

LOUISIANA COURT OF APPEAL, FOURTH CIRCUIT

Caitlin Scott v. City of New Orleans by and Through the New Orleans Aviation Board D/B/A Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport

No. 2025-CA-0513 (La. Ct. App. 4th Cir. Feb. 18, 2026) · No. 2025-CA-0513 · Decided February 18, 2026

SUMMARY

The Louisiana Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal reversed a summary judgment dismissing Caitlin Scott’s premises-liability claims arising from a slip and fall at Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport. The court held that an unchallenged expert report created a genuine issue of material fact regarding allegedly defective flooring and that the district court abused its discretion by denying additional discovery.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Louisiana Court of Appeal, Fourth Circuit
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Judge Paula A. Brown; Judge Daniel L. Dysart; Judge Sandra Cabrina Jenkins
JURISDICTION	Louisiana Court of Appeal, Fourth Circuit
DECIDED	February 18, 2026
DOCKET	2025-CA-0513
DISPOSITION	reversed_and_remanded
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Appeal from summary judgment dismissing premises liability claims against a public entity.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	De novo for summary judgment; abuse of discretion for denial of discovery continuance.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	published
PARTIES	Caitlin Scott v. City of New Orleans by and Through the New Orleans Aviation Board D/B/A Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport

TOPICS

- premises liability
- summary judgment
- standard of review
- civil procedure
- municipal law

PRACTICE AREAS

torts premises liability civil procedure appellate procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the district court erred in granting summary judgment where plaintiff raised a genuine issue of material fact regarding notice and defective flooring.
2. Whether the district court erred in denying plaintiff's motion for continuance to conduct additional discovery.

HOLDINGS

1. Summary judgment was improper because plaintiff's unobjected-to expert report created a genuine issue of material fact regarding whether the flooring was defective, which could impute constructive notice to the public entity.
2. The district court abused its discretion in denying the motion to continue because the four-part test for inadequate discovery weighed heavily in favor of allowing additional time.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"In the absence of an objection raised in a timely opposition or reply memorandum, the district court is 'statutorily obligated to consider the expert's opinions' introduced in support of a summary judgment motion."
(at 10)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff slipped and fell on a slick walkway at the airport. Surveillance video showed that another patron had spilled a clear liquid approximately nine minutes before the fall. The spill was not reported to airport authorities. Plaintiff's expert opined the flooring was defective when wet, failing to meet applicable construction codes.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff filed a petition for damages alleging negligence and premises liability. Defendants moved for summary judgment. The district court granted summary judgment, dismissing all claims with prejudice. Plaintiff appealed.

DISPOSITION

reversed_and_remanded

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

Remand for further proceedings consistent with this opinion.

CASES CITED

- Cloud v. Gibson, 23-0435 (La. App. 4 Cir. 7/30/24), 399 So.3d 604

- *Breston v. DH Catering, LLC*, 23-0460 (La. App. 4 Cir. 2/5/24), 384 So.3d 953
- *Mendoza v. ACE Prop. & Cas. Ins. Co.*, 24-0604 (La. App. 4 Cir. 5/27/25), 414 So.3d 1172
- *Anderson v. Briggs*, 23-0814, 24-0808 (La. App. 4 Cir. 4/25/25), 414 So.3d 990
- *Aguiluz v. Mid-Century Ins. Co.*, 24-0759 (La. App. 4 Cir. 4/14/25), 414 So.3d 939
- *Reddick v. State*, 21-0197 (La. App. 4 Cir. 9/29/21), 328 So.3d 504
- *Jackson v. City of New Orleans*, 12-2742 (La. 1/28/14), 144 So.3d 876
- *Amedee v. Aimbridge Hosp., LLC*, 20-0590 (La. App. 4 Cir. 12/16/22), 354 So.3d 250
- *George v. ABC Ins. Co.*, 22-0148 (La. App. 4 Cir. 10/26/22), 351 So.3d 447
- *Sewell v. Sewerage and Water Bd. of New Orleans*, 18-0996 (La. App. 4 Cir. 5/29/19), 363 So.3d 474
- *Hanson v. Benelli*, 97-1467 (La. App. 4 Cir. 9/30/98), 719 So.2d 627
- *Bridges v. FCS Ent.*, 00-1041 (La. App. 4 Cir. 5/23/01), 789 So.2d 691
- *Maldonado v. La. Superdome Comm’n*, 95-2490 (La. App. 4 Cir. 1/22/97), 687 So.2d 1087
- *Nolaluna, LLC v. Crosby*, 24-0555 (La. App. 4 Cir. 5/6/25), 421 So.3d 125
- *Sketchler v. Hernandez*, 20-0292 (La. App. 1 Cir. 5/19/21), 326 So.3d 912
- *Carpenter v. Thomas*, 22-0872 (La. App. 1 Cir. 3/13/23), 362 So.3d 977
- *Aldridge v. Greenbrier Hosp., L.L.C.*, 23-0526 (La. App. 1 Cir. 3/13/24), 385 So.3d 712
- *McKay v. Hosp. Serv. Dist. No. 1 of Tangipahoa Parish*, 23-1244 (La. App. 1 Cir. 10/11/24), 405 So.3d 869
- *Crawford v. Ordoyne*, 24-0716 (La. App. 1 Cir. 3/20/25), 410 So.3d 998
- *Succession of Hickman*, 22-0730 (La. App. 4 Cir. 3/15/23), 359 So.3d 584
- *Francois v. Ports Am. Louisiana, L.L.C.*, 20-0440 (La. App. 4 Cir. 3/10/21), 314 So.3d 894
- *Roadrunner Transp. Sys. v. Brown*, 17-0040 (La. App. 4 Cir. 5/10/17), 219 So.3d 1265
- *Schultz v. Cox Operating, LLC*, 17-0165 (La. App. 4 Cir. 1/31/18), 317 So.3d 336
- *Bass P’ship v. Fortmayer*, 04-1438 (La. App. 4 Cir. 3/9/05), 899 So.2d 68
- *Greenhouse v. C.F. Kenner Associates Ltd. P’ship*, 98-0496 (La. App. 4 Cir. 11/10/98), 723 So.2d 1004
- *Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc.*, 509 U.S. 579 (1993)
- *State v. Foret*, 628 So.2d 1116 (La. 1993)

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