Driving

138. The UGA Athletic Association was fully aware of LeCroy’s pattern of reckless driving well before entrusting her with the subject black rental SUV on January 14 and 15, 2023.

139. LeCroy was cited for speeding (69 mph in a 55 mph zone) in Wilkes County, Georgia on October 20, 2016. Less than six weeks later, on December 8, 2016, in Jenkins County, Georgia, LeCroy received a “super speeder” ticket, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 40-6-189, as she was traveling 88 mph in a 65 mph zone.

140. LeCroy was cited, on October 22, 2020, for traveling 64 mph in a 40 mph zone in Clarke County, Georgia. On October 30, 2022 (77 days before the subject crash), LeCroy was cited in Morgan County, Georgia for another “super speeder” offense-traveling 77 mph in a 55 mph zone.

141. LeCroy's supervisor, Ms. Logen Reed, Associate Director of Recruiting Operations for the UGA Athletic Association, was in the vehicle with LeCroy at the time of the October 30, 2022 violation-as they were returning to Athens from the UGA/Florida football game in Jacksonville, Florida.

142. Prior to the subject crash, the UGA Athletic Association's "Program Coordinator II/Director of Player Support and Operations," Bryant Gantt ("Gantt"), attempted, in person, to get a Morgan County, Georgia court clerk to reduce LeCroy's October 30, 2022 "super speeder" ticket.

143. Gantt was at the time and remains, upon information and belief, the UGA Athletic Association's liaison between the UGA Athletic Association and law enforcement-with a 2022 salary of \$209,914.61.

144. Addressing her conversation with Gantt concerning the "super speeder" ticket, the Morgan County court clerk, Salisha Sanders, stated in an interview with the *Atlanta Journal Constitution* in relation to Gantt's attempts to reduce LeCroy's charge: "'Based on her [LeCroy's] history, I said, 'No, not at all,'" Ms. Sanders further stated: "I'm his go-to in Morgan County."

145. According to an *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* report, between 2016 and 2023 Gantt, although not licensed to practice law, was personally involved in at least 82 separate legal matters involving UGA football players.

146. The UGA Athletic Association made a public statement following the subject crash stating that Gantt's involvement with LeCroy's ticket "was purely in his personal capacity as a favor to a friend based on his knowledge of traffic court proceedings."

147. The UGA Athletic Association made a public statement following the subject crash stating: "The university conducted a background check on LeCroy when she was hired full time in 2021, and its insurance carrier performed a routine check of her driving history in June 2022."

148. The UGA Athletic Association had actual knowledge of at least four of LeCroy's speeding violations, including two "super speeder" violations, prior to the subject crash.

149. Actual knowledge of all four of LeCroy's known speeding violations prior to the subject crash can be inferred to the UGA Athletic Association by Ms. Reed's knowledge, Gantt's knowledge, and the background checks performed by UGA and the UGA Athletic Association's insurer. See, *CGL Facility Mgmt. v. Wiley*, 328 Ga. App. 727 (2014) and *Ed Sherwood Chevrolet v. McAuley*, 164 Ga. App. 798 (1982).

Defendant Carter's Driving Conduct Prior To The Day of The Championship Celebration

150. On July 23, 2022, Defendant Carter was cited in the State of Florida for speeding.

151. In 2022, before Defendant Carter received the delivery of the Cherokee Trackhawk (described below), an Ohio dealership provided him with a 2020 Dodge Charger, equipped with a SRT Hellcat V-8 engine capable of speeds of up to 180 mph. "SRT Hellcat" engines are a favorite among illegal street racers.

152. The "SRT" acronym stands for "Street and Racing Technology."

153. On September 2, 2022, Defendant Carter was pulled over by Athens Clarke County Police for speeding and running a redlight, but was only cited by police for running a redlight. On October 13, 2022, with the assistance of Gantt, Defendant Carter pled guilty to the offense and Gantt paid his fine with cash at the counter of the Clerk's office.

154. Between September 2, 2022 and September 22, 2022, the same Ohio dealership provided Defendant Carter with a 2021 Jeep Cherokee *Trackhawk* (curb weight of over 5,300 lbs.) equipped with a 6.2 Liter, SRT, Supercharged 707 Horsepower "Hellcat" V-8 engine with a top speed of 180 mph, and capable of 0 to 60 mph in 3.5 seconds.

155. On September 22, 2022, less than three weeks after Defendant Carter received a ticket for running a redlight, he was again ticketed, in Athens, Georgia, for speeding in his recently acquired Cherokee *Trackhawk*-89 mph in 45 mph zone. He also received two tickets for illegal dark tint on both his windshield and front door windows.

156. The Athens-Clarke County police officer citing Defendant Carter on September 22, 2022-as can be heard and seen from the officer's body camera-told him on the scene: "You need to slow down . . . you're not going to jail, that's your break."

157. On October 31, 2022, Defendant Carter pled guilty to the September 22, 2022 offenses.

158. By traveling 89 mph in a 45 mph zone on September 22, 2022, Defendant Carter committed a "super speeder" violation, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 40-6-189.

159. On November 7, 2022 the State of Florida suspended Defendant Carter's driver's license due to his failure to complete a defensive driving course for the ticket issued on July 23, 2022, and his license remained suspended at the time of the subject crash on January 15, 2023.

Defendant Jalen Carter Illegally Left the Scene of the Crash

160. Defendant Carter, who had no valid driver's license at the time of the crash, initially stopped at the scene and could see "smoke and the car."

161. Despite LeCroy's passenger, Warren McClendon, stating to Defendant Carter that he could not locate Devin Willock, Defendant Carter left the scene after less than 10 minutes when a UGA player at the scene yelled at him: "Yo...hey, JC...you might want to go ahead and go get the f*** on yo..." (as can be heard in the background of Willock's iPhone automated "911" call).

162. While Defendant Carter has maintained that he was cleared to leave the scene, his criminal attorney, Kim T. Stephens, (in a media interview), stated: "It was somebody who he knew to have authority . . . I don't know if it was directly from law enforcement."

163. Defendant Carter did not return to the scene of this fatal crash until more than an hour and a half after it occurred, and only when Gantt, UGA Athletic Association's liaison between the UGA football program and law enforcement, from the crash scene, called and/or texted him and summoned him back to the scene of the crash at the request of the Athens-Clarke County Police Department.

164. Gantt not only came to the scene of the subject crash shortly after it occurred but also, even though not an attorney, was present when law enforcement officials interviewed various UGA football players about the events of the crash.

165. Defendant Carter violated O.C.G.A. § 40-6-270 (which can qualify as a felony offense) by leaving the scene of the crash and knowingly failing to render any aid or assistance to Ms. LeCroy, Mr. Willock or Ms. Bowles, each of whom would have been expected to suffer significant bodily injuries, if not death, as a result of the high speed crash.

166. Defendant Carter committed an additional offense under O.C.G.A. § 40-6-270 by leaving the scene of the crash without providing his name, address, his vehicle registration number, and his driver's license.

167. Defendant Carter, at the time of leaving the scene, recognized that being publicly implicated in a street racing event resulting in severe injuries and the likely deaths of crash victims would negatively impact his NFL draft status and, therefore, his financial future.

Plaintiff Victoria S. Bowles Was Not Negligent

168. Plaintiff Victoria S. Bowles was not negligent in any manner to causing said crash.

169. At some point after the LeCroy SUV turned onto Barnett Shoals Road, Ms. Bowles became concerned about LeCroy's excessive speed-which was not initially readily appreciable to her due to her backseat position in the large SUV and outside darkness.

170. Ms. Bowles expressed concern about LeCroy's driving, but her concern was ignored.

171. The distance between the turn onto Barnett Shoals Road and the scene of the crash was approximately one mile.

172. As LeCroy's SUV and Defendant Carter's SUV were side-by-side when they reached the "76" station on Barnett Shoals Road, their average speed to the "76" station from the turn onto Barnett Shoals Road would have been nearly identical.

173. While the exact speeds of LeCroy's and Defendant Carter's vehicles are not known between their turn onto Barnett Shoals Road and before reaching the "76" station (at which point they were traveling over 99 mph), with estimated speed/distance calculations, LeCroy's SUV would have traveled on Barnett Shoals Road an estimated 45 seconds or less before the crash.

174. Ms. Bowles had only a brief time to react and protest (which she did) once LeCroy's large SUV reached a dangerous speed on Barnett Shoals Road.

Injuries, Disability and Damages Sustained by Plaintiff Victoria S. Bowles

175. As a direct and proximate result of the subject crash, Plaintiff Victoria S. Bowles sustained approximately **twenty fractures**, including: fracture of the transverse process of a cervical vertebra; fracture of the C-6 vertebra; fracture of transverse process of a thoracic vertebra; a "burst fracture" of the fifth lumbar vertebra; a "burst fracture" of the fourth lumbar vertebra; a "burst fracture" of the second lumbar vertebra; fracture of transverse process of a lumbar vertebra; a wedge compression fracture of the T-12 vertebra; fracture of the left clavicle; fracture of the sacrum (a bone important, in part, for hip stability); and approximately ten bilateral rib fractures.

176. According to medical literature, a burst fracture is a traumatic spinal injury in which a vertebra breaks from a high-energy axial load (e.g. a high speed vehicle crash), with shards of vertebra (being pushed backwards) penetrating surrounding tissues. The term "burst" implies that the

margins of the vertebral body are spread out in all directions. A burst fracture results in a permanent decrease in anterior height and possible changes in neurological signal intensity with possible deterioration over time. By crushing the entire margin of the vertebral body, the spine is much less stable than following a compression fracture.

177. As a direct and proximate result of the subject crash, and, upon information and belief, as the result of her numerous spinal fractures, Plaintiff Victoria S. Bowles' medical records establish that she sustained "complex dural injuries throughout the lumbar spine with **significant arachnoiditis**, CSF extravasation [leakage of cerebrospinal fluid]."

178. Arachnoiditis, according to medical literature, is a rare pain disorder caused by damage to the spinal cord resulting in inflammation of the arachnoid, one of the membranes that surrounds the nerves of the spinal cord. The condition is associated with neurological symptoms, with severe pain, including severe stinging and "burning pain," and foot drop syndrome, all of which Ms. Bowles has sustained. There is no cure for arachnoiditis, which is normally classified as being a chronic and permanent lifelong condition, which may be progressive.

179. According to medical literature, when arachnoiditis progresses, it can lead to the formation of scar tissue and cause the spinal nerves to stick together and malfunction. This leads to "chronic adhesive arachnoiditis." Many people with this condition eventually need to use a wheelchair due to paralysis.

180. As a direct and proximate result of the subject crash, Plaintiff Victoria S. Bowles further sustained, including but not limited to, a kidney laceration; a liver laceration; a pneumothorax (collapsed lung) of her left lung; traumatic hemoperitoneum (intra-abdominal hemorrhage); facial lacerations; fractured and cracked teeth; and injury to her jaw.

181. As a direct and proximate result of the subject crash, Plaintiff Victoria S. Bowles also

sustained a closed head injury, and neurological damage, causing eye pain.

182. As a direct and proximate result of the subject crash, Plaintiff Victoria S. Bowles has incurred medical expenses to date in an amount not less than \$171,595.08, and will continue to incur future and ongoing expenses for medical treatment, rehabilitation, and attendant care as a result of the subject crash.

183. At the time of the crash, Plaintiff Victoria S. Bowles was paid \$429.33 bi-weekly (less than \$12,000.00 per year) as an UGA recruiting analyst. (LeCroy worked nearly identical bi-weekly hours as Ms. Bowles, and according to the UGA Athletic Association’s statement (see paragraph 147) was “full-time”). As a direct and proximate result of the subject crash, to date Ms. Bowles has lost income totaling at least \$3,434.00, and remains unable to work.

184. As a direct and proximate result of the subject crash, upon information and belief, Plaintiff Victoria S. Bowles has suffered a diminution in earnings capacity due to her likely permanent disability, and will sustain future lost wages.

185. As a direct and proximate result of the subject crash, Plaintiff Victoria S. Bowles has sustained physical and emotional pain and suffering, and will continue to sustain physical and emotional pain and suffering likely for the remainder of her life.

COUNT I

NEGLIGENCE: UGA ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

186. Plaintiff hereby incorporates and adopts by reference the previous paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully and completely set forth herein.

187. Defendant UGA Athletic Association, prior to entrusting the subject black rental SUV to LeCroy on January 14, 2023, was aware that LeCroy’s customary activities while using UGA Athletic Association vehicles involved the transport of UGA football program staff, UGA football

program recruits/prospects, including recruits/prospects under the age of eighteen, as well as their families and others, on a regular basis at all hours of the day during official and unofficial recruitment visits.

188. Defendant UGA Athletic Association, prior to entrusting the subject black rental SUV to LeCroy for use over the Championship Celebration weekend, was aware through its own periodic review of her driving history, as well as the actual knowledge of its agents Gantt and Logen Reed, of LeCroy's deplorable driving history and habitual operation of motor vehicles at high and unsafe speeds.

189. Defendant UGA Athletic Association, prior to entrusting the subject black rental SUV to LeCroy over the Championship Celebration weekend, had knowledge that LeCroy had received multiple speeding tickets, including at least two "super speeder" tickets, one of which was issued to LeCroy on October 30, 2022 while returning from the Georgia-Florida Game with her direct supervisor in the vehicle.

190. Based upon UGA Athletic Association's "Program Coordinator II/Director of Player Support and Operations," Bryant Gantt's, attempt to intervene to reduce LeCroy's October 2022 "super speeder" traffic ticket, LeCroy was left with the understanding that the Association would continue to intervene on her behalf in an attempt to reduce the consequences of future high speed driving that endangered the public.

191. Defendant UGA Athletic Association was negligent in entrusting the subject black rental SUV to LeCroy on January 14, 2023, and expressly granting her permission to have possession and use of the subject vehicle on January 15, 2023 at the time of the crash.

192. Based upon its negligent entrustment of the subject black rental SUV, Defendant UGA Athletic Association is liable to Plaintiff Victoria S. Bowles for the injuries and damages that she

sustained as a result of the high speed crash that occurred on January 15, 2023 while the vehicle was permissively entrusted to LeCroy for her use over the course of the weekend of the Championship Celebration.

193. Plaintiff is entitled to recover against all Defendants for her special and general damages which include, medical expenses totaling at least \$171,595.08 through the time of filing of this Complaint, future medical expenses, lost wages totaling at least \$3,434.00 through the time of filing of this Complaint, future lost wages, damages due to diminished capacity to work or labor, physical disability, past, present and future mental and physical pain and suffering, and bad faith damages (for Plaintiff's attorney's fees and expenses of litigation) pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 13-6-11, as well as all other damages permitted by law, in an amount to be proven at trial.

COUNT II

NEGLIGENCE & GROSS NEGLIGENCE: DEFENDANT JALEN CARTER

194. Plaintiff hereby incorporates and adopts by reference the previous paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully and completely set forth herein.

195. Defendant Jalen Carter is liable to Plaintiff Victoria S. Bowles for failing to exercise ordinary care and diligence and was careless and grossly negligent in the following respects, including but not limited to:

(a) By engaging in reckless driving, and tandem driving/street racing with LeCroy (a grossly negligent joint enterprise) on Barnett Shoals Road, a public highway in Athens-Clarke County, Georgia. (See, *Price v. Thapa*, 323 Ga. App. 638 (2013); a driver is liable even if his vehicle was not directly involved in the crash if his negligence is so closely related to the other driver's negligence as to speed);

(b) By driving at dangerous and extraordinarily high speeds (59 mph or greater over the

posted speed limit) during the street race that occurred on Barnett Shoals Road while in route to the *Waffle House* on Barnett Shoals Road;

(c) By pursuing LeCroy while she was driving the UGA Athletic Association rental SUV while engaged in a street race with LeCroy on Barnett Shoals Road; and

(d) In driving too fast for conditions during the street race.

196. Plaintiff is entitled to recover against Defendant Carter for special and general damages, which includes medical expenses totaling at least \$171,595.08 through the time of filing this Complaint, lost wages totaling at least \$3,434.00 through the time of filing this Complaint, future lost income, damages due to diminished capacity to work or labor, physical disability, past, present and future mental and physical pain and suffering, extreme emotional distress, and bad faith damages (for Plaintiff's attorney's fees and expenses of litigation) pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 13-6-11, as well as all other damages permitted by law, in an amount to be proven at trial.

COUNT III

NEGLIGENCE & GROSS NEGLIGENCE: CHANDLER LECROY

197. Plaintiff hereby incorporates and adopts by reference the previous paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully and completely set forth herein.

198. The Estate of Chandler LeCroy, by and through Robert W. Hughes in his representative capacity as the Court-Appointed Personal Administrator of the Estate of Chandler LeCroy (deceased), is liable to Plaintiff Victoria S. Bowles for LeCroy's failure to exercise ordinary care and diligence and who was careless and grossly negligent in the following respects, including but not limited to:

(a) By engaging in tandem driving/street racing with Defendant Carter (a grossly negligent joint enterprise) upon the public highways of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia;

(b) By driving at dangerous and extraordinarily high speeds (more than 60 mph over the posted speed limit) during the street race that occurred on Barnett Shoals Road;

(c) In driving too fast for conditions during the street race;

(d) In failing, after Plaintiff Victoria S. Bowles protested, to slow down while driving the leased UGA Athletic Association vehicle to a safe and legal speed and to refrain from racing the vehicle and driving in a reckless manner, and:

(e) By operating a motor vehicle without disclosing to her passengers that she was impaired by alcohol.

199. Plaintiff is entitled to recover against the Estate of LeCroy for special and general damages which include, medical expenses totaling at least \$171,595.08 through the time of filing this Complaint, lost wages totaling at least \$3,434.00 through the time of filing this Complaint, future lost income, damages due to diminished capacity to work or labor, physical disability, past, present and future mental and physical pain and suffering, extreme emotional distress, and bad faith damages (for Plaintiff's attorney's fees and expenses of litigation) pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 13-6-11, as well as all other damages permitted by law, in an amount to be proven at trial.

COUNT IV

NEGLIGENCE AND GROSS NEGLIGENCE: DEFENDANT BREADMAN JALEN, LLC

200. Plaintiff hereby incorporates and adopts by reference the previous paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully and completely set forth herein.

201. Defendant Breadman Jalen, LLC was the owner of the vehicle being driven by Defendant Carter on January 15, 2023 and is for all purposes the alter ego of Defendant Carter as it relates to the events occurring on January 15, 2023 giving rise to this Complaint.

202. Defendant Breadman Jalen, LLC was negligent in entrusting the subject Jeep *Trackhawk*

being driven by Defendant Carter to him based upon its knowledge of Defendant Carter's driving history and propensity to engage in aggressive driving behavior and driving at extreme speeds.

203. Defendant Breadman Jalen, LLC is vicariously liable for the injuries and damages incurred by Plaintiff Victoria S. Bowles as set forth herein above.

204. As a direct and proximate result of the negligent actions of Defendant Breadman Jalen, LLC, Plaintiff Victoria S. Bowles is entitled to an award for special and general damages which include, medical expenses totaling at least \$171,595.08 through the time of filing this Complaint, lost wages totaling at least \$3,434.00 through the time of filing this Complaint, future lost income, damages due to diminished capacity to work or labor, physical disability, past, present and future mental and physical pain and suffering, extreme emotional distress, and bad faith damages (for Plaintiff's attorney's fees and expenses of litigation) pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 13-6-11, as well as all other damages permitted by law, in an amount to be proven at trial.

COUNT V

PUNITIVE DAMAGES

205. Plaintiff hereby incorporates and adopts by reference the previous paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully and completely set forth herein.

206. The conduct of each Defendant named below, as more fully set forth herein above, authorizes the imposition of punitive damages against each named Defendant pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 51-12-5.1 in that the conduct of each named Defendant serves to demonstrate and amount to willful misconduct, wantonness, oppression, or that entire want of care which would raise the presumption of a conscious indifference to the consequences. See, O.C.G.A. § 40-6-270; *Battle v Kilcrease*, 54 Ga. App. 808 (1936); *Langlois v. Wolford*, 246 Ga. App. 209 (2000).

Defendant UGA Athletic Association

207. The conduct of the UGA Athletic Association in entrusting the black rental SUV to LeCroy under circumstances where it had actual knowledge of LeCroy's habitually reckless conduct while driving, with knowledge of at least four prior speeding tickets, including two "super speeder" tickets, as well as the attempts by and through its agent to reduce or mitigate LeCroy's speeding tickets, is sufficient to demonstrate and amount to willful misconduct, wantonness, oppression, or that entire want of care which would raise the presumption of a conscious indifference to the consequences authorizing the imposition of punitive damages against Defendant UGA Athletic Association pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 51-12-5.1.

Defendant Carter

208. The conduct of Defendant Carter in engaging in tandem driving/street racing with LeCroy on Barnett Shoals Road, driving at extremely dangerous and extraordinarily high speeds (59 mph or more over the posted speed limit) during the street race that occurred on Barnett Shoals Road in route to the *Waffle House* on Barnett Shoals Road, are individually and collectively sufficient to demonstrate and amount to willful misconduct, wantonness, oppression, or that entire want of care which would raise the presumption of a conscious indifference to the consequences authorizing the imposition of punitive damages against Defendant Carter pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 51-12-5.1.

209. The conduct of Defendant Carter during the events described above, in leaving the scene of the crash, with knowledge he was a joint bad actor in causing the crash, was in violation of O.C.G.A. § 40-6-270(a)(1)(2), and his failure to render aid to Ms. Bowles, LeCroy and Devin Willock (as the result of his failure to determine their location on the scene and their physical condition) in violation of O.C.G.A. § 40-6-270(a)(3), on its own, authorizes the imposition of punitive damages against Defendant Carter pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 51-12-5.1.

210. Defendant Carter's leaving the scene of the crash without even attempting to speak to Ms. Bowles and the other occupants, as mandated by statute, was an intentional and culpable act; such conduct demonstrating a conscious indifference to the consequences and an entire want of care as to Ms. Bowles' and the other occupants' well-being. See, *Langlois v. Wolford*, 246 Ga. App. 209 (2000).

211. Defendant Carter's leaving the scene of the crash without even attempting to speak to Ms. Bowles, LeCroy and Devin Willock gives rise to the reasonable inference that his flight was from a sense of guilt. See, *Parker v State*, 232 Ga. App. 609 (1998).

212. Defendant Carter, at the time of leaving the scene, recognized that being publicly implicated in a street racing event resulting in severe injuries and the likely deaths of crash victims would negatively impact his NFL draft status and, therefore, his financial future. Thus, he had not only an interest to avoid both civil and criminal liability, but also to protect his NFL draft status by leaving the scene of the crash. See, *Langlois v. Wolford*, 246 Ga. App. 209 (2000).

213. Accordingly, Defendant Carter's conduct in leaving the scene of the crash, standing alone, authorizes the imposition of punitive damages against Defendant Carter pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 51-12-5.1.

214. Defendant Carter's prior speeding history, including at least one "super speeder" violation, standing alone, authorizes the imposition of punitive damages against Defendant Carter pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 51-12-5.1.

215. Plaintiff is entitled to an award of punitive damages against each named Defendant as identified in this Count in an amount to be determined by the enlightened conscience of a fair and impartial jury.

COUNT VI

Attorneys' Fees Under O.C.G.A. § 13-6-11

216. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and re-alleges each and every allegation contained in this Complaint with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.

217. The Defendants in this action have acted in bad faith, have been stubbornly litigious, and have caused the Plaintiff unnecessary trouble and expense as provided under Georgia law.

218. The Defendants' bad faith and stubbornly litigious conduct have caused the Plaintiff unnecessary trouble and expense. Accordingly, Plaintiff is entitled to recover her reasonable attorney's fees and expenses of litigation as provided under O.C.G.A. § 13-6-11 in an amount to be proven at trial.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Victoria S. Bowles prays:

- (a) That the Complaint and summons be served upon the Defendants as required by law;
- (b) That, pursuant to Count I of this Complaint, a judgment be entered against Defendant UGA Athletic Association and in favor of Plaintiff Victoria S. Bowles for all general damages permitted under Georgia law in an amount to be proved at trial as well as for all special damages, for lost income and diminution in earnings capacity, in an amount to be proved at trial, and for past, present and future medical expenses in an amount not less than \$171,595.08;
- (c) That, pursuant to Count II of this Complaint, a judgment be entered against Defendant Jalen Carter and in favor of Plaintiff Victoria S. Bowles for all general damages permitted under Georgia law in an amount to be proven at trial as well as for all special damages, for lost income and diminution in earnings capacity, in an amount to be proved at trial, and for past, present and future medical expenses in an amount not less than \$171,595.08;

(d) That, pursuant to Count III of this Complaint, a judgment be entered against Chandler LeCroy by and through the representative of her Estate and in favor of Plaintiff Victoria S. Bowles for all general damages permitted under Georgia law in an amount to be proven at trial as well as for all special damages, for lost income and diminution in earnings capacity, in an amount to be proved at trial, and for past, present and future medical expenses in an amount not less than \$171,595.08;

(e) That, pursuant to Count IV of this Complaint, a judgment be entered against Defendant Jalen Breadman LLC and in favor of Plaintiff Victoria S. Bowles for all general damages permitted under Georgia law in an amount to be proven at trial as well as for all special damages, for lost income and diminution in earnings capacity, in an amount to be proved at trial, and for past, present and future medical expenses in an amount not less than \$171,595.08;

(f) That a judgment be entered against each Defendant named in Count V and in favor of Plaintiff Victoria S. Bowles for punitive damages, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 51-12-5.1, in an amount to be determined by the enlightened conscience of a fair and impartial jury;

(i) That, pursuant to Count VI Plaintiff Victoria S. Bowles recover her attorney's fees and expenses of litigation against all named Defendants under the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 13-6-11, as well as permitted by law, in an amount to be proven at trial;

(j) That Plaintiff have a trial by jury; and

(k) That Plaintiff have other and further relief as this Honorable Court deems legal, just, and equitable.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 12th day of July, 2023.

/s/ Robert C. Buck
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Georgia Bar No. 092495



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