



# **Protecting Performers and Audiences from Each Other**

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# Agenda

1. Adelman's fabulous credentials
2. Audiences behaving weirdly
3. Artists who should know better
4. The law's power to control  
behavior on either side of the stage.



## Steve Adelman Credentials


- Attorney focused on safety and security at live events
- Event safety standard of care expert witness
- Vice President, Event Safety Alliance
- Deputy Chair, Global Crowd Management Alliance
- Principal author, ANSI ESI.9-2020, Crowd Management
- Principal author, ANSI ESI.40-2023, Event Security
- Author, Chapter 4-4, Crowd Management, *NFPA Fire Protection Handbook* (21<sup>st</sup> Ed., 2023)
- Law professor, Arizona State University (2015-22)
- Contributor to *Event Safety Guide* (2014)
- Faculty, IAVM Academy for Venue Safety & Security (2007-17)

2.

6/18/23. A Bebe Rexha guest in NY throws his phone at the stage, hits her in the head.



A witness quoted the thrower saying “I was trying to see if I could hit her with the phone at the end of the show because it would be funny,” His attorney, Todd Spodek, said in a statement, “As a fan, [my client’s] sole intention was to have Ms. Rexha take photos with his phone, and return it as a keepsake. It was never his intention to injure Ms. Rehxa.”

A photograph of a stage performance. In the center, a woman with long blonde hair, wearing a blue and white outfit, is being hit in the eye by a man who has jumped onto her. The man is wearing a dark shirt and is in mid-air. The background is dark with purple and blue stage lighting. The image is slightly blurred, suggesting motion.

6/19/23. Ava Max is hit in the eye by a man who jumps onstage while she's performing in Los Angeles.



6/27/23. A Pink fan tosses a bag of his mother's ashes on stage during a show in London.



Pink responds, "This is your mom? I don't know how I feel about this."

6/28/23. Kelsea Ballerini is hit in the eye by a fan's bracelet in Boise, ID.

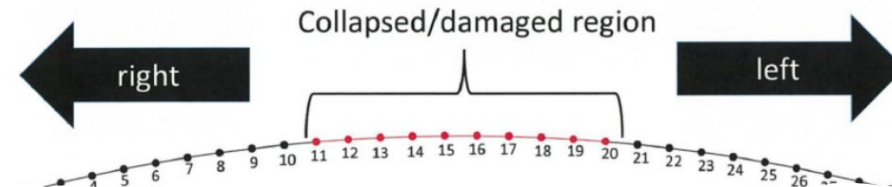
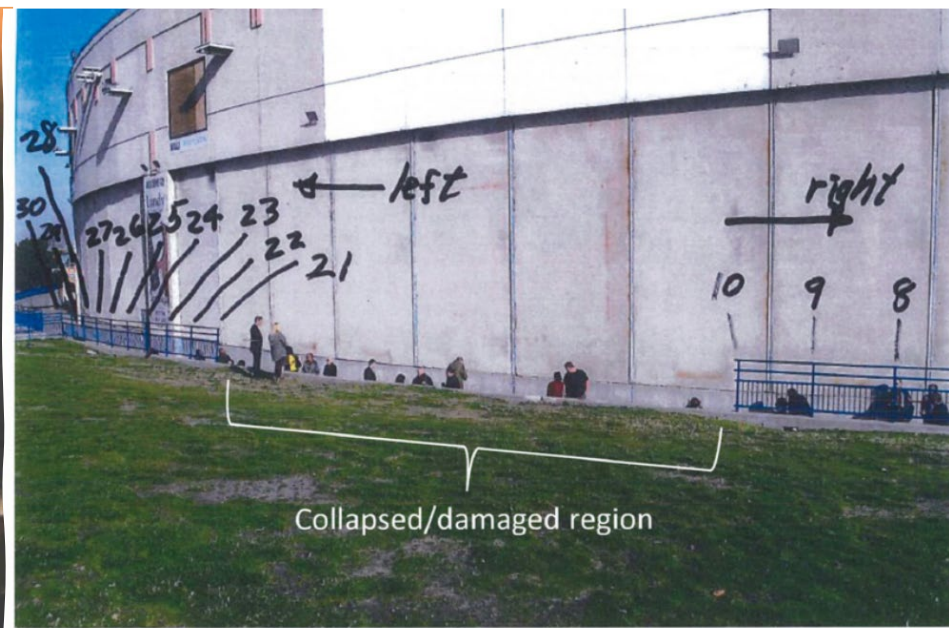


## What advice would you give your venue operator or event promoter client?

1. There is an epidemic of object-throwing that **MUST BE STOPPED**.
  - Guest code of conduct
  - Signage re prohibited items/behavior
  - Waivers of liability
2. Guests **MUST NOT** be permitted to bring anything they can throw into the venue.
  - Prohibit phones
  - Prohibit anything that can be thrown
3. There **MUST** be stronger penalties for throwing objects.
  - Trespass violators
  - Confiscate season tickets
  - Use facial recognition to identify enemies
4. Everyone should chill out?



3.



Snoop Dogg and Wiz Khalifa, 2016

“He was cursing. He was like, Mother fuckers, get closer to the fuckin stage. Feel this shit. Something like that. I don’t remember how exactly how it was, but the whole crowd just started coming when he mentioned to get closer to the actual rail.”



*Stricklin v. Stefani*, 358 F.Supp.  
3d 516 (W.D.N.C. 2018)

“I'm just going to tell you something. I'm just going to talk to the security guards for one second. If anyone wants to come down a little closer so I can see you a little better, just come on down, I don't think anyone's going to care, like just fill it in and like and you know, who cares.”





A Lil Yachty concert was cancelled partway through in Vancouver on Saturday night (Oct. 21) after the rapper invited attendees in the stands to move into the floor section.

Video taken from inside the UBC Thunderbird Arena shows fans rushing to the stage as Lil Yachty yells “Fill it up! Fill it up!” He starts rapping again and concert-goers are seen passing a section of the fence that divided the stands from the floor through the crowd.

Suddenly, Lil Yachty’s mic is cut off as organizers put a pause on the event. He tells the crowd he’s been told they have to return to their seats or he’ll have to cancel the show.

When people refused to do so, security shut down the concert. A University of British Columbia spokesperson said in a statement that the event had become a safety concern.

# Takeaways:

## **Remedies: Less Can Be Enough**

- If all you have is a hammer, everything looks like a nail.
- Lawyers like legal solutions.
- Some situations have no effective legal solution.

## **Causation: The *Post Hoc Ergo Propter Hoc* Fallacy**

- The order of events is not the same as causation.
- Few things are only one thing.
- Whether we are advising our client or litigating after an incident, many things could be better, but do not lead to disaster.

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