The Louisiana Jury Verdict Reporter

The Most Current and Complete Summary of Louisiana Jury Verdicts

November 2026 **Statewide Jury Verdict Coverage since 2011** **17 LaJVR 11**

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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.

Auto Negligence - The plaintiff was struck by a vehicle driven by a municipal employee who made a right turn from the far left lane, striking the plaintiff in her Tesla which sent her into a utility pole – the plaintiff lost consciousness and has since complained of a post-concussive syndrome and radiating neck pain – the case was tried as a bench trial against the City of New Orleans and the plaintiff was awarded $500,000 in non-economic damages

Lewis v. City of New Orleans, 23-4360
Plaintiff: Jake J. Weinstock, *Cosse Law*, New Orleans
Defense: James M. Roguemore, *Deputy City Attorney*, New Orleans
Verdict: $525,425 for plaintiff (Bench verdict)
Parish: **Orleans**
Judge: Jennifer M. Medley
Date: 7-6-26

Shandrell Lewis traveled on Tulane Avenue near Carrollton on 1-24-23 in a 2022 Tesla. She had a green light and the right of way. Lewis intended to proceed straight on Tulane. At the same time, Ralph Doughty, a municipal employee for the City of New Orleans, was operating a pick-up truck. He was in the far left lane of Tulane.

Doughty made a decision to make a right turn (from the left lane) across two lanes of traffic. As Doughty did so, he collided with the Lewis Tesla. This caused her to careen into a utility pole. It was a hard hit and her airbags deployed. Doughty would later remark that his turn was a "poor decision."

Lewis was taken to the ER at University Medical Center where she was treated for soft-tissue symptoms. She has since complained of a post-concussive syndrome. She has dizziness and cognitive problems. Lewis also reports radiating neck pain and while steroid injections were recommended, she declined that course of care.

Lewis sued the City of New Orleans and alleged negligence by Doughty in turning in front of her. Lewis built her case through her treating physician, Dr. Troy Beaucoudray, Neurology/Pain Management. If Lewis prevailed she sought economic and non-economic damages. In describing how the wreck had affected her, Lewis testified she was an active and busy grandmother – since the crash her lifestyle is curtailed.

The City of New Orleans implicated the plaintiff's look-out and speed. However there was no evidence that she was speeding. The defense also diminished damages and noted that Lewis did not report she had lost consciousness in the crash until after she consulted a lawyer. It argued she suffered at most a minor soft-tissue injury which did not require surgery or invasive treatment.

The proof was heard in a single day bench trial that was conducted on February 9, 2026. Judge Medley had her opinion five months later. The government in its post-trial brief suggested a fair award would be $27,279, representing medical bills of

had exposed the secret of Santa Claus. Lashanteal also revealed several jurors wouldn't award damages because of their prior experience with a broken nose and that, "it doesn't hurt that bad." The JNOV motion was pending at the time of this report.

Attorney Fee Dispute -

Attorneys feuded over an attorney's fee in a marine personal injury case and after trying the matter as a bench trial (but before the judge had ruled), the parties submitted to a so-called "Baseball Arbitration" where each secretly submitted their valuation of the case and agreed to be bound (no appeal or challenge) to the valuation selected by the judge – the judge picked the plaintiff's valuation of $195,000 (the defendant's is unknown) and that concluded the case

Scott Vicknair, LLC v. Shlosman Law Firm, 2:22-2058

Plaintiff: Patrick S. McGoey and Andrea V. Timpa, *Schonekas Evans McGoey & McEachin*, New Orleans and David P. Vicknair, *Scott Vicknair Injury Lawyers*, New Orleans

Defense: Dane S. Ciolino, *Louisiana Legal Ethics*, Metairie and Thomas W. Shlosman, *Shlosman Law Firm*, New Orleans

Settled: $195,000 (Baseball Arbitration sum selected by the court)

Federal: **New Orleans**

Judge: Barry W. Ashe

Date: 9-2-26

This case began with an ordinary enough event in Louisiana. A longshoreman, Cline Cockburn, sustained an on-the-job injury while working for Apex Oil in July of 2021. Cockburn contacted attorney Thomas Shlosman of the Shlosman Law Firm in March of 2022. Shlosman brought in Caitlin Carrigan of Scott Vicknair, LLC, to join the representation. The lawyers met with Cockburn on 3-18-22. He was signed up to a contract. The lawyers agreed to split their fee evenly on a 33% contingency contract.

Thereafter the case was litigated for some 18 months. Both Shlosman and Carrigan alleged they performed significant work to advance the case. Carrigan spoke to Shlosman regularly and they shared hundreds of text messages about the case. Carrigan alleged that beginning in January of 2024, Shlosman began to exclude her. He also brought in another attorney (Barrett Rice) to assist with the case.

Cockburn had earlier left a five-star Google review for Carrigan related to her work on the case. By July of 2024 he was dissatisfied. He terminated her contract. Carrigan believed there was no basis for the termination.

Ultimately Cockburn's case settled for $1.7 million. Shlosman had reduced his fee from 33% to 30%. That left a fee of $518,500 – the math doesn't totally add ($518,500 is 30.5% of the settlement) but the record reflects clearly it was $518,500.. Shlosman took his 50% share of $259,250. The remaining sum was held in trust.

Carrigan and her law firm intervened in this case to assert their interest in the other half of the contract. The intervenor alleged she was entitled to the fee either based on contract or quantum meruit. Shlosman contested Carrigan's version and alleged she was terminated because of mishandling matters in the litigation. Moreover it was he who had done most of the work in this novel and complex case.

Shlosman continued that as the contract was properly terminated by Cockburn, Carrigan no longer had any fee interest. Her only remaining claim was predicated then on quantum meruit. He suggested a maximum sum of $51,850 (10% of the fee) or because of the quality of her work even less than that. Carrigan resisted this characterization and argued she'd been diligent and worked the case properly.

How would the fee dispute be resolved? The claim of Carrigan and her law firm advanced to a bench trial before Judge Ashe. That trial was conducted for two days at the beginning of September. Before the judge could decide the matter, the parties agreed to a so-called "Baseball Arbitration."

In this settlement device, the parties agreed to a multi-step process. Each party would submit a secret assessment of their valuation (no briefing) of the case to the court. The judge would then pick one of the two numbers and make an award. There would be no challenge to or appeal from the judge's decision. The parties would be bound.

The baseball arbitration process played out and the parties made their secret submissions. Judge Ashe announced his decision on 10-13-26. He selected the intervenor's number – it was $195,000 of the $259,250 in question. The number proposed by Shlosman is unknown. Judge Ashe ordered the $195,000 to be paid within seven days. Presumably the attorney fee dispute is concluded by Judge Ashe's selection.

Notable Louisiana Lawsuit

If you've followed college athletics this fall, you've likely heard discussion about the Class of 2022 and the five-year rule. In short the NCAA permitted college athletes before 2022 (with some exceptions) five years to play five seasons. This summer they announced a new rule for all classes (2023 and beyond) allowing five for five. However the NCAA determined this new rule would not apply to the Class of 2022. The NCAA excluded them. They had just four years.

The Class of 2022 athletes, mostly age 22 or 23, who had just finished their four years of eligibility in May of 2026, were aggrieved by the decision. They were the only class not to receive five years. Those athletes argued their exclusion was arbitrary and capricious.

The lawsuits began all over the country as athletes sued the NCAA. They cited anti-trust, breach of contract and breach of fair dealing among other things. The plaintiffs enjoyed mixed success. This summer a federal judge in Colorado in *Wisne v. NCAA* entered a nationwide injunction for the Class of 2022 on narrow antitrust grounds. All the athletes could play. . .the NCAA appealed and the 10th Circuit stayed that injunction. They couldn't play again. The litigation continued on a state-by-state basis.

That brings us to the case at hand. Kameron Hamilton, an offensive lineman for Tulane and a multi-year starter, ran out of eligibility under the old rule. He sued the NCAA in Orleans Parish and alleged breach of contract. The suit was filed on August 19, 2026. Judge Veronica E.

NO. 2026-7559 DIVISION: G-8

KAMERON HAMILTON

VERSUS

NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

FILED: _____ _____
DEPUTY CLERK

JUDGMENT

This matter came before the Court, on August 31, 2026, on Plaintiff, Kameron Hamilton's, Motion for Preliminary Injunction.

PRESENT: **Jake Weinstock, Counsel for Plaintiffs Kameron Hamilton**

Andrew Weinstock, Counsel for Plaintiff Kameron Hamilton

Howard Weinstock, Counsel for Plaintiff Kameron Hamilton

Richard Zimmerman, Counsel for Defendant the National Collegiate Athletic Association

The Court, after considering the entire record, the law, and evidence, and for the reasons orally assigned, renders the following Judgment:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that there be judgment herein in favor of Plaintiff, Kameron Hamilton on his Motion for Preliminary Injunction. The Court enjoins the NCAA and any of its members or affiliates from barring Kameron Hamilton from competing for Tulane University during this 2026-2027 football season.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the National Collegiate Athletic Association is enjoined from otherwise interfering with Kameron Hamilton's participation in intercollegiate athletics at Tulane University during this 2026-2027 football season.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the National Collegiate Athletic Association is enjoined from imposing any penalty or sanction on Kameron Hamilton or on Tulane University, its coaches, staff or athletes-including under the NCAA's Rule of Restitution.

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, this 31st day of August, 2026.

JUDGE VERONICA E. HENRY

Judge Henry's preliminary injunction

IN RE: NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

APPLYING FOR: EMERGENCY WRIT

DIRECTED TO: HONORABLE VERONICA E. HENRY
CIVIL DISTRICT COURT, ORLEANS PARISH
DIVISION "G", C-2026-07559

WRIT GRANTED. STAY GRANTED.

Defendant—Relator, National Collegiate Athletic Association seeks a writ staying the effect of a preliminary injunction granted by the trial court. That injunction would permit the Plaintiff—Respondent to play football on the Tulane University team immediately. That preliminary injunction is hereby stayed pendin the outcome the trial of the permanent injunction.

New Orleans, Louisiana, this 16th day of October, 2026.

RLB
CHIEF JUDGE ROLAND L. BELSOME

DLD
JUDGE DANIEL L. DYSART

TGC
JUDGE TIFFANY GAUTIER CHASE

The order staying the preliminary injunction



Hamilton in action for Tulane

Henry granted a temporary restraining order three days later. She held a hearing on August 31, 2026 and entered a preliminary injunction the same day. Hamilton was eligible to play. His story is interesting too as he is deaf and relies on hand signals from the sidelines for the plays.

The NCAA moved to stay enforcement of the injunction. It has since moved for an appeal to the Fourth Circuit.

On the evening of 10-16-26 (a Friday) and just thirty minutes before Tulane was going to play Army in New Orleans, the Fourth Circuit issued an order. It stayed the preliminary injunction pending the resolution of a permanent injunction hearing being conducted. Hamilton was immediately sidelined and did not play that evening. Judge Belsome wrote the barebones order (the court did not share any reasoning) and was joined by Judges Dysart and Chase.

Case Style:

Hamilton v. NCAA, 26-7559
Jake J. Weinstock and Howard Weinstock, Cosse Law Firm, New Orleans represent Hamilton. Richard F. Zimmerman, Jr. and Julie M. McCall, *Butler Snow*, Baton Rouge for the NCAA. The NCAA is also joined in the defense by its national counsel from *Holland & Knight* out of Nashville, TN.

Historical Louisiana Verdicts

Premises Liability - While shopping at TJ Maxx for an outfit to wear to her high school reunion, the plaintiff (a lawyer) slipped on a spilled daiquiri and sustained a knee injury

Payton v. TJ Maxx, 2:09-5859
Plaintiff: David D. Bravo, *Palazzo Law Firm*, Gretna
Defense: Paul J. Politz and Gina T. Cussain, *Taylor Wellons Politz & Duke*, New Orleans
Verdict: $254,744 for plaintiff
Federal: **New Orleans**
Judge: Eldon E. Fallon
Date: February 15, 2011

Courtney Payton, then age 28 and a lawyer at the Javier Law Firm, shopped on 7-12-08 at the Elwood TJ Maxx store. She was looking for an outfit to wear for her 10-year high school reunion. Earlier that day, someone had placed a daiquiri container (with two drinks) on top of a cardboard box on the retail floor of the TJ Maxx store. The drinks were there long enough that they seeped through the box and onto the floor. A bright pink puddle formed on the floor.

As Payton exited a fitting room, she looked for another pair of jeans. Walking on the floor, Payton didn't see the spill. She slipped and fell. In the resulting fall, Payton sustained an injury to her right knee. Dr. Gregory Hoffman, Orthopedics, performed an arthroscopic surgery three months later. There was proof that Payton will likely require a future (and premature) knee replacement.

In this lawsuit (filed in Jefferson Parish and removed to federal court by TJ Maxx), Payton alleged negligence by the retailer in failing to maintain its premises in a reasonably safe condition. That the store should have known of the spill, the plaintiff noted that the condition existed long enough that the pink daiquiri seeped through the box.

TJ Maxx's defense on liability focused on comparative fault. Notably, but for Payton's inattention, she should have observed the spill which was bright pink. An IME expert, Dr. Charles Murphy, Orthopedics, also diminished the notion that a future knee replacement will be required.

The jury's verdict was for Payton on liability – the jury further rejected any apportionment to her. Then to the issue of damages, she took medicals of $19,744 plus $85,000 more for future care. Her past suffering was $75,000 and she took the same sum for in the future. The verdict totaled $254,744. A consistent judgment was entered for the plaintiff.

Products Liability - An infant died from liver complications related to an overdose of Infant's Tylenol – her estate argued there were inadequate warnings of this risk – an Opelousas jury first exonerated the defendant on liability, but inexplicably, it still assessed fault 15% to the defendant – the court sent the jury to deliberate again and this time, it did find fault and that fault percentage had jumped to 23%

Hutto v. McNeil-PPC, 04-96
Plaintiff: Cle Simon and Barry L. Domingue, *Simon Law Offices*, Lafayette
Defense: Kathleen A. Manning, *McGlinchey Stafford*, New Orleans and Robert W. Sparks, Debra D. O'Gorman, Patrick G. Broderick and Michael F. Pianell, *Dechert, LLP*, New York, NY
Verdict: $5,033,802 for plaintiff assessed 23% to the defendant
Parish: **St. Landry**
Judge: Donald W. Hebert
Date: June 25, 2010

Brianna Hutto, then seven months old, was brought to the ER at Opelousas General Hospital on 1-3-03 by her mother. The girl had a high fever. She was treated and released without being formally admitted. Upon discharge, her mother (Christine) was given instructions to administer a one-teaspoon dosage of Infant's Tylenol to Brianna.

Brianna's mother and her grandmother (Theresa Hoyt) provided the Infant's Tylenol as directed by the hospital. The girl's condition became worse and she was returned to the hospital. It was learned she had suffered an acetaminophen overdose related to the Children's Tylenol. The effect of that overdose was to severely damage her liver.

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