

Dram Shop Liability

As with many other states, South Carolina has laws specifically aimed to prevent bars and restaurants from overserving intoxicated customers who are unfit to drive. Bars and restaurants can and should be held liable for serving alcohol to minors or to intoxicated adults who leave the premises and cause injury to another.

Bar owners have a duty to train employees to monitor and limit their customers' alcohol consumption. The president of South Carolina's Restaurant and Lodging Association says many of the state's drinking establishments know they can do better in training staff members to recognize and manage customers showing signs of intoxication. [Read Article Here.](#)

Such training would teach servers and managers how to check IDs for age, recognize signs of intoxication, and diplomatically tell customers they can't have any more alcoholic beverages. Additionally, some public and private programs are available to teach bar workers how to deal with excessive drinking, but those programs are voluntary and aren't widely used.

Seventeen states require drinking establishments to provide mandatory safe alcohol service training to their employees, according to the National Restaurant Association. In 2015, a bill was introduced in South Carolina to require mandatory training for bar and restaurant workers who serve alcohol, but was ultimately not passed by the legislature. There is no doubt that more can be done to help prevent the tragic accidents that occur time after time due to a person being overserved at an establishment and allowed to drive off.

The attorneys at Lanier & Burroughs have experience investigating and handling various dram shop liability cases. Contact us today to see if we can help you or a loved one.