

The Louisiana Jury Verdict Reporter

The Most Current and Complete Summary of Louisiana Jury Verdicts

October 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.

Truck Negligence - The defendant in a large garbage boom truck (designed to pick up branches) slowly backed out of a one-way street and into the path of the plaintiff – the plaintiff struck the rear of the truck (it was a hard hit) and has since complained of post-concussive symptoms and a low-back injury – the jury's verdict assessed fault 70% to the plaintiff, remainder to garbage truck driver,



Images of the Patterson v. Waste Connections collision

the defense arguing the plaintiff should have seen the big and slow-moving garbage truck

Patterson v. Waste Connections of Louisiana, 827515

Plaintiff: Katelyn N. Donnelly and Jake J. Weinstock, *Cosse Law Firm*, New Orleans

Defense: Jessica F. Gensler and Jacob K. Best, *Blue Williams*, Metairie

Verdict: \$521,779 for plaintiff less 70% comparative fault

Parish: **Jefferson**

Judge: Shayna B. Morvant

Date: 9-11-26

Dorian Lovely was operating a

garbage truck on 9-17-20 for Waste Connections of Louisiana. It was a large boom-style truck that is used to collect branches. He'd pulled down Velve Avenue off of 11th Street in Harvey. Velve is a one-way street. Lovely was now backing up towards 11th Street. He did so slowly and was looking both ways for traffic on 11th Street.

At the same time, Rayven Patterson, then

age 32, proceeded on 11th Street. She had the right of way. Patterson alleged Lovely backed out in front of her. She crashed into the rear of his backing truck. Patterson explained she attempted to evade. Lovely's dash cam video contradicted this. The video didn't show her swerve or even slow down. Patterson drove right into the truck.

Whether Patterson swerved or not, it was a hard hit. Her vehicle (a 2012 Nissan Altima) underrode the rear of the garbage truck. This shattered her windshield as the garbage truck

Employment Contract - An assistant basketball coach at LSU under Will Wade (he's now at McNeese State) alleged LSU violated his contract when it summarily terminated him without due process after there was an NCAA charge that he had engaged in misconduct – a year later the assistant was cleared by the NCAA – the coach prevailed on liability in part and took \$67,975 in contract damages but just \$1.00 each (for a total of \$6.00) for six separate categories of non-economic damages

Armstrong v. Louisiana State University, 741508

Plaintiff: Michael M. Thompson, *Taylor Wellons Politz & Duhe*, Baton Rouge and Lisa Cahill, *Lisa Cahill Law*, New York, NY

Defense: Christine S. Keenan and Elizabeth B. Block and Eric R. Miller, *The Kullman Firm*, Baton Rouge as Special Assistant Attorneys General

Verdict: \$67,981 for plaintiff

Parish: **East Baton Rouge**

Judge: Veronica Jones

Date: 9-3-26

William "Bill" Armstrong has made his life about basketball. He played college at UAB from 1998 to 2001 and thereafter he moved into coaching. He worked a variety of jobs and developed a good reputation. He was hired in May of 2017 as an assistant coach at LSU under former Head Coach Will Wade. Armstrong was later made Associate Head Coach in 2020.

Armstrong's reputation was nearly spotless. He had one minor infraction that LSU self-reported to the NCAA. It was at the lowest level of an infraction. He'd inadvertently made contact with a recruit's parents at a restaurant.

Recruiting Inducements Were Not Offered or Provided by Former Assistant Men's Basketball Coach No. 1

The hearing panel determined there was insufficient credible and persuasive information to establish that former assistant men's basketball coach No. 1 offered or provided recruiting inducements to basketball prospective student-athlete No. 1, his family members or associates, according to the case decision. The case record did not contain specific corroborating information other than recollections of conversations between former assistant men's basketball coach No. 1 and the cousin of basketball prospective student-athlete No. 1; however, their accounts of the situation were conflicting. Therefore, the hearing panel's determination rested on which of the two individuals it found credible. Based on the information contained in the case record and at the hearing, the hearing panel found former assistant men's basketball coach No. 1 to be highly credible, and his version of events to be persuasive. As a result, the hearing panel found no violations for former assistant men's basketball coach No. 1, according to the case decision.

The NCAA finding in 2023 that cleared Armstrong (Coach No. 1)

Coach Wade had a more colorful history with the NCAA. He'd faced accusations and signed a new contract in 2020 that provided he could be terminated immediately should he face a new charge. When Armstrong (he made \$375,000 plus perks including an \$800 a month car allowance) signed his new deal in 2020, there was no immediate termination provision.

Moving forward to 3-7-22, the NCAA's Complex Case Unit issued allegations of Level II violations against Wade and Armstrong. It concerned an allegation that a recruit had been offered \$300,000 in cash. The allegation was based on statements from a relative of the recruit. Armstrong, then age 44, denied he'd done anything wrong and there was no evidence to support. The NCAA also made significant claims regarding the LSU football team. LSU football is a significant revenue-generator for the university and LSU acted quickly.

Wade was immediately terminated pursuant to his contract. Armstrong

received a Notice of Intent to terminate that provided Armstrong five days to respond. At the same time LSU sent that Notice of Intent, it presaged the result by releasing a press statement that Armstrong was fired. Armstrong replied in a ten-page letter to the allegations on the fifth day. LSU didn't respond to it and on 6-2-22, his lawyer sent a letter. The next day LSU made the termination final.

The wheels of justice spun at the NCAA. A year later an independent NCAA investigatory body issued its report. While it found a variety of issues in LSU athletics, importantly as to Armstrong, he was cleared. The NCAA found there was no evidence he'd offered the recruit money. The NCAA did find fault with Wade and issued a two-year show-cause order against him.

From Armstrong's perspective, the damage was already done. He was now coaching in high school in Missouri earning \$75,000. It wasn't just economic loss either. His reputation had been damaged by the taint of the firing. Armstrong had

memorialized by a consistent judgment, all less a prior \$100,000 settlement with Ace American which provided insurance to Enterprise for the rented vehicle Harmansky was driving.

Historical Louisiana Verdict

Premises Liability - While the plaintiff was shopping at a Sam's Club in Kenner, a wooden Santa Claus statute (it weighed a few pounds) fell from a shelf and struck her in the head – after a four-day trial in 1998, a Gretna jury returned a defense verdict – the trial judge granted JNOV relief and awarded her damages of \$148,396 in damages – The Fifth Circuit affirmed it, the Louisiana Supreme Court subsequently reversing and ordering the entry of a judgment for Sam's Club

Davis v. Sam's Club, 484886

Plaintiff: David M. Cambre, Lozes & Cambre, New Orleans

Defense: Roy C. Beard and Heather G. Connor, Campbell McCranie

Sistrunk Anzelmo & Hardy, Metairie

Verdict: Defense verdict on liability

Parish: **Jefferson**

Judge: Robert Pitre

Date: 10-30-98

Mary Davis shopped on 11-19-94 at a Sam's Club in Kenner. As she walked down a seasonal aisle, she noticed several boxes fell to the floor. Davis stooped down to pick them up. A moment later a decorative wooden Santa Claus statute (it weighed a few pounds) fell from a shelf and struck her in the head. Davis recalled she had a knot on her head and her eyes were watering. She has since treated for facial numbness and other



The Santa statute that struck Davis

accepted the case. It had its decision in November of 2000. The court found that in this “fallen merchandise” court that Davis had not met the standard for JNOV relief. It ordered the entry of a judgment for Sam's Club.

injuries.

Davis sued Sam's Club and blamed the statute falling on the “puckered” status of the shelving. Sam's Club denied fault. The case was tried to a Gretna jury for four days in October of 1998 before Judge Pitre. The jury found for Sam's Club.

Davis moved for JNOV relief. Judge Pitre granted it the next May finding the verdict was contrary to the evidence. He awarded Davis medicals of \$23,396 and \$125,000 more in non-economic damages. Sam's Club appealed and the Fifth Circuit affirmed. In affirming it added \$40,000 more in future medicals.

Sam's Club took a further appeal and the Louisiana Supreme Court

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