

OPINION SUMMARY

MISSOURI COURT OF APPEALS EASTERN DISTRICT

DIVISION ONE

THE FIREWORKS RESTORATION)	No. ED97181
COMPANY, L.L.C.,)	
)	
Respondent,)	Appeal from the Circuit Court
)	of St. Louis County
vs.)	
)	
MICHAEL D. HOSTO, et al.,)	Honorable Barbara Wallace
)	
Appellant.)	FILED: May 9, 2012

Michael Hosto ("Defendant") appeals from the trial court's judgment after a jury returned a verdict in favor of The Fireworks Restoration Company, LLC ("Plaintiff") on its defamation claim and awarded Plaintiff \$1 in actual damages and \$150,000 in punitive damages. Finding no error, we affirm.

AFFIRMED

Division One Holds: The trial court did not err in overruling Defendant's motion for judgment notwithstanding the verdict because Plaintiff adduced substantial evidence of reputational harm resulting from Defendant's posting of multiple defamatory reviews on the internet. Furthermore, the punitive damages award in this case comported with due process due to the reprehensibility of Defendant's conduct and the small amount of actual damages that resulted.

Opinion by: Roy L. Richter, P.J.
Clifford H. Ahrens, J., and Gary M. Gaertner, Jr., J., concur

Attorney for Appellant: Danna McKittrick, David R. Bohm, David A. Zobel

Attorneys for Respondent: Bradley J. Bakula

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