The Louisiana Jury Verdict Reporter

The Most Current and Complete Summary of Louisiana Jury Verdicts

October 2025 **Statewide Jury Verdict Coverage** **16 LaJVR 10**

In This Issue

Civil Jury Verdicts

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

Auto Negligence - The plaintiff was injured in a right-of-way collision with a Domino's pizza delivery driver who turned into her path – a Houma jury awarded her $100,000 in non-economic damages, which were later increased to $350,000 upon the plaintiff's motion for additur

Billiot v. RPM Pizza, 0192811
Plaintiff: Jerome H. Moroux, Emily C. Borgen, *Broussard David & Moroux*, Lafayette
Defense: George J. Nalley, Jr. and Andrew J. Miner, *Mouledoux Bland Legrand & Brackett*, New Orleans
Verdict: $350,000 for plaintiff less 30% comparative fault
Parish: **Terrebonne**
Judge: Timothy C. Ellender
Date: 3-20-25

Angelle Billiot, then age 20, was driving on MLK, Jr. Boulevard in Houma on the evening of 3-24-21. It is a four lane road. Billiot was in the right lane in a Hyundai SUV. That same night Pamela Garner was delivering pizzas for RPM Pizza Baton Rouge. It is a Domino's Pizza franchisee that operates 175 stores. Garner had her own minimal insurance policy ($15,000) with Esurance.

Garner came to a stop sign that was inferior to MLK, Jr. Drive in a Nissan sedan. She turned left (going the same direction as Billiot) and into Billiot's path. Billiot could not evade Garner and struck the right rear panel of Garner's vehicle. It was a moderate collision and unusual in that Billiot had struck the rear portion of the Garner vehicle

Billiot (while striking Garner) blamed Garner for pulling into her path. Garner and RPM Pizza replied that while Garner had pulled from the inferior drive, she had fully made her turn onto MLK, Jr. Drive only to then be struck by Billiot. The notion was that Billiot could have easily changed lanes but for her inattention. However it occurred, liability would remain in dispute.

Billiot was treated that day at a local ER for apparent low-back pain. She later treated with Dr. Jayme Trahan, Neurosurgery, Lafayette who first utilized injections, a medial branch block and an ablation. Trahan ultimately performed an L5-S1 fusion surgery 13 months after the crash. Billiot suffered an infection complication following the surgery. Trahan indicated it is likely Billiot will need a revision surgery in 15 or 20 years.

In this lawsuit Billiot sought damages from Garner and her insurer. They entered a $15,000 *Gasquet* settlement and Garner was thereafter a nominal defendant. The primary defendant was RPM Pizza as Garner's employer. If Billiot prevailed she sought her past and future medical bills as well as non-economic damages.

RPM Pizza first defended on liability as described above. It also diminished damages with an IME, Dr. Najeeb Thomas, Neurosurgery, Metairie. He disputed Billiot's injuries and particularly her claim for future care.

Medical Malpractice - The plaintiff alleged her orthopedist performed "tendon lengthening" surgery to treat bunions and had failed to fully obtain informed consent from the plaintiff – the plaintiff did not rely on expert proof and built her case on a fact dispute regarding what she was told

Ganoza v. LaBorde, 15-10418
Plaintiff: J. Alexander Watkins, *Watkins Law*, New Orleans
Defense: Richard E. Gruner, Jr. and Ivana Dillas, *Blue Williams as Special Assistant Attorney General*, Metairie
Verdict: Defense verdict on liability
Parish: **Orleans**
Judge: Jennifer M. Medley
Date: 6-23-25

Maria Ganoza suffered from bunions in April of 2011 and she was referred by her podiatrist to Dr. Monroe LaBorde who was working at the Interim LSU Public Hospital in New Orleans. It is a state run hospital that operates through the Board of Supervisors at LSU. Ganoza saw LaBorde on 4-11-11 and he identified her bunion condition, but also that she had painful callouses and extremely tight calf tendons. He determined Ganoza needed both a bunionectomy and a procedure to lengthen her tendons.

LaBorde recommended these surgeries and Ganoza read and signed an informed consent form that described them. However the section of the form that described alternative treatments was left blank. A week after the pre-operative visit, the surgery was performed at the hospital. Ganoza suffered significant complications.

Nearly a year later Ganoza filed a medical review panel complaint against LaBorde. She alleged malpractice by him in that he was only authorized to perform surgery on the bunions, but the tendon lengthening surgery to sever and lengthen her Achilles was unnecessary. She further alleged LaBorde performed the surgery (she was an indigent patient) to gain experimental data for a future publication on tendon-lengthening procedures.

A Medical Review Panel was organized. Its members were Drs. Donald Faust, Ramon Rodriguez and Robert Treuting. The panel rendered its opinion in August of 2015. It exonerated LaBorde and found that, (1) the procedures were well-described and were not experimental, (2) the consent form was adequate, and (3) there was no deviation from the standard of care. Ganoza then filed this lawsuit against LaBorde.

Ganoza's case alleged both malpractice in performing the surgery and a lack of informed consent. It was her allegation on the consent question

MARIA R. GANOZA

VERSUS

JAMES M. LABORDE, M.D. and INTERIM LSU PUBLIC HOSPITAL f/k/a MEDICAL CENTER OF LOUISIANA AT NEW ORLEANS

FILED: _____ _____
DEPUTY CLERK

FINAL VERDICT FORM

For Dr. Laborde:

1) Did the Plaintiff prove by a preponderance of the evidence (more probable than not) the existence of a reasonable therapeutic alternative to the procedure, unknown to Ms. Ganoza?
YES____ NO✓
1. YES 4. YES 7. YES 11. YES
2. YES 5. YES 8. YES 12. YES
3. YES 6. YES 10. YES

If you answered "NO" please sign and date this form and notify Court staff. IF you answered "YES" please continue to No. 2.

2) Did the Plaintiff prove by a preponderance of the evidence (more probable than not) a failure to disclose a reasonable therapeutic alternative to the procedures, on the part of Dr. Laborde?
YES____ NO____

If you answered "NO" please sign and date this form and notify Court staff. IF you answered "YES" please continue to No. 3.

3) Did the Plaintiff prove by a preponderance of the evidence (more probable than not) that the disclosure of the reasonable therapeutic procedures would have led a reasonable patient in the patients position to reject the medical procedure or choose another course of treatment?
YES____ NO____

If you answered "NO" please sign and date this form and notify Court staff. IF you answered "YES" please continue to No. 4

4) Did the Plaintiff prove by a preponderance of the evidence (more probable than not) that the failure to disclose found above by Dr. James M. Laborde was a cause in fact of the damages allegedly sustained by Maria Ganoza?
*YES*_____ *NO*_____

If you answered "NO" please sign and date this form and notify Court staff. IF you answered "YES" please continue to No. 5

The Ganoza v. LaBorde jury verdict form

Marine Negligence - A seaman working on a derrick barge in the Gulf of Mexico suffered disabling knee and ankle injuries during a project retrieving a tension leg buoy (it is 50 feet high and 12 feet in diameter) when a shackle broke free, struck a lanyard and pulled him down – the case was tried as a bench trial and the plaintiff took $1.084 million (including non-economic damages of $300,000) less 20% comparative fault

Vallecillo v. McDermott, Inc., 6:19-508
Plaintiff: Andrew J. Quackenbos and James H. Domengeaux, Jr., *Domengeaux Wright Roy & Edwards*, Lafayette
Defense: Cynthia G. Sonnier and Christian M.R. Redmon, *Lewis Brisbois*, Lafayette
Verdict: $1,084,373 for plaintiff less 20% comparative fault
(Bench verdict)
Federal: **Lafayette**
Judge: Robert R. Summerhays
Date: 9-9-25

Rene Vallecillo, then age 61, was with McDermott, Inc. for some 30 years and was an experienced seaman. Vallecillo was at work on 4-20-16 in the Gulf Of Mexico on a McDermott derrick barge known as DB 50. McDermott was working to retrieve a submersible tension leg buoy (TBM) on a contract with Chevron. The work was done 220 miles south of Port Fouchon.

The TBM involved in this case is quite large. It is bright yellow, fifty feet high and 12 feet in diameter. Moving the TBM is tricky work that involves the use of cranes. Its even trickier work on the ocean.

On this day Vallecillo was standing on top of the TBM and it was being moved. A shackle on the TBM was stuck. It suddenly broke free and struck Vallecillo's lanyard. That impact yanked him down. Vallecillo suffered two injuries in the process.

The first was a complex meniscal tear to Vallecillo's right knee. It was surgically repaired two months later. There was proof he will likely require a knee replacement surgery. He also suffered a broken ankle and a related ligament injury. The ankle was surgically repaired in January of 2017. The combination of these injuries prematurely ended Vallecillo's long marine career.

Vallecillo filed this Jones Act lawsuit against his employer and alleged it was negligent in failing to provide him a safe place to work. His marine expert, Gregg Perkin, Houston, TX, was critical of permitting Vallecillo to work in the so-called "danger zone" on top of the TBM. He explained that this was because the TBM and shackles can move or rotate unpredictably when being manipulated by a crane.

Most of the plaintiff's medicals had already been paid. Vallecillo had just an outstanding amount of $10,648. He also sought sums for future care as well as his lost wages for his shortened work career. The plaintiff's economist was John Theriot. Vallecillo additionally sought general damages.

McDermott's defense implicated Vallecillo as being solely at fault. Why? He was an experienced seaman and he was in charge of the project. If he believed it was unsafe, he should have halted it as he had "Stop the Job" authority. The defense marine expert who developed this proof was Martin Gee, Brusley, LA. McDermott also contested the measure of Vallecillo's economic damages. Its economic expert on this was Dan Cliffe.

The case was tried as a bench trial for two days before Judge Summerhays. The court heard the proof the last week of February in 2024 which was nearly eight years after the

The DB50 derrick barge

close and struck the front of Anderson's vehicle. The collision resulted in moderate damage. Anderson alleged that Perritt (a State Farm insured) was on his cellphone and was distracted. There was no injury reported at the scene.

Anderson has since treated for chronic low-back pain with Dr. Joseph Turnipseed, Pain Management, Baton Rouge. His treatment was limited but he indicated Anderson needs significant future care including a medical block, an RFA and steroid injections. Anderson's incurred medicals were $4,520 which included mostly chiropractic care.

In this lawsuit Anderson sought damages from Perritt. He had a minimal $15,000 policy with State Farm. She sought her past and future medical specials, as well as non-economic damages in three categories. Perritt denied fault for the crash and diminished the claimed injury.

This case was tried for three days. The jury found Perritt solely at fault and rejected any apportionment to Anderson. The jury separately found that Anderson was injured in the crash.

The jury then went to damages. Anderson took medicals of $4,250 and $65,000 more for future care. Her non-economic damages were $63,000 and were as follows:
Pain and suffering: $37,000
Mental anguish: $13,000
Loss of enjoyment of life: $13,000.
The verdict for Anderson totaled $132,520. The court entered a judgment against State Farm to the extent of its $15,000 limits and then the remainder to Perritt. The plaintiff has since subjected Perritt to a judgment debtor examination in an attempt to satisfy the judgment.

The defense challenged the verdict and filed a motion for remittitur. It argued the future medicals were speculative, the plaintiff lacking proof they were necessary and inevitable. Anderson replied that Perritt was simply displeased with the verdict and the motion was "grasping at straws." Judge Lurry denied the motion on 6-25-25.

Medical Malpractice - An Ob-Gyn was blamed for mishandling a phone call (he was duck hunting) from a midwife reporting to him a Basic Physical Profile (BPP) on a term fetus, the doctor advising the mid-wife to continue treatment through the weekend until he returned on Monday – in the intervening period the baby was delivered by the mid-wife and wasn't breathing – while the baby (a little girl) was resuscitated 51 minutes later at a hospital after being taken from the "birthing center," she died three years later of her birth-related hypoxic injury – it was argued that if the Ob-Gyn had recommended the mother be sent to the hospital for delivery based on the BPP, the hypoxic injury would have been avoided – the plaintiff settled in trial with the midwife, the jury exonerating the Ob-Gyn
Stubblefield v. Elias, 17-2627
Plaintiff: Randal E. Hart, Aaron Broussard and Steven Broussard, *Broussard Knoll*, Lake Charles
Defense: Adam P. Gulotta and Michael W. Adley, *Judice & Adley*, Lafayette
Verdict: Defense verdict on liability
Parish: **Lafayette**
Judge: Laurie A. Hulin
Date: 4-12-24

Sarah Stubblefield, then age 41, became pregnant in the spring of 2016. She wanted to have a natural childbirth and not subject her baby to anesthesia. Stubblefield selected Acadiana Birth House to deliver her child. It operates a stand alone birthing center that relies on midwives. They do not use anesthesia and their treatment is limited – they are not allowed to use fetal monitoring strips.

Stubblefield first consulted with an Ob-Gyn, Dr. Daryl Elias, at the beginning of her pregnancy. He performed an ultrasound at that time at 11 weeks (6-13-16) and established a delivery date in January of 2017. He repeated the ultrasounds on 7-13-16 and 8-16-16. They were normal and the pregnancy was expected to be low risk. Stubblefield was cleared for a midwife delivery. She then began to consult with Acadiana Birth House. Elias last saw Stubblefield for a repeat ultrasound on 11-8-16. It was again normal and the plan to proceed with a midwife delivery was a go.

Moving forward to the first week of January of 2017, the baby was overdue. Michel Martien a midwife with Acadiana Birth House, called for a Basic Physical Profile (BPP). It is a more advanced version of an ultrasound. Elias was out of the office and the BPP was read by a radiologist, Dr. James Godchaux. His read was mostly normal but there was some concern about a low amniotic fluid level.

Martien received the results on a Thursday, 1-5-17, and communicated with Elias. He was not in the office. Elias was duck hunting. He took the call from Martien and while he didn't have the medical record in the duck blind, he still provided medical advice. In light of the apparently normal BPP, he told Martien to proceed with the

Historical Louisiana Verdicts

Railroad Negligence - A freight train car got loose in a switching accident and careened through Opelousas on Court Street – the plaintiff who was riding in an automobile in the path of the train car, jumped out of the automobile and landed on the tracks – incredibly the train car passed over the plaintiff and miraculously she sustained only minor injuries but for a diagnosis of "constant nervousness"

Andrus v. New Orleans, Texas and Mexico Railroad

$6,000 for plaintiff

St. Landry Parish

July 19, 1921

Alice Andrus, in her 40s and the wife of a local notable (Alexander) in Opelousas was riding in an automobile through town in 1920. They traveled on Court Street. Suddenly a train car broke loose from nearby switching operations. A report described that the train car had been "kicked" by a locomotive.

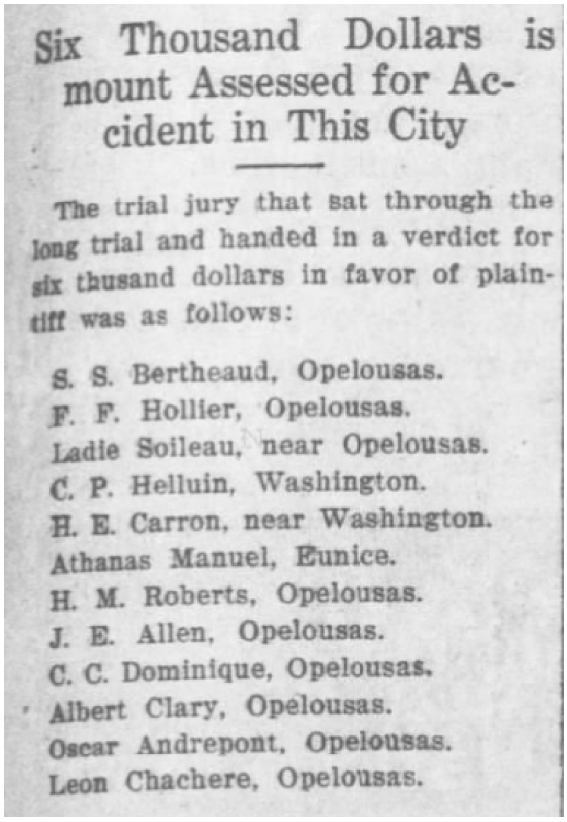
The train car belonged to the New Orleans, Texas & Mexico Railroad. It train car was out of control as it careened down the tracks. It was coming straight for the vehicle in which Andrus was riding. A calamity was all but certain.

Andrus jumped from the car to avoid the collision. She fell on the tracks and rolled over a cross tie. A moment later the train passed over her. It was a miracle. The train did not strike her. Andrus was left with only bruising and remained bedridden for a few weeks. She also suffered from "constant nervousness." Ultimately the train didn't strike the car.

Andrus sued the railroad regarding the wayward train car. The case was tried for two weeks in Opelousas and the jury deliberated on a Saturday. It returned a verdict for Andrus in the sum of $6,000. That would be about $110,000 104 years later in 2025.

The plaintiff was represented by John Lewis of Opelousas who was described as having successfully sued the railroad many times. The railroad's lawyer and the presiding judge are not known.

The image above represents the different way in which jury trials are presented then versus today. The names of the jury (rather than being a secret) were published in the newspaper. The twelve jurors from Bertheaud to Chachere were chronicled in the local paper. Today the names of jurors (even in ordinary cases) are sometimes treated as a guarded state secret.



Six Thousand Dollars is mount Assessed for Accident in This City

The trial jury that sat through the long trial and handed in a verdict for six thousand dollars in favor of plaintiff was as follows:

S. S. Bertheaud, Opelousas.
F. F. Hollier, Opelousas.
Ladie Soileau, near Opelousas.
C. P. Helluin, Washington.
H. E. Carron, near Washington.
Athanas Manuel, Eunice.
H. M. Roberts, Opelousas.
J. E. Allen, Opelousas.
C. C. Dominique, Opelousas.
Albert Clary, Opelousas.
Oscar Andrepont, Opelousas.
Leon Chachere, Opelousas.

The citizen jurors who heard the case of the wayward train car

Workplace Negligence - A worker at a sugar refinery in New Orleans had both his arms torn from his body in an industrial accident – the worker prevailed at trial and took "heavy" damages of $30,000 which were later set aside by the presiding judge

Callahan v. American Sugar Refining Company

$30,000 for plaintiff

Orleans Parish

May 31, 1894

Owen Callahan, age 19, was working in 1892 for American Sugar Refining Company at a New Orleans facility. American Sugar was then in the process of developing a virtual 100% monopoly on sugar in the United States. Callahan by contrast earned $12.50 a week and supported both his mother and a younger sister who was described as an invalid. Callahan suffered a devastating injury at the refinery when his arms became caught in machinery.

It was described that Callahan's arms were torn off his body and thrown a distance. Callahan sued American Sugar (this was in the pre-worker's compensation era) on a common law negligence standard. Callahan alleged the machinery was deficient. He was represented by Thomas Gill. American Sugar's lawyers (not named) were with the *Howes & Semmes* law firm. Judge Charles Parlange presided over the

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