

FLORIDA THIRD DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL

Helen Teran v. Alexander Piloto

Teran · No. 3D24-0963 · Decided October 8, 2025

SUMMARY

The Florida Third District Court of Appeal affirmed a final judgment entered for Alexander Piloto after an eight-day jury trial. The court held that the trial court did not abuse its discretion in denying a motion for a new trial based on closing-argument comments and that the jury’s verdict was supported by competent substantial evidence despite conflicting evidence.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Florida Third District Court of Appeal
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Gordo, J.; Logue, J.; Lobree, J.
JURISDICTION	Florida Third District Court of Appeal
DECIDED	October 8, 2025
DOCKET	3D24-0963
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Appeal from a final judgment entered for Alexander Piloto after an eight-day jury trial. The appellants challenged the denial of their motion for a new trial based on opposing counsel's closing-argument comments and argued that the jury's verdict was against the manifest weight of the evidence.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The denial of a motion for new trial based on alleged improper closing argument is reviewed for abuse of discretion. A jury verdict is not against the manifest weight of the evidence when conflicting evidence exists and the verdict is supported by competent substantial evidence.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published opinion; precedential value under Florida law.
PARTIES	Helen Teran, et al. v. Alexander Piloto, et al.

TOPICS

- motion for new trial
- appellate procedure
- standard of review
- evidence
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the trial court abused its discretion by denying a motion for a new trial based on comments made by Piloto's counsel during closing argument.
2. Whether the jury's verdict was against the manifest weight of the evidence.

HOLDINGS

1. The trial court did not abuse its discretion in denying Teran's motion for a new trial based on the challenged closing-argument comments.
2. The verdict was not against the manifest weight of the evidence because the parties presented conflicting evidence and the verdict was supported by competent substantial evidence.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"After reviewing the closing argument being challenged, as well as the entire record in this case, we find that the trial judge did not abuse his discretion in denying the Plaintiffs' motion for new trial." (at 2)

"A jury verdict that is supported by substantial, competent evidence is not reversible on appeal. Where there is conflicting evidence, the jury's verdict should not be disturbed." (at 3)

"It is neither the trial judge's nor the appellate court's role to disturb that determination." (at 3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The parties presented conflicting evidence during an eight-day jury trial. During closing argument, Piloto's counsel made comments that Teran contended warranted a new trial. The jury returned a verdict for Piloto, and the trial court denied Teran's motion for a new trial.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Following an eight-day jury trial in the Miami-Dade County Circuit Court, judgment was entered in favor of Piloto. The trial court denied Teran's motion for a new trial. Teran appealed, and the Third District Court of Appeal affirmed.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- *Murphy v. Int'l Robotic Sys., Inc.*, 766 So. 2d 1010, 1032 (Fla. 2000)
- *Olsen v. Philip Morris USA, Inc.*, 343 So. 3d 172, 173-74 (Fla. 3d DCA 2022)
- *Bowers v. Tillman*, 323 So. 3d 322, 327 (Fla. 5th DCA 2021)
- *Bachman v. Oliveros*, 293 So. 3d 555, 560 (Fla. 5th DCA 2020)

- *Lindon v. Dalton Hotel Corp.*, 113 So. 3d 985, 987 (Fla. 5th DCA 2013)
- *Caulkins Indiantown Citrus Co. v. Nevins Fruit Co., Inc.*, 831 So. 2d 727, 733 (Fla. 4th DCA 2002)
- *Cnty. Design Corp. v. Antonell*, 459 So. 2d 343, 346 (Fla. 3d DCA 1984)
- *Alvarez v. Acosta*, 324 So. 3d 1033, 1034 (Fla. 3d DCA 2021)
- *Rosario-Paredes v. J.C. Wrecker Serv.*, 975 So. 2d 1205, 1207 (Fla. 5th DCA 2008)

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