

Comprehensive Statewide Jury Verdict Coverage

Civil Jury Verdicts

Complete and timely coverage of civil jury verdicts including circuit, division, presiding judge, parties, case number, attorneys and results.

Haunted House Negligence - While running through an outdoor haunted house amusement, the plaintiff slipped on a muddy trail and suffered a complex ankle fracture

Daugherty v. Field of Screams, 15-104

Plaintiff: Michael Schafer, *The*

Schafer Law Firm, Louisville

Defense: Melissa T. Richardson,

Walters Meadows Richardson,

Lexington

Verdict: Defense verdict on liability

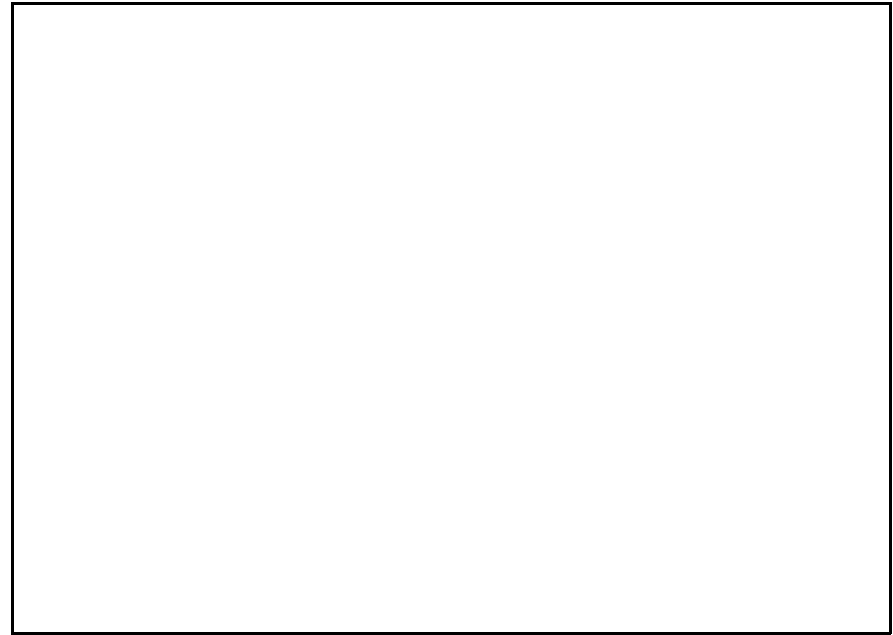
Court: **Meade**, J. Miller,

1-11-18

Cassidy Daugherty, age 17, visited the Field of Screams haunted house amusement on 10-18-14 with several friends. Field of Screams, located in Meade County, is a d/b/a of Scared and Confused, Inc. The amusement is large and features a corn maze, a haunted barn and a haunted forest. It is essentially a haunted house with the twist that all the attractions are outside.

Daugherty was traversing the haunted forest and was running on a trail. There was proof it was raining, but there was conflicting evidence as to how wet the trail was. In any event, the trail was a little muddy.

Daugherty slipped on the trail and landed hard. It is not clear if she was running or just walking. Daugherty told ER staff that she was running.

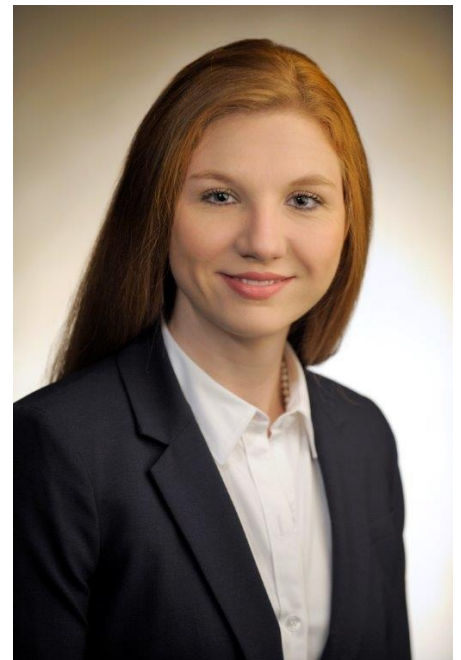


She would later testify she didn't remember saying that and that she wasn't running.

Whether running or not, Daugherty broke her ankle in two places. It was surgically repaired. Some five months later, Daugherty developed clots in her ankle. This led to a short hospitalization and she endured a series of daily shots to treat the clot. Then a year later, Daugherty had a second surgery to remove the hardware from the initial surgery.

Beyond the physical injuries, there was proof that this course of events aggravated a pre-existing history of depression and anxiety. Daugherty's medical bills were \$103,033 and her pain and suffering was limited to \$650,000.

Daugherty sued Field of Screams and alleged negligence by it in failing to maintain the trail. She argued more could have been done to prevent her



Melissa T. Richardson for the defense

fall and warn patrons of the muddy slip hazard, including the placement of signage.