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Court of Common Pleas

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Confirmation Nbr. 1727926

KATHERINE LARSON

CV 19 916299

vs.

ADRIEN BRONER

Judge: NANCY MARGARET RUSSO

Pages Filed: 9

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OH**

<p>KATHERINE LARSON¹ c/o The Chandra Law Firm LLC The Chandra Law Building 1265 West 6th Street, Suite 400 Cleveland, OH 44113 <i>Plaintiff,</i></p> <p style="text-align:center">v.</p> <p>ADRIEN BRONER 3016 Junietta Avenue Cincinnati, OH 45211 <i>Defendant.</i></p>	<p>Case No.</p> <p>Judge</p>
COMPLAINT WITH JURY DEMAND	

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. This is an action for civil recovery for criminal acts under R.C. 2307.60, common-law assault, battery, and other torts arising in the early hours of June 9, 2018 when Defendant Adrien Broner sexually assaulted Plaintiff Katherine Larson at The Park Social Lounge in Cleveland. On April 8, 2019, Broner pleaded guilty to one count of assault and one count of unlawful restraint. He was sentenced to two years of community control and probation, required to submit to regular drug testing, and ordered to have no contact with the victim.

PARTIES

2. Plaintiff Katherine Larson works in Cuyahoga County, Ohio and resides in Lake County, Ohio.

¹ To protect her privacy as a sexual-assault victim, and due to her continuing fear of Defendant and his associates, Plaintiff is filing under a pseudonym and omitting her home address from this complaint. Her name is known to Defendant and the Court. She can be reached through her counsel.

3. Defendant Adrien Broner resides in Hamilton County, Ohio.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

4. This Court has jurisdiction because the suit concerns state-law violations by Defendant and the amount in controversy exceeds \$15,000.

5. The suit concerns civil liability for acts that occurred in this county.

6. Venue is proper here because the events at issue took place in this county.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Broner's history of violence (in and out of the boxing ring)

7. Defendant Adrien Broner has been a professional boxer since 2008. Of his 39 professional fights, he prevailed in 33, amassing 24 knockouts. He has held world championships in four weight classes.

8. Broner's propensity for violence is not confined to the boxing ring. In 2008, Broner was charged in Hamilton County, Ohio with intimidation of a crime victim/witness and aggravated menacing. The charges were later dismissed.

9. In 2012, Broner was charged in Hamilton County with disorderly conduct and pleaded *no lo contendere* in 2013.

10. Broner was charged with battery in Miami, Florida in 2013. On or about April 25, 2019, he was arrested on a bench warrant stemming from that charge, which remains pending.

11. On October 17, 2016, a waitress at Drai's nightclub in Las Vegas, Nevada accused Broner of choking her. Broner was cited for battery. The citation was dismissed in June 2017, then refiled in October. It remains pending.

12. In 2016, Broner was charged with felonious assault and aggravated robbery in Hamilton County, Ohio stemming from an incident in which he was accused of pulling a gun on and

robbing a bystander at a Madisonville bowling alley. The charges were dropped when the prosecution's witness did not appear in court.

13. On February 13, 2018, Broner was accused of grabbing a woman's vagina at a mall in Georgia. He was charged with misdemeanor sexual battery and booked into Fulton County jail in Atlanta. He was later released on bail.

Adrien Broner assaults Ms. Larson at The Park Social Lounge.

14. On or about June 8, 2018, Katherine Larson and a friend were at The Park Social Lounge, located at 1299 West 9th Street, in the late evening. The bar was crowded with patrons watching Game 4 of the NBA Finals between the Cleveland Cavaliers and Golden State Warriors.

15. Before that evening, Broner was a complete stranger to Ms. Larson.

16. In June of 2018, Broner weighed approximately 170 pounds (it had been about six weeks since he would have had to make weight for his fight against Jessie Vargas on April 21, 2018).

17. Ms. Larson, by contrast, is a petite 5'3" and slender.

18. Ms. Larson found a seat on a couch and her friend sat on an ottoman diagonally from Ms. Larson. There were two other women to her left on the couch.

19. Ms. Larson and her friend were chatting with others sitting nearby when Broner appeared from nowhere, thrust himself on to Ms. Larson, pinned her beneath his body, and began kissing her.

20. Ms. Larson did not consent to this violent sexual contact and gave Broner no reason to believe it would be welcome.

21. Broner's attack pressed Ms. Larson onto the laps of the two women sitting next to her on the couch. The woman immediately beside Ms. Larson was trapped beneath Ms. Larson's body

during the assault. The second woman—who was sitting on the far end of the couch—freed herself and got up.

22. Broner continued to use his body weight to keep Ms. Larson beneath him, as he put his tongue down Ms. Larson's throat.

23. Ms. Larson turned her head to the side to get his tongue out of her mouth. When she turned away, Broner began kissing her neck.

24. Ms. Larson tried to push Broner off of her, but she was not strong enough to counter his strength. She was trapped beneath a stranger, scared and desperate for help.

25. Ms. Larson's friend, seeing Ms. Larson under attack, implored a bystander to get the attacker off of Ms. Larson. But the man refused to intervene, saying, "No, you get him off of her. That's Adrien Broner." On information and belief, the man ("the useless bystander") was aware of Broner's violent propensity and world-renowned fighting skill.

26. Broner continued to press himself on top of Ms. Larson and forcibly kiss her body, until a camera flash went off as if someone were taking a photo of him assaulting Ms. Larson. On information and belief, the woman who had escaped from the couch after the attack began snapped the photo with her cell phone.

27. After the camera flash, another (less-useless) bystander—believed to be one of Broner's friends—then pulled Broner off of Ms. Larson.

28. Broner immediately fled the scene with the man who had pulled him off of Ms. Larson.

29. Ms. Larson and her friend left Park Social and went to report the attack to law enforcement.

Ms. Larson reports the sexual assault; Broner is charged and pleads guilty.

30. At 2:30 a.m., Ms. Larson reported the attack to Officer Eric Drost at Cleveland's Third District Police Station. Officer Drost took statements from Ms. Larson and her friend and documented Ms. Larson's physical injuries.

31. On October 29, 2018, a Cuyahoga County grand jury indicted Broner for his assault on Ms. Larson.

32. On April 8, 2019, Broner pleaded guilty to assault on and unlawful restraint of Ms. Larson.

33. Ms. Larson sought, received, and continues to receive medical treatment as a result of Broner's unlawful acts, and incurred costs for treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder resulting from the attack.

Broner's violent propensity has continued to manifest itself since the attack.

34. Days after the attack, Broner posted on Instagram: "2 nite I want somebody to try to kill me so I can kill them or die."

35. Broner was unable to attend the January 7, 2019 pretrial for the State of Ohio's case against him for his assault on Ms. Larson (*The State of Ohio v. Adrien Broner*) because he had another court appearance that same day in Atlanta, Georgia for the February 13, 2018 allegations of sexual assault at the mall.

36. In March 2019, Broner posted a disturbing homophobic selfie-video on his Instagram account. Broner threatens battery and murder to the LGBT community, stating "If any fag, punk ass nigga come run up on me, trying to touch me on all that gay shit, I'm letting you know right now, if I ain't got my gun on me, I'm knocking you the fuck out. If I got my gun on me, I'm shooting you in the fucking face, and that's on God and them. I'm not playing with none of these niggas. I don't like gay shit."

37. Broner's violent disposition is dangerous to innocent bystanders in his presence, viewers of his personal media content, and society at large.

CLAIM 1
INTENTIONAL TORT—ASSAULT

38. Plaintiff incorporates all previous allegations.

39. Defendant's intentional actions caused Plaintiff reasonable apprehension of an immediate harmful or offensive contact.

40. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's unlawful activity, Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer economic and non-economic damages for which Defendant is liable.

41. Defendant's acts were willful, egregious, malicious, and worthy of substantial sanction to punish and deter Defendant and others from engaging in this type of unlawful conduct.

CLAIM 2
INTENTIONAL TORT—BATTERY

42. Plaintiff incorporates all previous allegations.

43. Defendant intentionally caused harm or offensive contact to Plaintiff without her consent.

44. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's unlawful activity, Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer economic and non-economic damages for which Defendant is liable.

45. Defendant's acts were willful, egregious, malicious, and worthy of substantial sanction to punish and deter Defendant and others from engaging in this type of unlawful conduct.

CLAIM 3
INTENTIONAL TORT—FALSE IMPRISONMENT

46. Plaintiff incorporates all previous allegations.

47. Defendant intentionally confined Plaintiff without her consent, violating her right to be free from restraint of movement.

48. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's unlawful activity, Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer economic and non-economic damages for which Defendant is liable.

49. Defendant's acts were willful, egregious, malicious, and worthy of substantial sanction to punish and deter Defendant and others from engaging in this type of unlawful conduct.

CLAIM 4
INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

50. Plaintiff incorporates all previous allegations.

51. In conducting himself as he did, Defendant either intended to cause emotional distress or knew or should have known that the actions taken would result in serious emotional distress to Plaintiff.

52. Defendant's conduct in assaulting and unlawfully restraining Plaintiff went beyond all possible bounds of decency and was such that it could be considered intolerable in civilized society.

53. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's unlawful conduct, Plaintiff suffered and will continue to suffer mental anguish so serious and of a nature that no reasonable individual could be expected to endure it and for which Defendant is liable.

54. Defendant's acts were willful, egregious, malicious, and worthy of substantial sanction to punish and deter Defendant and others from engaging in this type of unlawful conduct.

CLAIM 5
CIVIL LIABILITY FOR CRIMINAL ACTS UNDER
R.C. 2307.60 (A)(1) AND, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, R.C. 2903.13(A) (ASSAULT),
R.C. 2905.01(A)(4) (KIDNAPPING), R.C. 2905.02(A)(2) (ABDUCTION), R.C. 2905.02(B)
(ABDUCTION), R.C. 2905.03(A) (UNLAWFUL RESTRAINT), R.C. 2905.03(B) (UNLAWFUL
RESTRAINT), AND R.C. 2907.05(A)(1) (GROSS SEXUAL IMPOSITION)

55. Plaintiff incorporates all previous allegations.

56. Under R.C. 2307.60(A)(1), "Anyone injured in person or property by a criminal act has, and may recover full damages in, a civil action," including attorneys' fees and punitive damages.

57. R.C. 2903.13(A) provides that “no person shall knowingly cause or attempt to cause physical harm to another...”

58. R.C. 2905.01(A)(4) provides that “no person, by force, threat, or deception...shall...restrain the liberty of the other person...to engage in sexual activity, as defined in section 2907.01 of the Revised Code, with the victim against the victim’s will...”

59. R.C. 2905.02(A)(2) provides that “no person, without privilege to do so, shall knowingly...by force or threat, restrain the liberty of another person under circumstances that create a risk of physical harm to the victim or place the other person in fear...”

60. R.C. 2905.02(B) provides that “no person, with a sexual motivation, shall violate division (A) of this section.

61. R.C. 2905.03(A) provides that no person “without privilege to do so, shall knowingly restrain another of the other person’s liberty.”

62. R.C. 2905.03(B) provides that no person “without privilege to do so and with a sexual motivation, shall knowingly restrain another of the other person’s liberty.”

63. R.C. 2907.05(A)(1) provides that “no person shall have sexual contact with another...[when] the offender purposely compels the other person...to submit by force or threat of force.”

64. R.C. 2971.01(J) defines “sexual motivation” as “a purpose to gratify the sexual needs or desires of the offender.”

65. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant’s unlawful activity, Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer economic and non-economic damages for which Defendant is liable.

66. Defendant’s acts were willful, egregious, malicious, and worthy of substantial sanction to punish and deter Defendant and others from engaging in this type of unlawful conduct.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

For the reasons stated above, Plaintiff respectfully requests the following relief from the Court.

- A. Declare that Defendant's acts and conduct constitute violations of Ohio law;
- B. Enter judgment in Ms. Larson's favor as to all claims for relief;
- C. Award Ms. Larson full compensatory damages, economic and non-economic, including, but not limited to, damages for pain and suffering, mental anguish, emotional distress, humiliation, and inconvenience that Ms. Larson has suffered and is reasonably certain to suffer in the future.
- D. Award Ms. Larson punitive damages for Defendant's intentional and malicious violations of Ohio law;
- E. Award pre-judgment and post-judgment interest at the highest lawful rate;
- F. Award Ms. Larson her reasonable attorneys' fees (including expert fees) and all other costs of this suit;
- G. Award all other relief in law or equity to which Ms. Larson is entitled and that the Court deems equitable, just, or proper.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all issues within this Complaint.

Dated: June 4, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

THE CHANDRA LAW FIRM LLC

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