

2015 NATIONAL SPORTS SAFETY AND SECURITY
CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION
JULY 6-9 | WALT DISNEY WORLD SWAN AND DOLPHIN RESORT | ORLANDO, FL

MOCK TRIAL EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This trial arises out of a violent assault upon Mark Robinson (“plaintiff” or “Robinson”) at Collegiate Stadium (the “Stadium”) located in Syracuse, New York on Opening Day 2013. The Opening Day game pitted two arch rival teams against each other and attendance for the game was an all-time high. Robinson was seriously injured when he became involved in an altercation with Trent Vincent (“Vincent”) and Scott Shatzle (“Shatzle”) in the parking lot of the Stadium after the game concluded. By all accounts, the altercation lasted less than a minute. However, Vincent and Shatzle had been warned by an usher during the game to stop cursing and trash-talking other spectators to cease their behavior or risk being ejected. Several spectators had made complaints to ushers and security supervisors stationed in their area that Vincent and Shatzle were drinking alcohol at a fast pace and belligerent. At least one complaint about Vincent and Shatzle were received in the Stadium’s command center via a text messaging system. None of these complaints were made by Robinson, however. There were no subsequent complaints after Vincent and Shatzle were warned by an usher and security supervisor. Based on blood alcohol testing conducted after the incident, Vincent and Shatzle were intoxicated at the time of the attack, as was Robinson. Although there was a security presence at the Stadium and its parking lots, security was en route to the parking lot at the precise moment of the assault. Vincent and Shatzle were subsequently arrested and are awaiting trial in connection with the attack upon Robinson.

Notwithstanding the heinous and brutal nature of the attack, Robinson did not name Vincent and Shatzle as defendants in his personal injury lawsuit. Instead, he sued the owners and operators of the Stadium and the President of Collegiate University and alleged that the defendants failed to provide proper security at the time and place of the accident. Robinson’s complaint included causes of action for (1) negligence; (2) premises liability; (3) negligent hiring, retention and supervision; and (4) negligent infliction of emotional distress. Summary judgment motions (including detailed expert and fact witness evidence) seeking the dismissal of the claims were denied by the Superior Court. The case, which captivated national attention because of the popularity of both the collegiate teams involved and the brutal nature of the attacks, is now poised for a jury trial before the Honorable Dana Alden Fox, J.S.C.