



www.mcleod-lawgroup.com

Office Dial: 843-277-6655

Email: ellis@mcleod-lawgroup.com

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PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Ellis Roberts

CHARLESTON, SC – FLORENCE, SC

Press Release Issued by McLeod Law Group Regarding: *Daniel McElveen vs. Maurice Robinson*

MCLEOD LAW GROUP WINS 1.6 MILLION DOLLAR JURY VERDICT ON BEHALF OF PLAINTIFF IN FRATERNITY HAZING LAWSUIT

Yesterday evening a Florence County jury returned a verdict in favor of former Francis Marion University student Daniel McElveen for 1,600,000 dollars. The lawsuit stemmed from a fraternity hazing incident which occurred on the night of October 22, 2011 at Defendant Maurice Robinson's home in Florence, S.C. The victim was repeatedly beaten during the fraternity's "Hell Night" initiation process for Phi Beta Sigma's Francis Marion Chapter.

Defendant Maurice Robinson was at the time of the incident an alumnus of Francis Marion University and a high school teacher residing in Florence, South Carolina. He was a high ranking alumnus of Phi Beta Sigma and still active in the campus chapter. Defendant hosted the final initiation proceedings at his home in Florence, SC in October of 2011. While present in Defendant Robinson's home, Plaintiff was repeatedly hazed and beaten and suffered acute renal failure.

At trial the Defendant argued he was not responsible and that the Plaintiff was responsible for allowing himself to be hazed and beaten. Mr. McElveen through his counsel presented extensive evidence that hazing is not a consensual act but rather occurs because the perpetrators hold power and control over the victims. The jury returned a verdict for \$600,000 actual damages and \$1,000,000 in punitive damages against the Defendant.

In response to yesterday's verdict, lead trial attorney Mullins McLeod stated, "The jury rejected the idea that victims are to blame in hazing cases. I hope their verdict makes college students think twice before they brutally, physically haze innocent students. Hazing and bullying has no place in our schools or universities."

3 Morris Street, Suite A, Charleston, SC 29403
Phone: 843.277.6655 • toll free: 855.277.6997 • fax: 843.277.6660
www.mcleod-lawgroup.com



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Co-counsel Alan Kennington stated: "I knew when we took the case that it would be an uphill battle. However, we believed in Daniel. I could not be happier for him and his family."

Trial attorney James B. Moore III added, "Daniel McElveen has never asked for a hand out but understood the importance of holding the Defendant accountable for his actions. We believe the verdict was fair, just, and sends a message that hazing is unacceptable and will not be tolerated by this community. I am proud that Daniel had the courage to stand up and do what was right."

Following the verdict, Daniel McElveen, stated "Hazing is an injustice to all of us and I hope my case raises awareness about hazing and prevents others from being victimized."

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