

## **\$66.5 MILLION VERDICT AWARDED IN TRAGIC WRONGFUL DEATH AT ATLANTA NIGHTCLUB**

**ATLANTA (November 14, 2025)** – In a decision that echoes far beyond the courtroom, the family of Mariam “Mari” Creighton has taken their first step towards justice for the loss of their beloved daughter. After a heartbreaking trial on October 27, 2025, the State Court of Fulton County issued a verdict ordering the Eleven 45 Defendants—including Djibril Dafe, Sovereign Entertainment, Inc., Eleven 45 Inc., and Eleven 45 Lounge, LLC—to pay \$66,575,000 in damages for their roles in the events that led to Mari’s untimely death.

### **A Life Full of Promise, Cut Short**

Mari Creighton was a vibrant 21-year-old student-athlete at Albany State University, known for her infectious smile and her prowess on the volleyball court. On May 12, 2024, Mariam’s life was tragically ended in a hail of gunfire at the Eleven45 Lounge in Buckhead, Atlanta—a place that should have been a haven for celebration and community.

The lawsuit, brought by Mari’s mother, Tracey Eason, and father, Juan Umberto Creighton, revealed a harrowing pattern of negligence and disregard for safety at the Eleven45 Lounge. The complaint detailed how the defendants failed to address ongoing violent incidents, ignored the need for adequate security, and allowed dangerous conditions to persist—despite repeated warnings and prior violent events at the venue.

On that fateful night, an armed individual was allowed to enter and remain inside the crowded club. When violence erupted, a mass shooting erupted and six patrons were shot, including Mari, an innocent bystander. The court previously issued an order finding the Eleven45 Defendants liable for their role in the incident and setting a damages trial on October 27, 2025, to determine how much they would have to pay.

### **The Team & Strategy**

The family was represented in the trial by Parker Miller and Key Lamberth from Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis & Miles, P.C.; The Law Office of Mike T. Sterling & Associates; and Darren Summerville of The Summerville Firm, LLC.

Lead trial counsel Parker Miller of Beasley Allen had this to say in response to the verdict:

“We are pleased with the Court’s verdict and believe this is a good first step for justice for this family. A verdict of this magnitude is heartbreaking because it reveals how enormous the loss was. While the Eleven45 Defendants lost today, and the consequence for their actions is significant, the biggest loser of all was Mari, her family, and our community. An excellent student athlete, a loving daughter, and a great friend – she had sixty years of life expectancy left and so much to offer.”

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Speaking on the strategy of the case, Miller added, “In a case like this, the stars of the show are the evidence and the quality of your witnesses, and we wanted to make sure both were delivered to the court in a concise yet powerful way. Mari’s best friend, who was with her that night, was the first witness, and she testified in excruciating detail as to Mari’s pain and suffering. Mari’s family followed, and they did an outstanding job – hard as it was – to describe to the court how beautiful Mari was.”

### **The Court’s Decision**

After a thorough review of the evidence, Judge Eady awarded the following in damages:

- \$5,625,000 for Mariam’s pre-death pain and suffering
- \$60,950,000 for the wrongful death claim
- Total: \$66,575,000 in damages, to be paid jointly and severally by the Eleven 45 Defendants

Now the case will transition to the enablers of the property. “This verdict was part of the first phase of this case. Now, given the long line of complaints and the history of violence occurring there, there are serious questions to be answered as to how this club was allowed to operate there and remain open,” Miller said.

e with the hope of preventing something like this from happening to another family.”

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