

**Kentucky Trial Court Review**  
**June 2009**  
**Table of Contents**

**Verdicts**

**Jefferson County**

- Lender Liability - *A bank was blamed for fraudulently inducing a real estate investor to consolidate loans* - \$10,667,582 p. 3  
 Dram Shop - *The tortfeasor got drunk at a bar's cheap beer night and crossed the centerline killing the plaintiff* - Zero p. 6  
 Medical Negligence - *A cardiac surgeon's technical performance of open heart surgery was implicated* - Zero p. 8  
 Uninsured Motorist - *Two plaintiffs sustained minor injuries in a rear-end crash case* - \$5,660 and \$7,550 p. 10

**Kenton County**

- Bad Faith - *A medical malpractice insurer was blamed for in this third-party suit for its delay in paying a claim* - \$2,550,000 p. 1  
 Cemetery Negligence - *A teenager suffered a brain injury during a cemetery road joyride – he blamed the cemetery caretaker for allowing meddling kids to party within the cemetery* - Zero p. 5

**Mercer County**

- False Imprisonment - *In a case of an unnecessary mammogram, where fault was no issue, the jury rejected the case on damages* - Zero p. 3

**Daviess County**

- Medical Negligence - *An anesthesiologist was blamed for failing to monitor a bradycardia condition during a surgery, the plaintiff sustaining a permanent brain injury* - Zero p. 5

**Warren County**

- False Imprisonment - *A Kroger shopper was detained on a suspected theft* - Zero p. 6  
 Medical Negligence - *An ophthalmologist was blamed for a technical error during a cataract surgery* - Zero p. 8

**Federal Court - Owensboro**

- Truck Negligence - *In a right of way crash on the Western Kentucky Parkway, the verdict was for the trucker* - Zero p. 7

**McCracken County**

- Premises Liability - *A roofer sustained an injury when scaffolding collapsed* - \$163,975 p. 7  
 Medical Negligence - *A lumbar fusion surgery failed and the plaintiff alleged error by her neurosurgeon* - Zero p. 9

**Oldham County**

- Whistleblower Act - *A deputy sheriff blew the whistle on his boss (to the boss) and then was demoted* - Zero p. 7

**Logan County**

- Premises Liability - *The plaintiff fell on a steep driveway and broke her ankle* - Zero p. 8

**Bourbon County**

- Auto Negligence - *In a retrial of a threshold verdict case, the plaintiff took suffering damages of \$2,200 - \$12,070* p. 9

**Fayette County**

- Haunted House Negligence - *A teen scare worker at a haunted house injured his hand when he struck it with a machete, another scare worker having suddenly scared* - Zero p. 10  
 Consumer Protection - *This case involved a retrial of a matter involving a \$40,000 television with a bad picture-* \$38,495 p. 11

**Christian County**

- Medical Negligence - *An orthopedist performed surgery at the wrong location, but explained that the wrong location needed some work too and thus there was no harm* - Zero p. 10

**Supreme Court Tort Opinions**

- Car Dealership Negligence - *A car dealer has no duty to a third-party on a test drive when no dealership employee goes along for the test drive* p. 12  
 Medical Negligence - *A \$2.091 million verdict involving the rape of a patient (by an employee) at a mental hospital was reversed, the high court finding it was error to preclude evidence of the victim's sexual history, there being evidence she was promiscuous – only two justices, both men, questioned the propriety of assuming a promiscuous woman might be less affected by being raped* p. 12  
**Discretionary Review at the Supreme Court** p. 13

**Court of Appeals Published Tort Opinions**

- First Amendment - *There is no First Amendment right to candidacy and a deputy clerk who was fired after planning to challenge the sitting clerk does not have a cognizable action* p. 13

**Verdicts Revisited**

- Medical Negligence - *It is not an instruction error to combine both medical negligence and informed consent in the same instruction* p. 13  
 Coal Mine Negligence - *In a case involving a school bus, a rear-end crash and a coal mine, the appellate court held it was not error (1) to use the substantial factor instead of a substantial factor in the instructions, and (2) deny a new trial on damages when plaintiff's injuries were questionable* p. 14  
 Medical Negligence - *While it no error to exclude plaintiff's medical records during the plaintiff's case-in-chief when there was no expert to explain, it was reversible error to exclude the same records upon the cross-examination of the defendant and his expert* p. 14  
 Wrongful Use of Civil Proceedings - *A doctor's case against a lawyer fails when the lawyer had an expert on the standard of care when the case began, the expert only later renegeing on his opinions* p. 14

**Notable Out of State Verdicts**

p. 15