

The Mississippi Jury Verdict Reporter

The Most Current and Complete Summary of Mississippi Jury Verdicts

March 2012

Statewide Jury Verdict Coverage

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Civil Jury Verdicts

Timely coverage of civil jury verdicts in Mississippi including court, division, presiding judge, parties, case number, attorneys and results. Notable results from the southern region, including Memphis and New Orleans, are also covered.

Products Liability - A high school football player suffered a catastrophic spinal cord injury when his 1995 Toyota 4Runner rolled over in a single car crash on New Year's Eve in 2008 – he blamed the MVA on the SUV's propensity to roll over and the insufficient roof strength – a federal jury in Hattiesburg valued his life care plan at \$8.5 million, the plaintiff taking \$2.5 million for pain and suffering

Graves v. Toyota, 2:09-169

Plaintiff: Joe Sam Owen, Robert P. Myers, Jr. and Ben f. Galloway, III,

Owen Galloway & Myers, Gulfport
Defense: David L. Ayers and Jennifer A. Rogers, *Watkins & Eager*, Jackson and James W. Halbrooks, Jr., *Bowman & Brooke*, Minneapolis, MN
Verdict: \$12,251,178 for plaintiff less 40% comparative fault
Federal: **Hattiesburg**
Judge: Keith Starrett
Date: 2-24-12

On the morning of New Year's Eve in 2008, Will Graves, then age 16 and a junior footballer at West Jones High School in Laurel, was on his way to exercise with a friend. He traveled on Highway 84 in a 1995 Toyota 4Runner

SUV. [Graves wasn't speeding and was wearing his seatbelt.] The roadway was flat and dry.

Graves dipped the right wheel of the SUV onto the right shoulder. He overcorrected and steered left. The SUV began to roll-over multiple times before it came to rest on the driver's side. It was a catastrophic crash, the roof of the 4Runner closing on the passenger compartment.

The one-car crash has left Graves permanently paralyzed from the chest down. Graves, who has since graduated from high school, was described as a well-liked student and athlete. [His father

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emotional injury only. The combined verdict totaled \$302,500. When the record was reviewed, no judgment had been entered.

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