

The Alabama Jury Verdict Reporter

The Most Current and Complete Summary of Alabama Jury Verdicts

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Statewide Jury Verdict Coverage - Published Monthly

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Alabama's Jury Verdict Reporter Since 2001

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Civil Jury Verdicts

Complete and timely coverage of civil jury verdicts in Alabama including circuit, presiding judge, parties, case number, attorneys and results.

Medical Negligence - A

pediatric dentist was treated at the ER for a severe headache, nausea and vomiting – a non-contrast head CT scan was ordered and the radiologist failed to appreciate a blood clot and reported the CT scan as normal – three days later the plaintiff was back at the ER with a massive brain bleed related to the clot which left her with permanent debilitating injuries – it was undisputed that the clot led to the brain bleed and her injuries, the jury being asked to decide if the radiologist's failure to diagnose the clot was a violation of the standard of care

Madasu v. Bowling et al., 17-900333

Plaintiff: David T. "Ty" Brown, J.D.

Marsh, Jr. and Richard Riley, *Marsh Rickard & Bryan*, Birmingham

Defense: George E. Knox, Jr., Jeffrey T. Kelly and Lauren B. Houseknecht, *Lanier Ford Shaver & Payne*,

Huntsville and Preston S. Trousdale, *Trousdale Ryan*, Florence for Bowling Joel A. Williams and Carmen V.

Paige, *Friedman Dazzio & Zulanas*, Birmingham for Lauderdale Radiology Group (Vicarious liability) Verdict: \$7,000,000 for plaintiff against Bowling and Lauderdale Radiology

Circuit: **Lauderdale**, 9-24-25

Judge: Will Powell

Sunitha Ravi Madasu, then age 46, (she is a longtime pediatric dentist in Florence known as Dr. Ravi) reported to the Eliza Coffee Memorial Hospital ER in Florence at 8:24 in the evening of 4-22-16. She had returned from running a marathon a week earlier in Boston. Madasu reported a severe right-sided headache, nausea and

vomiting. Dr. Adepapo Oduye in the ER evaluated Madasu and ordered a non-contrast head CT scan. It was performed at 10:20 p.m.

Dr. Donald Bowling, a radiologist, read the CT scan at 10:26 p.m. Bowling at the time was working days for Shoals Radiology Associates. This evening he had picked up an evening shift (it was his fourth of the month) for Lauderdale Radiology Group. Bowling read the CT scan as normal and so reported this to Oduye. Madasu was discharged at four in the morning with a diagnosed headache and told to follow in a few days with her primary care physician.

Bowling had missed something. There was a blood clot as evidenced on the CT scan. It is known as a dural venous sinus thrombosis (DVST). The blood clot prevents blood from draining from the brain. The condition is very serious. There was no question Bowling had failed to appreciate a bright spot in a blood vessel as a clot.

Moving forward almost three days to the evening of 4-25-22, Madasu returned to the Eliza Coffee ER at 11:09 p.m. She had suffered a seizure and her headache was much worse. Oduye was again in the ER and he ordered a CT scan. It revealed a massive brain bleed. Madasu was airlifted to Methodist Hospital in Memphis, TN.

Madasu was immediately given anti-coagulant therapy to treat the clot. She also underwent a brain surgery to evacuate the clot. The brain bleed had resulted in a permanent and debilitating brain injury. Madasu was hospitalized in

Dram Shop - An underage college student on spring break used a very good fake ID to purchase alcohol at a Wal-Mart; the student later drove drunk and ran over and killed a man on a motorized mobility scooter; the decedent's estate subsequently sued Wal-Mart on a dram shop claim for having sold the alcohol to the student without proper age verification

Estate of Reed v. Walmart, Inc.,
22-900460

Plaintiff: C. Randall Caldwell, Jr. and Patrick G. Montgomery, *Caldwell Wenzel & Asthana, P.C.*, Foley
Defense: Chad C. Marchand and W. Pemble DeLashmet, *DeLashmet & Marchand, P.C.*, Mobile, Jonathan M. Hooks, *Weinberg Wheeler Hudgins Gunn & Dial*, Birmingham and Marda W. Sydnor, *Parsons Lee & Juliano*, Birmingham

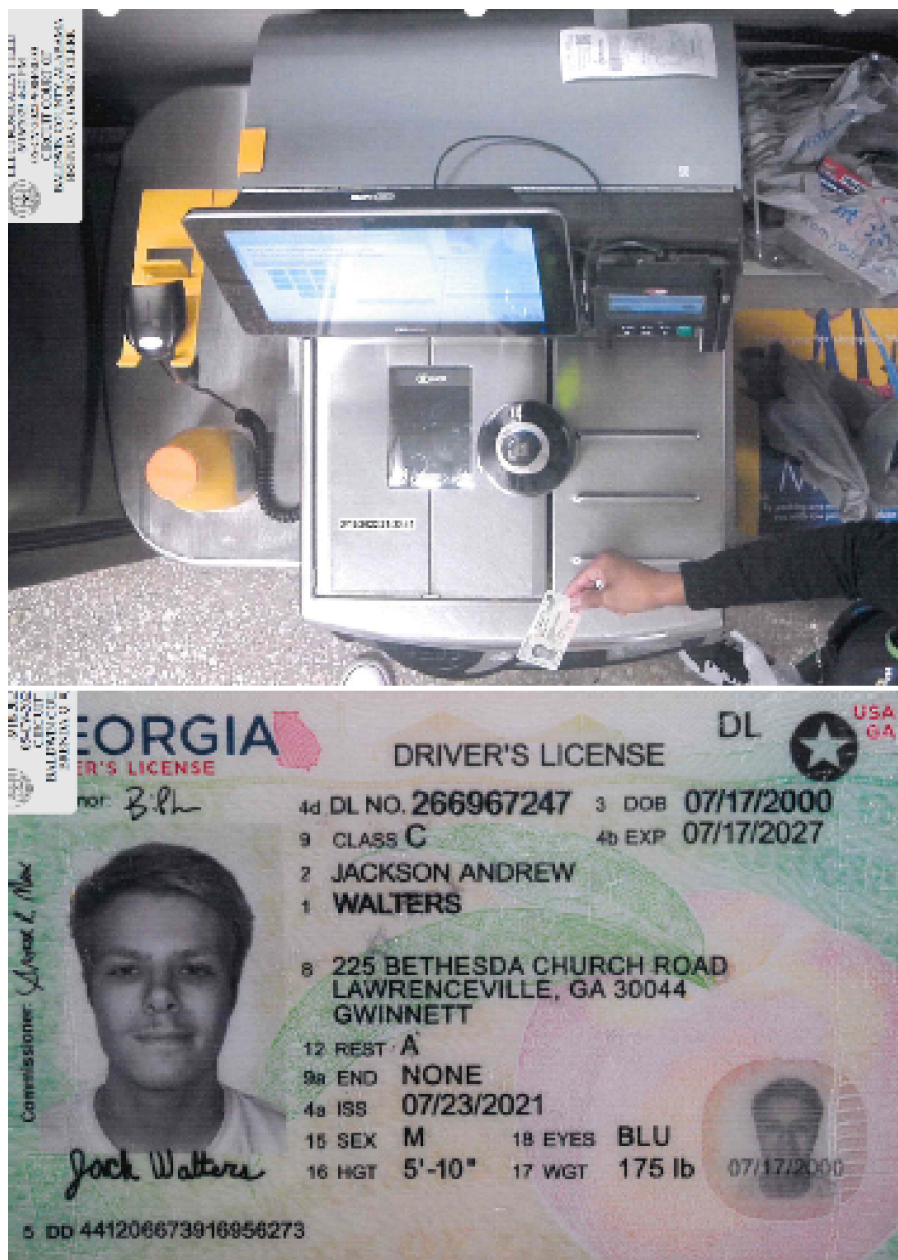
Verdict: \$900,000 compensatory damages for plaintiff; zero punitives
Circuit: **Baldwin**, 8-13-25

Judge: J. Clark Stankoski

In March of 2022, Jackson Walters, age 20, was an underage college student from Irondale, AL enjoying spring break in Gulf Shores. He attended the University of Alabama and was a member of Pike fraternity. More than two years earlier, Walters had gotten a fake ID from a friend and had thereafter used it many times to buy alcohol. The fake ID cost \$40. Walters had never been caught using it.

It was a good fake ID that was ostensibly from Georgia. The birthday was the same except Walters was a year older on it. It featured an authentic picture of Walters and it featured his signature. Walters had even memorized the phony address on the fake. The fake was undoubtedly professionally produced.

On 3-15-22, Walters visited the



An image of the check-out transaction and Walter's fake ID

Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market in Orange Beach where he picked up a supply of Truly lemonade (an alcoholic beverage) and a bottle of champagne. Walters then proceeded through the self check-out line to pay for the alcohol.

A cashier (Secret Harris) supervising the self check-out line asked to see his ID. There was surveillance video of the entire transaction. Walters produced the

fake ID. The cashier examined the birthdate, held it up to look at it and Walters, and then keyed it into the register. This enabled Walters to complete his purchase. He then went to the beach house where he and his girlfriend were staying.

The next day on 3-16-22, Walters accompanied a group of his friends to the beach at approximately 11:00 a.m. During his time at the beach Walters drank four of the Truly

Hospital Negligence - A woman admitted to the hospital to undergo a cardiac procedure was determined to be a moderate fall risk; when the nursing staff left her sitting unattended at the foot of her bed, the woman fell to the floor and suffered a traumatic brain injury

Harrison v. Springhill Memorial Hospital, 21-901183

Plaintiff: Jennifer Jayjohn York, Robert L. Mitchell, and David G. Wirtes, Jr., *Cunningham Bounds, LLC.*, Mobile

Defense: Bryan D. Smith, Scott G. Brown, and Elizabeth G. Wilson, *Armbrecht Jackson, LLP.*, Mobile

Verdict: \$5,000,000 for plaintiff

Circuit: **Mobile**, 8-25-25

Judge: Ben H. Brooks

On 10-2-20, Donna Harrison, then age 76, presented to the Springhill Memorial Hospital in Mobile with complaints of chest pain. Upon her admission to the hospital the nursing staff performed a fall risk assessment and concluded that Harrison was a moderate fall risk.

Three days later on 10-5-20, Harrison underwent an elective cardiac catheterization with stenting. As part of that process she was administered 50 mcg. of Fentanyl and 2 mg. of Versed. Following the procedure Harrison was transferred to the Cath Lab recovery room.

Unlike a private room, the Cath Lab recovery room did not have a private restroom. Instead, the sole restroom was in a central location for all the Cath Lab patients to use. At approximately 11:00 p.m., Harrison needed to use the restroom. She was helped out of her bed by two nurses, and one of them walked her to the restroom.

Upon reaching the restroom, Harrison and her accompanying nurse (Stephen Pate) found it was occupied. The nurse then returned Harrison to her hospital bed. Instead



A demonstrative aide at trial the plaintiff utilized to describe the incident

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MOBILE COUNTY, ALABAMA

DONNA HARRISON,	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
v.	)	CV-21-901183
SPRINGHILL HOSPITALS, INC.,	)	
d/b/a SPRINGHILL MEMORIAL	)	
HOSPITAL	)	
Defendant.	)	

VERDICT FORM

We, the jury, find in favor of the Plaintiff Donna Harrison, and assess Plaintiff's damages in the amount of: \$ 5,000,000.00

Alexandra Dubose

Jury Foreperson

OR

We, the jury, find in favor of the Defendant "Springhill Hospitals, Inc., d/b/a Springhill Memorial Hospital."

Jury Foreperson

The Harrison v. Springhill Memorial jury verdict

of laying her down in the bed and raising the bed rails to prevent her from falling, however, the nurse simply sat Harrison up on the side of the foot of the bed. The nurse then walked away.

While Harrison sat unattended on the edge of the bed, she fell to the floor and hit her head. Radiology studies performed at 11:46 p.m. confirmed she had suffered a traumatic brain injury, and she had

an 8 mm subdural hematoma.

As it happened, Springhill Memorial Hospital did not have neurosurgery coverage that evening. Nor did the staff transfer Harrison to a different hospital that did have such coverage. Throughout the following morning, starting at 1:16 a.m. on 10-6-20, Harrison was nauseous and vomited repeatedly. Also, her pupils were non-reactive on the left side and sluggish on the

Historical Alabama Verdict

Utility Negligence - The plaintiff was talking on the telephone at her rural home in Hartford, AL when a nearby lightning strike passed into the phone system and killed her dead – her estate alleged negligence by the telephone company and a Geneva jury in 1971 awarded her a record verdict of \$150,000 or \$1.189 million in today's dollars

Riley v. General Telephone

Plaintiff: Truman Hobbs and Albert W. Copeland, Montgomery and James W. Kelly, Geneva

Defense: Alto V. Lee, III, *Lee & McInish*, Dothan

Verdict: \$150,000

Circuit: **Geneva Circuit Court**

Date: July 21, 1971

Ina Lucille Riley, age 69, was at her home on the evening of June 17, 1968 in rural Hartford, AL in Geneva County. She was on the phone talking to her sister in nearby Bonifay, FL. Riley had service with the General Telephone Company of Alabama. The weather was stormy that night.

Lightning struck a pine tree 170 feet from Riley's home. The lightning entered the phone line and passed into Riley's home. She was electrocuted where she stood. Her husband (Redden) heard the noise and rushed into room. He found Riley dead on the floor, the telephone receiver hanging from the phone. There were burn wounds on her ear. Riley's sister had heard the explosion too and the phone line suddenly went dead. A pathologist would later conclude her death was caused by the lightning strike.

Riley's estate sued General Telephone and alleged negligence by it in allowing lightning to enter the phone system. There was proof the line could have been properly

Phone Case Jury Finding Is \$150,000

GENEVA — General Telephone Co. said yesterday a new trial will be asked in a damage suit in which the firm was ordered Friday to pay \$150,000, the largest judgement ever rendered in Geneva County.

Climaxing a five-day trial in the Geneva County circuit court, a jury awarded the estate of Mrs. Ina Lucille Riley the \$150,000 after 55 minutes of deliberations.

The suit charged that the "wrongful death" of Mrs. Riley on June 17, 1968, was the result of negligence in maintenance of her telephone. The lawsuit said Mrs. Riley was killed when lightning hit a pine tree and then went down the telephone wire into the house.

ON PHONE

Mrs. Riley, who was 69 and lived on Hartford Rt. 3, was talking on the telephone at the time the lightning struck.

The family filed the suit asking \$500,000. They were represented by attorneys Albert Copeland and Truman Hobbs of Montgomery and James W. Kelly and John L. Knowles of Geneva.

Alto V. Lee III, Dothan was counsel for the telephone company.

grounded with a repair that would cost \$10 or so. The path of the lightning strike could be traced from the tree's bark to the nearby telephone line.

The case was tried three years later in Geneva. The trial lasted five days and the jury deliberated a little less than an hour. The plaintiff prevailed and took damages of \$150,000. That would be equal to \$1.189 million or so in today's dollars. It was described as a record verdict for the

jurisdiction.

General Telephone appealed to the Alabama Supreme Court and cited assorted trial errors including that the damages were excessive. The high court affirmed the verdict on July 5, 1973, Justice Harwood writing the opinion. *See General Telephone v. Cornish*, 80 So.2d 541 (1973).

Notable Tennessee Verdict

Medical Negligence - The plaintiff alleged her dermatologist and his medical group botched a facial Moh's surgery, removing seven layers of skin during an hours long procedure when first the procedure was not indicated or necessary and which left her with a disfiguring injury that affects her speech and breathing – the jury found fault and awarded nearly \$3.5 million in damages including \$3.3 million of non-economic damages – the jury also made a finding that would trigger punitive damages and the parties immediately settled the matter before the punitive phase would begin

Goodnight v. Tusa et al, 19-331

Plaintiff: Alix C. Michel and David J. Ward, *Michel & Ward*, Chattanooga, TN

Defense: F. Laurens Brock, Jr. And Donna L. Boyce, *Adams & Reese*, Nashville, TN

Verdict: \$3,449,958 for plaintiff and case settled as punitive damages phase was to begin

Court: **Chattanooga, Tennessee Hamilton Circuit Court**

Judge: J. Michael Sharp

Date: 8-23-25

Kellianne Goodnight, then age 51 and of Rossville, GA, treated on 12-20-17 with Dr. Mark Tusa, a dermatologist at Chattanooga Skin and Cancer Clinic (CSCC). It was

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