

Statement of Gloria Allred

Today we filed a lawsuit in New York Supreme Court on behalf of La Rivers against Beautique (a restaurant, lounge in New York City) and against a Beautique manager who according to the lawsuit assaulted Ms. Rivers.

Beautique asserts on its website that it is “frequented by celebrities in entertainment and music” and after the kitchen closes “becomes one of the hottest nightclubs in New York City”. Although the New York Post has called Beautique New York City’s “newest millionaire lair”, Ms. Rivers knew only that Beautique would be an opulent place to end an evening with her father and a few friends over Father’s Day weekend. She and her group had gone to Beautique to celebrate her appearance in a movie, but instead of a celebration, her night ended with Ms. River’s becoming a victim in an assault, steps from the entrance to the club. Ms. Rivers was seriously injured as a result of the assault and she was left unconscious, bleeding profusely and in need of reconstructive surgery to repair multiple fractures to her face.

According to our lawsuit, on June 20, 2015, Ms. Rivers set out for the evening with two friends and her father. Her dad was visiting her from Chicago for Father's Day weekend.

The group began the night at the Player's Theater downtown, where they watched the premier of a film in which Ms. Rivers acted at the Manhattan Film Festival.

Ms. Rivers went to a cafe nearby for dinner, and then to a post-premier celebration. At approximately 12:30 a.m., Ms. Rivers, her father, and her friends arrived at Beautique, where they met another friend to conclude their night out.

Because Ms. Rivers was hosting her father for the weekend, she had only two glasses of wine in total during these events, and she was completely sober when she arrived at and left Beautique.

At approximately 2:00 a.m., Ms. Rivers left Beautique with her friends and father and went to hail a taxi. As the taxi pulled up to Ms. Rivers, a Beautique manager, Edward Moffett, suddenly ran past her and attempted to open and enter the

passenger-side door.

Ms. Rivers informed Mr. Moffett that she had hailed the taxi.

Mr. Moffett, who had exited Beautique at approximately the same time as Ms. Rivers, appeared belligerent and extremely intoxicated.

He started screaming angrily at Ms. Rivers, targeting her as a "c-t" and "b-ch".

At one point, Moffett kicked the side of the taxi so hard that the driver emerged from the vehicle to ask Moffett what his problem was and to get him away.

Ms. Rivers was standing near the taxi as Mr. Moffett's misogynistic rage kept building. Suddenly, without any warning, Mr. Moffett attacked Ms. Rivers.

Mr. Moffett assaulted Ms. Rivers with such force that she fell immediately to the ground and was knocked unconscious.

Because the attack came without warning, Ms. Rivers hit the ground face first, unable to brace her fall, and her face and head bore the brunt of the landing.

Ms. Rivers awoke with her friends and bystanders around her. Blood was streaming out of her nose, a black eye forming, and an enormous contusion on her forehead.

Ms. Rivers had dressed nicely for the celebratory night out, in five-inch heels and a dress, but her clothing was covered in blood and water from hitting the wet ground.

For these reasons we have filed a lawsuit today against both Beautique and the manager who assaulted Ms. Rivers alleging battery and assault. In addition, we allege negligent screening, hiring and retention, and negligence against the Beautique defendants. We are seeking damages according to proof at trial.

Of particular concern to us is that the manager, Mr. Edward Moffett, had criminal convictions prior to his assault of Ms. Rivers.

According to the Office of Court Administration for the New York State Unified Court System, among other criminal convictions, Moffett had been convicted of assault and related offenses in New York prior to his assault of Ms. Rivers.

Notwithstanding Moffett's violent past - which apparently was so notorious that it was known to the police, and which was easily discoverable from a criminal background check - Beautique employed Moffett as a manager.

We allege in our lawsuit that Beautique also allowed Mr. Moffett to become heavily intoxicated at its establishment, which contributed to his belligerence and misogynistic violence.

As a result of the assault, Ms. Rivers suffered a concussion and four broken bones in her nose that required reconstructive surgery, MRI tests, and numerous trips to medical professionals. Ms. Rivers also has endured excruciating headaches and difficulty sleeping.

The assault impaired Ms. Rivers's ability to work as an actress because her work depends on her appearance and presentation for her livelihood.

The incident also impacted Ms. Rivers emotionally, causing her to become fearful of sudden attacks, and embarrassed and scared of being seen with alarming injuries to her face.

In connection with Moffett's conduct described above, the New York County District Attorney charged him with criminal assault in the third degree, attempted assault in the third degree, and harassment in the second degree. The criminal case against Mr. Moffett in connection with the incident with Ms. Rivers is pending in New York Criminal Court, New York County.

Ms. Rivers and I are speaking out today because we believe that a business has a duty to protect its patrons from the actions of its managers.

This nightclub profits from its customers and it should take responsibility for the behavior of its managers whether that behavior occurred inside or outside of the restaurant as patrons are leaving. Patrons need to be protected as they enter the restaurant and they depart from it. The clubs responsibility does not start and end at their door.

We look forward to Ms. Rivers having her day in court.

Gloria Allred
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Representing La Rivers
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