



Terry D. Jackson, P.C.

Trial Lawyers

████████████████████  
April 11, 2023

**Via Federal Express Tracking No. 7718 1384 5549, Email ██████████, 1<sup>st</sup> Class U.S. Mail & Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested 7022 0410 0002 0126 7886**

Dr. Sonny Perdue, Chancellor  
Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia  
270 Washington Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, GA 30334

**Via Federal Express Tracking No. 7718 1370 2911, Email ██████████, 1<sup>st</sup> Class U.S. Mail & Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested 7022 3330 0002 0116 0761**

Wade Damron, Director Risk Management Services Division  
Georgia Department of Administrative Services  
200 Piedmont Avenue SE, Suite 1220 West Tower  
Atlanta, GA 30334

**Via Federal Express Tracking No. 7718 1375 5742, Email ██████████, 1<sup>st</sup> Class U.S. Mail & Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested 7022 3330 0002 0116 0754**

The Honorable Christopher M. Carr, Attorney General  
State of Georgia  
40 Capitol Square, S.W.  
Atlanta, GA 30334

**Ante Litem Notice Pursuant to the Georgia Tort Claims Act, O.C.G.A. § 50-21-26**

Re: *Claimant:* Dave Willock, Wrongful Death  
Claimant and Biological Father of Devin Alex Willock &  
On Behalf of the Estate of Devin Alex Willock

*Date:* January 15, 2023, Approximately 2:45 a.m.  
(See Exhibit 1, Incident Report)

Wrongful Death of Devin Willock on January 15, 2023,  
(See Exhibit 2, Death Certificate Devin Alex Willock)

Dr. Sonny Perdue, Chancellor  
Wade Damron, Director Risk Management Services Division  
The Honorable Christopher M. Carr, Attorney General  
April 11, 2023  
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*Location:* Collision on 15 January 2023  
Clarke County, GA  
930 Barnett Shoals Road, Athens, GA

*See Exhibit 1, Incident Report*

*Amount Demanded:* \$1,000,000.00 (One Million Dollars), for the Wrongful  
Death of Devin Alex Willock by Dave Willock on behalf of  
himself and Sharlene Willock

\$1,000,000.00 (One Million Dollars), for the Claims of the  
Personal Administrator of the Estate of Devin Alex Willock  
by Dave Willock on behalf of the Court Appointed  
Personal Administrator of The Estate of  
Devin Alex Willock

**Total Demand of \$2,000,000.00 (Two Million Dollars)**

Dear Chancellor Perdue, Mr. Damron & Atty. Gen. Carr:

My name is Terry Jackson, and along with William Stiles and M. Gino Brogdon Sr. we represent Dave Willock. A personal administrator has not yet been appointed for Devin Willock's Estate, but this *ante litem* notice is presented on its behalf too as the appointment of the Estate's personal administrator is pending in the Clarke County Probate Court.

Devin Willock died without a spouse or children, born or *in utero*, and his parents Dave and Sharlene Willock are the sole heirs of his Estate and the wrongful death claimants for his death under Georgia law. We do not represent Sharlene Willock, but there is only one death claim under Georgia law, one set of Estate claims, and this notice will protect her right of recovery too.

The purpose of this letter is to perfect a required statutory *ante litem* notice as required by the Georgia Tort Claims Act at O.C.G.A. § 50-21-26.

This notice of claim, *ante litem* notice, under O.C.G.A. § 50-21-26 states to the extent of the claimants' knowledge and belief and as may be practicable under the circumstances—regarding the personal injuries and resulting death of Devin Alex Willock (hereinafter “Devin”) brought by Dave Willock on his behalf and his wife for the death of Devin. This notice is also provided on behalf of the Court Appointed Personal Administrator of the Estate of Devin Alex Willock for the Estate's claims, for the personal administrator of that Estate who has yet to be appointed. Mr. & Mrs. Willock are sole heirs of the Estate. Again, we do not represent Mrs. Willock, but this *ante litem* notice is presented to protect the interest of both parents in the wrongful death claim under Georgia law, and the Estate's claims.

**Description of the Incident Causing Injuries:**

On January 15, 2023 at approximately 2:45 a.m. Devin Willock was a backseat passenger in a vehicle operated by Chandler Louise LeCroy. Ms. LeCroy was a W-2 employee of the University of Georgia (hereinafter "UGA").

Ms. LeCroy was provided as a permissive driver a Ford Expedition for her use by her supervisors/agents and/or employees of the University of Georgia Athletic Association, Inc. (hereinafter "UGAAA"). The purpose of the UGAAA and UGA providing her the vehicle for the weekend was to drive coaches, football recruits and players to National Championship Celebration sites and/or recruiting sites, activities on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of January. LeCroy was instructed to keep the vehicle the entire weekend, and to be on call that weekend to serve coaches, recruits, and players as needed during the Championship Celebrations that weekend.

Ms. LeCroy was told and instructed by agents and employees of UGA and UGAAA prior to January 13<sup>th</sup> that her weekend was not her own, and that she and other recruiting analysts' sole purpose that weekend would be providing transportation to recruits and players for Celebration and recruiting activities. LeCroy and other analysts were told that they would be driving and entertaining recruits and players until the National Championship Celebrations and recruiting weekend ended on Sunday, January 15, 2023 in the evening, or on Monday, January 16, 2023 when all recruits left Athens, Georgia.

Written, verbal, text and email messages will demonstrate that instruction or purpose set by the UGAAA and UGA for the vehicle assigned to LeCroy that weekend.

LeCroy was told where her "vehicle" provided by UGA and UGAAA for her use that weekend was located, where the keys or fobs to her assigned vehicle would be located, and that she was to keep her vehicle until all recruiting and Celebration activities ended that weekend. The instructions or purpose provided to Ms. LeCroy by UGA and UGAAA agents and employees for her to keep the keys or fobs all weekend were standard instructions provided to LeCroy and other recruiting analysts who drove recruits around and entertained them in Athens during football recruiting weekends.

LeCroy and other Recruiting Analysts attended Celebrations at various sites in Athens, and alcohol was present and provided to her by UGAAA, and other recruiting analysts and attendees, recruits, and players who attended those UGA and UGAAA Celebration and recruiting events. LeCroy and other analysts consumed alcohol, and drove their assigned recruits, players, and coaching staff members to and from various Celebration/recruiting sites as the analysts were directed to that weekend.

One of the analysts, Ms. Victoria “Tory” Bowles, was asked by a coaching staff member for the keys to her assigned vehicle on Saturday evening January 14th, and she provided her keys or fobs to the UGAAA staff member so he could drive the recruit around campus for the rest of the recruiting visit. Ms. Bowles then obtained a ride with Ms. LeCroy from the recruiting site where she left the coach and recruit assigned to Bowles for recruiting purposes that day.

Bowles and LeCroy were asked, and they agreed to accompany players and recruits to several Athens locations to celebrate, which was their assigned purpose that weekend, before they agreed to meet players and recruits at Toppers, an adult entertainment site in Downtown Athens.

The Toppers club was full of UGA players including those who gave statements to Athens police describing that the club was full of UGA players, and there were also recruits there at the club and other sites. The Celebration for the twice National Champions continued until the early morning hours of Sunday, January 15, 2023.

Twice champs, awesome! Go Dawgs!!

Several players approached LeCroy and Bowles before leaving the strip club and suggested that they go to Waffle House. Devin Willock and Warren McClendon asked LeCroy for a ride to the Waffle House, and she agreed as directed by her supervisors.

LeCroy, her passengers, and the vehicle operated by Jalen Carter and his passenger Taniya Pierce left downtown Athens, GA at approximately 2:39 a.m. after spending several hours drinking and celebrating the National Championship at Toppers strip club, and other Athens locations with other UGA athletes and recruits.

Video and media accounts, including the police investigative file, show that LeCroy and Jalen Carter sped through downtown Athens and ultimately onto Barnett Shoals Road where they stopped at the first Waffle House, and were told by its personnel that they would only accept single ticket orders. LeCroy met Carter in the parking lot as he pulled into the Waffle House behind her, and she told him that they should go further down Barnett Shoals to a second Waffle House where LeCroy could pay for everyone on a single ticket.

Both vehicles (LeCroy’s and Carter’s) were shown racing close to each other on videos obtained by the Athens Clarke County police in its investigation.

Enroute Carter and LeCroy raced each other to their common destination at the second Waffle House further down on Barnett Shoals Road, reaching speeds exceeding 100 mph, before LeCroy lost control of her vehicle while racing Carter around the curve, killing Devin Willock and herself in the process. A horrible end to a night of a historic Celebration and recruiting weekend.

The collision occurred approximately six (6) minutes after leaving downtown Athens, and less than a mile from the Waffle House, their final destination.

Ms. LeCroy's judgment was substantially impaired by alcohol at the time of the collision, as she was street racing with Jalen Carter. At the time of the crash the ACM (airbag control module) computer on LeCroy's vehicle shows that she was traveling in excess of 104 mph in the five seconds before the crash. The Georgia Crime Lab toxicology report shows that her blood alcohol level was .197 (more than double the legal limit), and she and others were drinking at Toppers, a strip club, in downtown Athens. LeCroy consumed alcohol at various UGAAA sites and Celebration locations on January 14, 2023 before the crash—as did other attendees at those Celebration sites. Alcohol supplied by the UGAAA caterers to attendees.

Prior to January 13, 2023 the supervisors of LeCroy had actual knowledge that she had a history of speeding tickets, including one in the fall of 2022 where she was speeding in Morgan County and her UGAAA supervisor was in the vehicle with her when she got the ticket. This Morgan County super-speeder ticket was reported within the Athletic Association to supervisors of LeCroy and others, UGA and UGAAA supervisors knew about the ticket, and the UGAAA police liaison or "fixer" Bryant Gantt attempted to intercede on her behalf to get the ticket reduced in Morgan County. But, Morgan County Court personnel declined to reduce the ticket due to LeCroy's past driving history for excessive speeding tickets.

UGA and UGAAA also admitted to the media that their agents and employees pulled or checked LeCroy's driving records prior to January of 2023 and were aware of her history of excessive speeding in vehicles prior to hiring her, and after hiring her. Yet LeCroy continued to be entrusted with vehicles to carry out the purposes of UGA and the UGAAA. LeCroy was a permissive driver of the vehicle leased by the UGAAA and UGA at the time of the crash, given permission to drive it for purposes of attending the Celebration and recruiting activities with recruits, players, and coaches on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of January.

To be clear, UGA and UGAAA agents and employees negligently entrusted a vehicle to LeCroy. Likewise, UGA and UGAAA agents and employees negligently hired, supervised, trained and retained LeCroy.

Devin Willock was consciously aware of LeCroy's excessive speed and an impending collision in the moments prior to his death. The vehicle LeCroy was driving first hit the sidewalk curbing deflating one of her tires, she then hit tree limbs, a power pole, a parking lot light pole, more trees, and finally hit an apartment building that resulted in Devin being ejected out of the driver's side rear window above the rear wheel well or from the rear tailgate window of the Expedition. Devin Willock was fatally wound as a result of the head and other injuries sustained in the crash including the injuries as he hit the vehicle components and was ejected onto the sidewalk in the parking lot of the apartment building that the Expedition hit before it came to a rest.

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The UGAAA, and their agents and employees, and Ms. LeCroy will be sued separately from the Board of Regents, as the UGAAA has charitable immunity under State law subject to its waiver by its purchase of insurance, and it also waives its immunity for the negligent hiring, entrustment of a vehicle, supervision, training and retention of Ms. LeCroy. The UGAAA and UGA do not have sovereign immunity for the conduct of Ms. LeCroy, and negligent, reckless, wilful, wanton and consciously indifferent conduct of the agents and employees of UGA and the UGAAA that were aware of her checkered driving history yet entrusted a vehicle to her for the UGAAA's purposes that weekend.

LeCroy's negligent, negligent per se, wilful, wanton, reckless, deliberately indifferent, and consciously indifferent conduct includes violations of O.C.G.A. §§ 40-6-180, 40-6-181, 40-6-168, 40-6-390, 40-6-391, 40-6-393, and 40-6-394.

We will also seek attorneys' fees and costs under both O.C.G.A. §§ 13-6-11 and/or 9-11-68 if this *ante litem* notice demand is not accepted for the tort claims act claims. Mr. Willock will be entitled to his fees and costs upon proper service of the Rule 68 demand after suit is filed in this matter in which there is bad faith in the underlying collision and where there is no *bona fide* dispute to liability or damages under the Tort Claims Act.

**This *ante litem* notice provided to you complies with Georgia Tort Claims Act at O.C.G.A. 50-21-26(a)(5)(A-F) including:**

**(A) The name of the state government entity, the acts or omissions of which are asserted as the basis of the claim:**

Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia

**(B) The time of the transaction or occurrence out of which the loss arose:**

January 15, 2023, at approximately 2:45 a.m.

See Exhibit 1, *Incident Report*

**(C) The place of the transaction or occurrence:**

930 Barnett Shoals Road, Athens, GA  
Clarke County, Georgia

See Exhibit 1, *Incident Report*

**(D) The nature of the loss suffered:**

Mr. Dave Willock, individually, and on behalf of his wife seeks recovery for the wrongful death of their son, the full value of Devin's life, as provided by O.C.G.A. §§ 51-4-1, 51-4-4, 19-7-1(c) et seq. and interpreting caselaw.

Mr. Dave Willock on behalf of the Court Appointed Personal Administrator of Devin's Estate, seeks recovery of Devin's last funeral, burial, medical expenses and his physical and mental pain and suffering arising out of his injuries in the collision before death as provided by Georgia law. O.C.G.A. § 51-4-5 and interpreting case law. Devin was consciously, patently aware of an impending collision with the sidewalk, trees, poles, and apartment building and suffered conscious shock, mental apprehension, and mental and physical pain and suffering prior to his death.

**(E) The amount of the loss claimed:**

\$1,000,000.00 (one million dollars, U.S.) for the wrongful death claim of the parents as provided by O.C.G.A. § 51-4-1, 51-4-2 et seq. *See also* O.C.G.A. § 50-21-29(b)(1).

\$1,000,000.00 (one million dollars, U.S.) for the claims of the Estate of Devin Willock by the Court Appointed Personal Administrator for Devin's Estate, for all claims it is entitled to recover in law as set out by O.C.G.A. § 51-4-5(b) including last funeral/burial, medical, and pre-death mental and physical pain and suffering of Devin Willock. *See* O.C.G.A. § 50-21-29(b)(1).

**Total Demand, \$2,000,000.00 (two million dollars, U.S.) for the Georgia Tort Claims Act claims of the claimants. See O.C.G.A. § 50-21-29(b)(1).** This *ante litem* notice will not include any claims against the UGAAA, Chandler LeCroy's Estate and agents and employees of UGA and the UGAAA for claims against those individuals under 42 U.S.C. §§ 1983 et seq. including claims for attorneys' fees, costs for LeCroy's and her supervisors' reckless, wilful, wanton, consciously indifferent, and deliberately indifferent conduct in street racing with Jalen Carter in her UGA and UGAAA provided vehicle while her judgment was substantially impaired by alcohol.

Again, this *ante litem* notice amount shall not include resolution of any 1983 claims against any other employee for their supervision, entrustment, training, and retention of LeCroy showing deliberate indifference to the consequences. This *ante litem* notice only includes claims against the Board of Regents as an entity. It will take more than \$2,000,000 to resolve the claimants' 1983 claims against the individual actors, and the UGAAA.

**(F) The acts or omissions which caused the loss.**

LeCroy's negligent, negligent per se, wilful, wanton, reckless, deliberately indifferent, and consciously indifferent conduct includes violations of O.C.G.A. §§ 40-6-180, 40-6-181, 40-6-168, 40-6-390, 40-6-391, 40-6-393, and 40-6-394.

The conduct of her supervisors with actual knowledge of her pattern of speeding in vehicles, including trying to fix tickets for her so that she could continue to drive recruits, players, family members of recruits and players, and coaches in UGAAA provided vehicles as directed by her supervisors including at the time of this collision shows negligent entrustment, supervision, training, hiring, and wilful, reckless, wanton, and consciously indifferent conduct to the consequences in this matter.

We have presented claims against the Board of Regents waiving its immunity under Georgia law and the Tort Claims Act that are presently known, and that may be discovered as additional evidence is revealed in discovery by the plaintiff claimants' counsel as discovery proceeds once suit is filed.

**42 U.S.C. §§ 1981, 1983 et seq. claims against individual employee &  
Claims Against the Athletic Association**

Ms. LeCroy acted recklessly, wilfully, wantonly, with conscious and deliberate indifference to the consequences while operating a vehicle while impaired by alcohol, a blood alcohol level of .197 at her death due to her leaving the strip club less than 10 minutes earlier.

As the State's attorneys know, the § 1983 claims against individual employees are not subject to *ante litem* notice requirements.

The claims against LeCroy and her supervisors, individually, for the § 1983 claims are not included in the amount claimed for the Tort Claims Act claims in this notice that are capped at \$2,000,000 as set out above. It will take substantially more than \$2,000,000 to settle the § 1983 claims against the individual actors for their reckless, deliberately indifferent conduct resulting in the death of Devin Willock. The death and Estate claims against the individual actors can be resolved by the DOAS, but it will be for more than the Tort Claims Act caps against the Board of Regents as a state agency.

The state has \$30,000,000.00 in coverage for vehicles owned, hired, etc. by it for use by it or its agents and employees including but not limited to the policies identified at *Exhibit 3, Policy Summary*. The State of course has a \$3,000,000 self-retention tort fund for its vehicles too, as provided by the DOAS.

The 42 U.S.C. § 1983 et seq. claims for an impaired driver, street racing, is reckless, wilful, wanton and deliberately indifferent conduct for which there is no cap or limitation in law. The same is true of her supervisors who knew of her pattern of poor driving and "partying" but provided her a vehicle for the UGAAA's purposes the weekend of January 13, 2023 to entertain and transport recruits, their families, and players.



Supervisors providing keys, etc. to recruiting assistants for the purpose of entertaining players and recruits over the Championship weekend is clear, but UGA denying those facts in the media after the events is poor form at best. Public comments by the UGA Athletic Director, supervisors and administrators diminishing their role in this incident and blaming LeCroy does not lead the way, and it is less than expected. Admit your mistakes, take your medicine, and move on as best you can in the wake of this tragedy—that is truth and leadership.

The UGAAA is liable separate and distinct from Ms. LeCroy, the other individual actors, and the Board of Regents. The UGAAA's charitable immunity is waived as provided by law and its negligence in entrusting, permitting LeCroy to operate its vehicle that weekend, and negligently supervising her use and training her for the UGAAA's purpose to entertain and transport players and recruits the Celebration weekend is conduct for which it is liable.

### Conclusion

Mr. Willock believes, and the evidence shows that this incident is a clear liability, horrific damages collision resulting in the death of Devin Willock.

The value of the death and Estate claims easily exceed \$30,000,000.00 but unfortunately, we are cabined by the damages caps in the Georgia Tort Claims Act for claims against the Board of Regents, limiting damages against the Board of Regents to \$2,000,000 for this incident. This *ante litem* notice will only extinguish the Tort Claims Act Claims against the Board of Regents.

This notice will not release the 42 U.S.C. § 1983 et seq. claims against Ms. LeCroy and her supervisors for their negligent hiring, supervision, entrustment, training and retention claims showing reckless, deliberate indifference in this matter unless there is a negotiated release for the claims against her Estate and the supervisors responsible for LeCroy's use of the vehicle. Nor will this notice extinguish any claims against the UGAAA as a nonprofit entity separate from the Board of Regents.

LeCroy and other "recruiting analysts" or young, attractive women were used to entertain and drive recruits and players around Athens in rented luxury SUVs **as she was directed, the purpose provided her** during the Championship weekend Celebrations. That purpose or direction given to the analysts may have served the UGAAA's purposes for the Celebration and recruiting activities that weekend, but serving that purpose did not end well for the Willock family or the LeCroy and Bowles families. LeCroy, Bowles and others were simply following the purpose of the UGAAA that weekend as stated to them.

It is fortunate that neither Carter, his passenger, or other UGA students on their way home from or to the same Waffle House were not killed during this alcohol fueled street race to a Waffle House to feed a group of hungry players and recruits. This case is one that merits the full \$2,000,000 damages resolution under the Tort Claims Act, without dispute, for the claims presented against the Board of Regents only. *See O.C.G.A. § 50-21-29(b)*.

Dr. Sonny Perdue, Chancellor  
Wade Damron, Director Risk Management Services Division  
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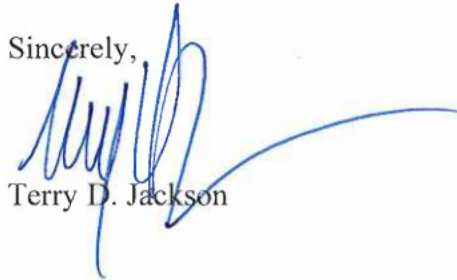
We look forward to your response accepting this *ante litem* notice demand as set out in the Georgia Tort Claims Act.

Again, so it is clear, this *ante litem* notice does not include nor shall it act as a release of any 42 U.S.C. §§ 1981, 1983 et seq. claims against LeCroy and other individuals in their individual capacities, only the Board of Regents will be given a release.

This notice, if accepted, will not release any claims against the UGAAA by Mr. Willock or the Estate either. It is a separate entity and a separate demand on it will resolve claims against it.

If you have any questions about this *ante litem* notice, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Terry D. Jackson

TDJ/klh

cc: Ron Boyter ( [REDACTED]  
Scott Bailey ( [REDACTED]  
Mike Raeber ( [REDACTED]  
Will Lawler ( [REDACTED]  
William E. Stiles ( [REDACTED]  
M. Gino Brogdon ( [REDACTED]

Enclosures: Exhibit 1, Incident Report  
Exhibit 2, Willock Death Certificate  
Exhibit 3, Insurance Policy Summary