



## Top Florida Verdicts & Settlements of 2015: Premises Liability

### Supermarket Fall Ends With \$1.6M Award

**Bellaiche v. Publix Supermarkets:** A jury issued a seven-figure damage award against Publix Super Markets in a premises liability case. J

Jessie Bellaiche, then 70, claimed she slipped and fell on water in an aisle at a store in Miami-Dade County in August 2010. Bellaiche, who was diagnosed with a dislocated shoulder and an upper humerus fracture that, despite surgery, resulted in range restriction, sued Publix Super Markets for negligence. Bellaiche's counsel alleged an adjacent restroom, water fountain and floral department were possible water sources.

Defense counsel denied negligence, arguing Bellaiche was the sole cause of the accident, asserting she did not walk carefully. But the jury found otherwise and awarded her \$1.66 million.

Plaintiffs attorneys: Rami Shmuely, Robert Switkes

Defense attorneys: Gregory Palmer, Allan Rotlewicz