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Ga. Law Firm Hit With Malpractice Suit Over PI Case Dismissal

By [Rosie Manins](#)

Law360 (April 13, 2021, 3:57 PM EDT) -- Atlanta-based personal injury law firm [The Mabra Firm LLC](#) and two attorneys have been slapped with a legal malpractice suit by a Georgia woman claiming they were negligent and lied about dismissing her slip-and-fall case against a bowling alley.

Angela Dixon sued the law firm, its founder and managing partner Ronald "Ronnie" E. Mabra Jr. and attorney Reginald J. Lewis in a Georgia state court Thursday.

Dixon said she hired Mabra and Lewis in June 2017 to sue Citizens Lanes LLC after she was injured while bowling in Union City, Georgia, in 2015. She said the lawyers filed her complaint in a Georgia state court in August 2017 but then failed to take depositions, obtain additional medical records, identify experts to testify on her behalf or mediate the case as ordered by the judge.

Mabra and Lewis allegedly also failed to communicate with opposing counsel and then dismissed Dixon's lawsuit against Citizens Lanes in August 2018 without telling her. Dixon said she found out in June 2019 that her lawsuit had been dismissed

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when she contacted the court clerk's office for information about the case.

"Each time Ms. Dixon communicated with attorney Lewis about the lawsuit, he told her the case was progressing," Dixon said in her complaint. "In or around February 2019, attorney Lewis told Ms. Dixon that her case was coming up for trial soon and that he needed contact information for her witnesses."

Dixon said the six-month period in which her lawsuit could have been renewed expired on March 1, 2019. She said her medical bills related to her bowling injury totaled almost \$100,000 and that because of Mabra and Lewis' negligence, she is barred from seeking relief through the court.

Dixon contends that she also lost at least \$156,000 in wages due to her bowling injury, because she was unable to continue working as a cosmetologist and was forced to close her salon, through which she earned about \$750 a week.

Lewis told Law360 on Tuesday that Dixon's allegations are false. He said he was not the litigation manager of The Mabra Firm in 2017, as Dixon alleged, and that the matter doesn't involve the firm in any way.

"There is no connection between The Mabra Firm and Angela Dixon," Lewis said via email. "This appears to be a smear campaign to bring in a party that has deeper pockets."

Lewis is listed with the [State Bar of Georgia](#) as an attorney for The Lewis Firm LLC. He does not appear on The Mabra Firm's website, but he signed his name under the firm's in filings for Dixon's case against Citizens Lanes.

Dixon said she dislocated her kneecap after slipping on water inside the Citizens Lanes Bowling Alley in December 2015. She said water had dripped onto the floor from a ceiling pipe that was exposed due to a missing ceiling tile.



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Dixon claimed she underwent two surgeries and remains in pain and discomfort, with medical bills of more than \$94,000. She said she was referred to The Mabra Firm in June 2017, when she met with Lewis and formally retained the firm to represent her against the bowling alley.

She said the firm obtained her medical records at the time, as her counsel and with her consent, and filed a complaint against Citizens Lanes in Fulton County State Court on Aug. 23, 2017, indicating that it represented her.

Dixon said Mabra and Lewis were listed as her counsel on discovery requests but subsequently failed to properly work the case. They allegedly dismissed her complaint on Aug. 29, 2018, failed to tell her, and lied to her about it being active.

"Defendants never refiled Ms. Dixon's claim and never advised Ms. Dixon that her lawsuit had been dismissed," she said.

Dixon brought claims against the law firm and attorneys of legal malpractice, breach of fiduciary duty, liability, agency, negligent and fraudulent misrepresentation, punitive damages, and attorney fees and litigation costs.

She filed a supporting affidavit by Leah Ward Sears of [Smith Gambrell & Russell LLP](#), a former chief justice of the [Georgia Supreme Court](#).

"In my opinion, based upon my education, training and experience as a licensed attorney in Georgia, and upon my review of the ... documents, attorney Lewis, attorney Mabra and The Mabra Firm failed to meet the standard of care generally employed by attorneys who represent clients in personal injury matters," Ward Sears said in her affidavit.

Mabra and counsel for Dixon did not immediately respond to requests for comment Tuesday.

Dixon is represented by Linley Jones and Angela M. Forstie of The Linley Jones Firm PC.

Counsel information for the defendants was not immediately available.

The case is Dixon v. Mabra et al., case number 21EV002160, in the State Court of Fulton County, Georgia.

--Editing by Gemma Horowitz.

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