

The Louisiana Jury Verdict Reporter

The Most Current and Complete Summary of Louisiana Jury Verdicts

August 2026

Statewide Jury Verdict Coverage since 2011

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Civil Jury Verdicts

Timely coverage of civil jury verdicts in Louisiana including court, division, presiding judge, parties, case number, attorneys and results.

Helicopter Negligence - A contractor being transported on a helicopter from an offshore rig suffered serious injuries when the helicopter crashed after the operator suffered a medical event and became incapacitated – the theory was that 15 minutes before the incapacitation, the pilot had briefly blacked out and at that time the pilot should have aborted the flight or returned to the platform

Romero v. Westwind Helicopters, 6:23-442

Plaintiff: Mark Steven Owens, *Owens Law*, Lafayette and C. Michael Hill, Lafayette

Defense: M. Ross Cunningham and F. David Denny, *Cunningham Swaim*, Dallas, TX

Verdict: Defense verdict on liability

Federal: **Lafayette**

Judge: S. Maurice Hicks

Date: 7-31-26

Robert Romero was working in telecom services for Tampnet US on 10-26-22. He'd been doing work on

an offshore platform (Ship Shoal 349) in the Gulf of Mexico. His work was done and he was returning to land. Romero was to be transported back on a Bell 407 helicopter operated by Westwind Helicopters. The pilot was James Bullock.

The helicopter took off without incident in the afternoon. Romero was in the front seat of the helicopter to the right of the pilot. Another worker was in the back seat. A few minutes into the flight, Bullock reported to Romero that he had just blacked out. This was alarming to Romero as Bullock was the only helicopter pilot aboard. Romero implored Bullock to return to the platform, land at another platform or even to land in the sea. Bullock continued the journey – the helicopter was flying 1,500 feet above the sea.

Fifteen minutes later Bullock said his last words. They were, "I'm overheating. I'm not going to make it." He then slumped over. Romero tried to manipulate the controls on the



Historical Louisiana Verdict

Auto Negligence - A little boy was riding his bicycle the day after Christmas in 1931 (the bicycle was a gift) when he was struck by a motorist and killed – his parents sued and recovered \$7,500 in damages (\$175,000 in 2026 dollars) at a jury trial in New Orleans less than five months later

Bosarge v. Speiss

Verdict: \$7,500 for plaintiff

Parish **Orleans**

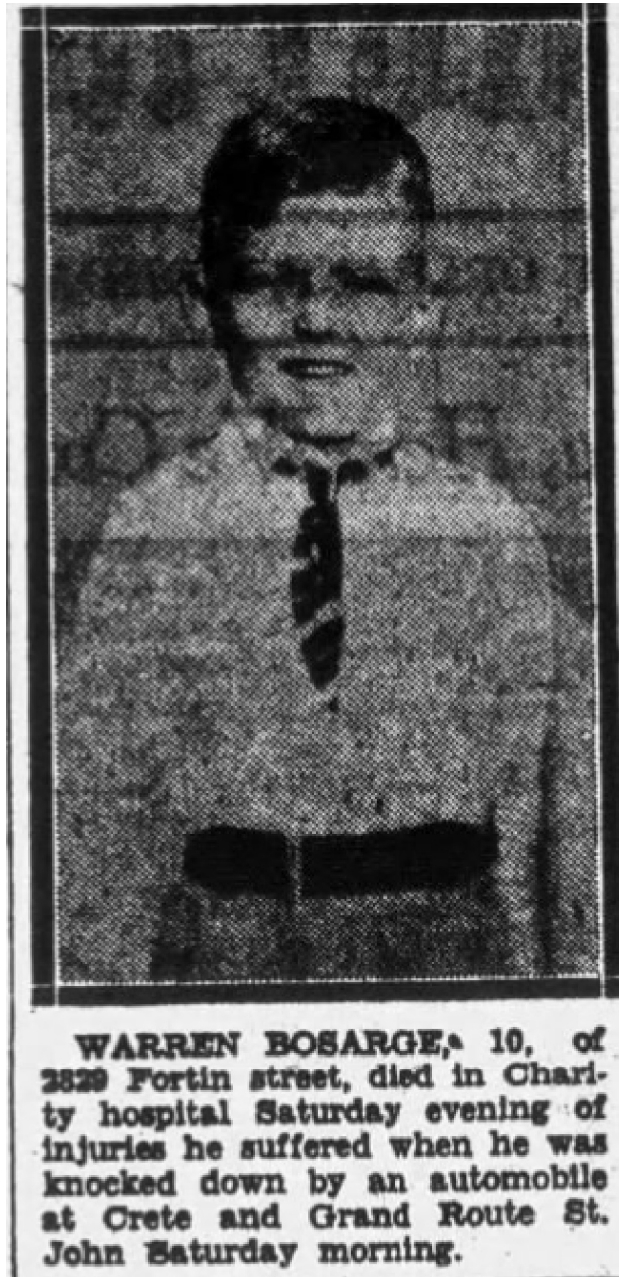
Judge: Mark Boatner

Date: May 18, 1932

Warren Bosarge received a bicycle for Christmas in December of 1931. He was riding it the next day on Crete Street near Grand Route St. John. This is in the Esplanade neighborhood and featured traditional shotgun houses. As little Warren passed a parked car, he moved into the street. An instant later he was struck in the rear by Herrie Speiss who was driving a commercial truck.

Warren suffered a fractured skull. He died the same day at Charity Hospital. His parents sued Speiss and the case advanced to a jury trial less than five months later in Orleans Parish. Judge Mark Boatner was presiding.

A jury was empaneled in the morning. After lunch the jurors noted that a fellow juror had not returned. It was one of the city's leading citizens, Charles Fenner. He was the founder of Fenner and Beane, a financial and cotton brokerage. It was such a prominent firm, it would later merge with Merrill Lynch. Fenner was a busy man and he'd gone back to the office and forgotten about the trial.



Warren's death was front page news in December of 1931

had darted into traffic. A witness contradicted this version. The verdict was for the plaintiff in the sum of \$7,500. That would represent \$175,000 or so in 2026 dollars. At the time for a death case, it was considered neither large nor small, but generally right in the range of reasonableness.

Judge Boatner promptly directed an attachment to gather Fenner. Fenner returned to court and apologized. The court found him in contempt and imposed a \$25 fine. Fenner paid it and the trial went on.

Speiss defended at trial that boy

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9462 Brownsboro Road, No. 133

Louisville, Kentucky 40241

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