

The 2021 Trial Lawyers of the Year

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The 2021 winners:

For the defendants:

Melissa T. Richardson, *Walters Richardson*, Lexington



Richardson defended two complex cases to a defense verdict in the 2021 calendar year. The first involved a negligent security trial where a woman was sexually assaulted as she parked at a midnight bingo – the plaintiff (represented by the very able Hans Poppe) sought damages of \$7,000,000 including punitives. A defense verdict was returned after a week-long trial before Judge Bisig in Louisville, Case No. 5901. In late December of 2021, Richardson recorded a defense verdict in Hardin County in a similarly complex case at a “laser tag” amusement where the plaintiff opened a door on the laser tag floor (the plaintiff didn’t appreciate it was an emergency exit) and fell through it, suffering a brain injury in the process – this late 2021 verdict will appear in the February 2022 edition. It is no surprise that Richardson would win this award. In recent years she has developed a reputation for winning tough cases with unusual facts including, Owsley-Trucking death case, Meade-Haunted House case, Fayette-Haunted House case, plaintiff tripping as she ran from a chainsaw wielding maniac, and Bullitt-Trip and fall at a gun

range. We’d expect to see Richardson continue to expand her expertise in successfully handling complex cases with significant exposure.