

The Louisiana Jury Verdict Reporter

The Most Current and Complete Summary of Louisiana Jury Verdicts

May 2026

Statewide Jury Verdict Coverage

17 LaJVR 5

In This Issue

Federal Court - New Orleans

Employment Retaliation -
\$1,500,000 p. 1

Calcasieu Parish

Auto Negligence - \$185,723 and
\$156,153 p. 4

Federal Court - Lake Charles

Auto Negligence - \$928,776 p. 5

Caddo Parish

Auto Negligence - \$990,757 p. 7

Iberia Parish

Truck Negligence - Defense
verdict p. 8

Ouachita Parish

Verdict Update - JNOV Relief and
New Trial Granted p. 9

Jefferson Parish

Correction
Auto Negligence p. 10

Historical Jury Verdicts

New Orleans (1984)
Aviation Negligence - \$10,900,000 p. 11

Civil Jury Verdicts

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

Employment Retaliation - Two lawyers (women) who worked for LSU Health Sciences Center (one the long-time general counsel and the second her part-time staff attorney) alleged their contract offer was rescinded when they raised equal pay and gender discrimination concerns regarding the offer – the case made a trip to the Fifth Circuit after the trial court fully exonerated the defendants by summary judgment – the appellate court affirmed on discrimination and reversed on retaliation, the case coming to trial nearly seven years later – each plaintiff prevailed on the retaliation count and took \$750,000 for their emotional distress

Muslow et al v. LSU, 2:19-11793

Plaintiff: Amy M. Carter and Kathryn E. Eyukevich, *Carter Law Group*, Dallas, TX and Peter S.

Koppel, *Koepfel, LLC*, New Orleans
Defense: M. Nan Alessandra and Kim M. Boyle, *Phelps Dunbar* (as special Assistant Attorneys General), New Orleans

Verdict: \$750,000 for Muslow and \$750,000 for Cunningham

Federal: **New Orleans**

Judge: Barry W. Ashe

Date: 5-1-26

Katherine Muslow, an attorney, worked for LSU Health Science Center beginning in 2002 as its general counsel. Muslow was assisted from 2014 forward by Meredith Coleman who was a part-time staff attorney at LSU. Both were considered highly competent in their roles and this was not in dispute. The

Health Science Center hosts LSU Medicine, Dental and Nursing among other programs and is more broadly governed by LSU.

Thomas Skinner was hired as overall General Counsel for LSU in 2015. He considered it his mission to modernize the legal office at LSU. The idea was to consolidate all the LSU counsel (spread across several cities) into a single office. This effort began in December of 2018 and Muslow and Coleman (the plaintiffs) were told to begin to prepare for the transition.

In advance of that transition, LSU made a compensation decision. It determined that the fair value of the work done by the plaintiffs was from \$156,000 to \$188,000. However their salaries were already higher than that. LSU made a decision to offer to match their existing salaries in the new structure. It extended a contract offer to Muslow for \$227,000 in January of 2019. The offer to Cunningham was pro-rated (she wasn't full-time) on at a rate of \$127,000. This was all supposed to be perfunctory. While the positions were open and the plaintiffs had to apply, that was all a formality. That's not how it played out.

The plaintiffs (Muslow took the lead) believed for a long-time that she was paid less than male comparators. Particularly Muslow believed her salary was too low (the bare minimum) for a similarly situated university administrator with her experience. She believed there was a severe and historical underpayment of wages. Muslow compared her

Historical Louisiana Verdict

Aviation Negligence - A family that was devastated by the 1982 Pan Am crash into their neighborhood (one daughter was killed and her sister and mother were seriously injured) took substantial damages at trial against the airline

Schultz v. Pan Am

\$10,900,000 for plaintiffs

New Orleans (Federal)

Date: June 30, 1984

The fateful flight of Pan Am 759 took off from the New Orleans airport on the afternoon of 7-9-82. It did so into a storm. The plane was downed soon after takeoff by the then not-well-understood phenomenon of wind shear. It crashed into a nearby Kenner neighborhood. All 145 persons onboard the flight were killed. Eight more were killed in their homes in the neighborhood.

The Schultz family home (1624 Fairway Street) was hit hard. A daughter, Jennifer, age 11, was on the phone in the home's carport. She was killed by the plane. Another daughter (Rachel, age 7) was inside watching television with a friend. Their mother (Barbara) was waiting for the weather to clear to take the girls shopping for ballet shoes. Rachel suffered severe burns to 85% of her body and spent four months in a burn unit. Her doctor indicated she "teetered" on the edge of death for a month after the incident. Her friend was also killed. Barbara also suffered serious injuries.

Many lawsuits were filed after the crash against Pan Am including by the Schultz family. This jury trial (conducted in June of 1984 in New Orleans) concerned the personal



The destroyed Schultz home after the crash

injury claims of Rachel and her mother as well as the death claim on behalf of Jennifer.

The plaintiffs had claimed damages of almost \$400,000,000 which included \$388,000,000 for Rachel's future care. Pan Am admitted fault. Rachel had shown her scars to the jury in the privacy of the judge's chambers.

The jury awarded the Schultz family a total of \$10.9 million. That included \$500,000 for Rachel's future care and \$6,000,000 more for her pain and suffering. That would be almost \$20,000,000 in 2026 dollars. Barbara took \$500,000 for her suffering and \$1.5 million for future care.

The pain and suffering of Jennifer was \$800,000. The loss of love and affection to Schultz's family by Jennifer's death was \$700,000. Finally the Schultzes took \$40,000 more for the loss of their home. Mr. Schultz remarked poignantly on the gravity of the loss his family sustained after the verdict that, "It's not enough. You can't make it enough. But it's as

fair as it can possibly be."

Judge Beer granted Pan Am's motion to reduce the verdict in September of 1984. He cut it to \$4.9 million and after a \$2.3 million prepayment, Pan Am owed the plaintiffs \$2,583,161. The court reduce Rachael's \$6,000,000 to \$2.5 million. He also reduced the \$800,000 for Jennifer's suffering to what he called a maximum of \$15,000. The case later settled and Pan Am paid the plaintiffs a total of \$7.2 million.

The plaintiff's lawyer in the case was Wendell Gauthier. Pan AM was represented by Frederick "Fritz" Bott. Judge Peter Beer presided.

Gauthier was profiled in the Times-Picayune a month after the trial. The self-described country lawyer with a Cajun accent from Iota, LA (then age 41) described his use of "jurymetrics" during the Schultz trial. He conducted mock juries before the trial that expected a verdict from \$10,000,000 to \$14,000,000. Then during the five-day trial, Gauthier had hired a group of 15 shadow jurors (paid \$100 a day) to

The Louisiana Jury Verdict Reporter
9462 Brownsboro Road, No. 133
Louisville, Kentucky 40241
502-644-9017
Online at Juryverdicts.net

Timely Louisiana Jury Verdict Coverage since 2011

Ordering is Easy

The Louisiana Jury Verdict Reporter
The Most Current and Complete Summary of Louisiana Jury Verdicts
[Order online](#) or return this form

Name

Firm Name

Address

City, State Zip

Your e-mail

Return with your check to:
The Louisiana Jury Verdict Reporter
At the above address

_____ \$369.00 for a one-year subscription to the
Louisiana Jury Verdict Reporter
(391.14 with tax)