

**Criminal lawyer in Melbourne for Assault and Poisoning and conduct endangering serious injury charges and breach of liquor license charges, no conviction, clean record.**

<http://www.theage.com.au/articles/2008/02/04/1202090305773.html>

# THE AGE

## 'Pine-O-Cleen bartender' escapes conviction

February 4, 2008 - 4:57PM



Nasty taste ... Emily Craig leaves court after she was fined \$3000 for serving a shot of Pine-o-Cleen.

Photo: *Paul Rovere*

A female bartender who served a customer Pine-O-Cleen disinfectant has escaped conviction in Melbourne Magistrates Court.

But she was fined \$3,000 and handed an 18-month good behaviour order.

The court heard that Emily Craig, 23, of Park Orchards, in Melbourne's north, served Matthew Papaluca, then 18, 10ml of Pine-O-Cleen in a shot glass mixed with 20ml of cola at 6.15am in the Evolution nightclub in inner city Prahran on March 4 last year.

Ms Craig's lawyer George Balot asked that his client not receive a conviction, saying she was cooperating with police, had written an apology to Mr Papaluca and was remorseful.

Ms Craig has agreed to assist police in their investigations into the actions of two security guards who the court heard had encouraged her to serve the cleaning disinfectant.

Mr Balot said his client had served the disinfectant as a joke and not in a vengeful or malicious way.

She lost her responsible service of alcohol licence and cannot serve alcohol again.

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/national/pineocleen-bar-prank-intended-no-harm-judge-rules/2008/02/04/1202090323416.html>

# THE AGE

## Pine-O-Cleen bar 'prank' intended no harm, judge rules

Julia Medew  
February 5, 2008



Emily Craig: Will "never be able to work in a bar again".  
Photo: *Paul Rovere*

Advertisement

AN APPRENTICE mechanic who was served a shot of Pine-O-Cleen as a practical joke at a Prahran nightclub last year said he felt like he was going to die after consuming the detergent.

"I just couldn't stop vomiting, I felt like I was going to die, my gut was so sore," he said in a statement tendered to Melbourne Magistrates Court yesterday after the barmaid pleaded guilty to charges stemming from the incident.

Matthew Papaluca, 19, told police he had been buying alcoholic drinks from "a very attractive" barmaid at Club Evolution in the early hours of March 4 when two security guards told him to have one more drink on them about 6am.

He said that on the guards' instruction, the blonde barmaid, Emily Craig, 23, produced a shot glass with green liquid in it for him to drink.

"I skolloed it. I swallowed a bit less than half of it. It didn't taste right. It did not taste like any alcoholic beverage that I had ever tasted before," he said in his statement.

"The security guards that were standing near the bar about five metres away started laughing and high fiving each other. The female bar person also started laughing ... I knew that what they served me wasn't alcohol."

After Mr Papaluca stumbled down the stairs of the club, an ambulance was called to treat him, the court heard. He refused to go to hospital and instead rang his parents to pick him up from the Commercial Road venue.

Craig, of Park Orchards, yesterday pleaded guilty to one count of reckless conduct endangering serious injury over the incident.

Her lawyer, George Balot, told the court she had been drinking before the incident, which occurred in a "jovial context" that prompted Mr Papaluca's friends to also "high five" the guards. "They (his friends) went along with it ... and laughed at him as he was drinking the drink," he said.

Mr Balot said Craig had never been charged with criminal offences before and was deeply remorseful for the "misguided and immature practical joke".

He said Craig, now a clerical assistant, lost her job at two nightclubs where she worked at the time and had her licence to serve alcohol permanently revoked. "She'll never be able to work in a bar again," he said.

The court heard that Craig had co-operated with police about the involvement of the two security guards, who could face charges over the incident.

Magistrate Charles Rozencwajg accepted the crime was a joke and said there was no suggestion the Pine-O-Cleen caused any permanent harm to Mr Papaluca. "This was a prank not intended to cause any specific harm," he said.

Craig was sentenced, without conviction, to a good behaviour bond for 18 months and ordered to donate \$3000 to the Lighthouse Foundation — a charity that aims to reduce youth homelessness.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/victoria/pine-o-clean-shot-a-prank/news-story/81825cbf5e996fd3d11a6f3f62ed728c>

# Herald Sun

## Disinfectant served to drinker, court told

Kate Uebergang, HeraldSun

September 25, 2007 12:00am

A BARMAID known for pulling pranks served a drunken patron a shot of Pine O Cleen that caused him to become violently ill, a court heard yesterday.

Emily Craig, 23, served the disinfectant in a 30ml shot glass at Evolution Nightclub in Prahran at about 6.15am on March 4 this year, Melbourne Magistrates' Court was told.

Sen-Constable James Kibel said Ms Craig -- who did not know the man -- began by serving him shots of water as a joke.

Ms Craig then "upped the ante with her jokes" and served him a Pine O Cleen shot, Sen-Constable Kibel told the court.

The man immediately felt extreme pain in his mouth and stomach, and vomited in the street outside the club before an ambulance was called, the court was told.

The defendant, "was known for her prankster-style behaviour" and gave police no reason for her actions, Sen-Constable Kibel said.

The victim later had ulcers forming on his skin and was treated by his doctor, the court heard.

Ms Craig's lawyer, George Balot, told the court her actions were a "misguided practical joke" and "an immature prank".

"This was a misguided joke at an ungodly hour," he said.

Mr Balot said Ms Craig gave the man shots of water after refusing him alcohol and gave him a bottle of water after he drank the Pine O Clean.

Mr Balot said Ms Craig's pranks were not known to be malicious.

Once she put sticky tape around the bar.

He said Ms Craig had lost her job and was not working in the industry.

"The media attention has caused her embarrassment," Mr Balot said.

He said Ms Craig was concerned that a criminal conviction would tarnish and crush her future prospects.

Magistrate Bill O'Day said the prank was exceptionally serious with significant health implications.

"I certainly don't think you could exclude a conviction," he said.

Ms Craig, of Park Orchards, faces four charges including intentionally causing injury.

Mr Balot said there would be a contested hearing early next year.

He said two security guards were allegedly involved and Ms Craig would tell police about their involvement.

The matter was adjourned until February 4.