

PIERCE VERSUS CTI “WASP” TRIAL
“Teacher’s Pet” APP “WASP” TRIAL ENDS IN NOT GUILTY VERDICT
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GREENVILLE — After an intense trial at the Greenville County Courthouse, “Teacher’s Pet” creator and developer, Layton Pierce, was deemed “not guilty of fraud and negligent misrepresentation.” in a civil trial on Saturday, February 24th, 2018.

The defendant Pierce, the “young 19-year-old exquisite student coder” according to her teacher Alex Hart. Pierce was accused of knowingly implanting a “wasp”, which is a series of codes embedded to blend in with the surrounding code with the intent to destroy the purpose of the application. In the “Teacher’s Pet” app designed to help students and teachers alike make assignments easier by allowing teachers to post assignments on the app, and then be graded by the app rather than teachers hand grading assignments. The “wasp” was embedded in this “autograde” feature.

Friends of Pierce testified she was so exceptional at coding that “coding was her language and she was the poet.” Pierce, who found himself in the midst of developing trouble when the Teacher’s Pet app was removed from iTunes when the “wasp” was discovered by a third party.

Dee Hawkins, an investment manager at Creative Technology Investments or “CTI” testified that she hired PC Ormack to investigate the app, as she said, “doing my due diligence.” PC Ormack found no issues. He was the consultant for this case, but typically the consultants on comes from Jordan King, a former black hat coder, testified he was the one who found the wasp after finding some internet traffic about Teacher’s Pet. He called Dee Hawkins and told him about the what he described as “a cancerous tumor”, the wasp. Finally, Cam Turner, lifelong friend of Layton Pierce and the prosecution’s star witness, testified that he was confronted by Dee Hawkins about the wasp, which then Cam told Layton about the confrontation and Layton told him to take it out. Once Cam discovered that Layton hadn’t

released an update without the wasp, Cam testified to have called Apple and told them about the situation.

The defense brought up three witnesses as well. First was Alex Hart, Layton and Cam's coding teacher and Layton's mentor. After the losses she suffered from the loss of her own app, she took on helping her "prodigy student" with the development of her app. The app started off as a group project in Hart's class, but after such a success Layton decided to take it further with Hart's help. Shawn Newman was also called to testify. She was the owner of the company Angel Venture Capital or "AVC". She stated that CTI's reaction was "unnecessary and an overreaction."

The prosecution claims that the wasp was "intentionally placed" by a group member, though Layton was the only one who took the app further.

The defense returned with saying that Alex Hart, who was also Cam Turner's teacher, said that "Cam was manipulative and lazy." And that Pierce "taught Cam everything about coding". Also, that Layton "was not responsible for removing the bugs in the app, that was Cam's responsibility."

The plaintiff was at trial today to prove that CTI lost investments, and that "Layton needs to repay for their clients lost money."

The defense was at trial today to prove that "Pierce wouldn't destroy something that she invests so much into."

At the conclusion of the trial, the prosecution stated that "CTI trusted Layton, and she lied to us. And we deserve repayment." They also claimed that "the wasp wasn't removed, it was revised". The defense replied with that "the plaintiff took the easy way and was looking for a scapegoat to cover up their mistake." They also claimed that "the plaintiff did not prove that Layton knew or lied about the wasp."