

# The Louisiana Jury Verdict Reporter

The Most Current and Complete Summary of Louisiana Jury Verdicts

July 2024

Statewide Jury Verdict Coverage

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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.

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**Medical Malpractice - During a complex prophylactic mastectomy surgery (it lasted eleven hours), the plaintiff became hypertensive which led to blindness in her left eye – in this lawsuit the plaintiff alleged error by her anesthesiologist in failing to properly monitor her blood pressure, this case being very interesting as a key fact witness in the case was the plaintiff's husband who is also an anesthesiologist and was in the operating room during the surgery**

*Patrick v. Triay*, 19-10903

Plaintiff: Louis L. Gertler and Helen H. Babin, *Gertler Law Firm*, New Orleans

Defense: C. William Bradley, Jr. and L. David Adams, *Bradley Murchison Kelly & Shea*, New Orleans

Verdict: Defense verdict on liability

Parish: **Orleans**

Judge: Jennifer M. Medley

Date: 5-6-24

Sherry Patrick was a breast cancer survivor in 2017. Some nine years earlier she had undergone a lumpectomy and a course of chemotherapy. Patrick, then age 58, made a decision to undergo a prophylactic mastectomy. She's a Cape Coral, Florida resident but selected Dr. Christopher Trahan (a plastic surgeon in New Orleans) to perform the surgery.

The surgery (performed 7-31-17) was complex. It was described as a nipple-sparing bilateral mastectomy with immediate reconstruction harvesting abdominal tissue for the implants. The surgery was

performed by Trahan at St. Charles Surgical Hospital. It was expected to last some eleven hours.

The defendant in this case was Dr. Melvin Triay, III. He's a board-certified anesthesiologist who has been practicing for some 44 years. He was not the only anesthesiologist that would be present that day. Patrick's husband (Dr. John Patrick) is also an anesthesiologist. By agreement with Triay, Dr. John would be present in the operating room to observe for part of the procedure.

The operation had two parts. The first was the abdominal flap procedure to harvest tissue which was followed by the reconstruction. During the long surgery Triay monitored Patrick's vital signs including her blood pressure. He wasn't in the room all the time (he was supervising some three operating rooms that day) but nurse anesthetists did monitor Patrick at all times. Triay was also regularly reviewing their charting.

Late in the surgery Triay texted Dr. John and invited him to the operating room as the surgery continued. Dr. John would later recall he observed that his wife was becoming hypertensive (her blood pressure was high) and that the nurse anesthetists were not monitoring it. There was proof her normal blood pressure should be 120/70 but at times it 180/105 for a lengthy period of time.

The hypertension issue aside the surgery ultimately concluded and Patrick went to recovery. The next day when Patrick awoke, she reported

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**Louisiana Jury Verdict Reporter**

Case Style \_\_\_\_\_

Jurisdiction \_\_\_\_\_ Case Number \_\_\_\_\_

Trial Judge \_\_\_\_\_ Date Verdict \_\_\_\_\_

Verdict \_\_\_\_\_

For plaintiff \_\_\_\_\_ (Name, City, Firm)

For defense \_\_\_\_\_ (Name, City, Firm)

Fact Summary \_\_\_\_\_

Injury/Damages \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Medical Malpractice - The plaintiff died after being admitted to the hospital in a pancreatic crisis – the plaintiff would later allege two hospitalists failed to respond to the crisis to make sure he was properly hydrated**

*Butler v. Hill et al, 641544*

Plaintiff: David Abboud Thomas and J. Neale Gravelles, *Walters*

*Thomas Cullens*, Baton Rouge

Defense: Craig J. Sabottke and Michael M. Remson, *Watson Blanche Wilson & Posner*, Baton Rouge

Verdict: Defense verdict on liability

Parish: **East Baton Rouge**

Judge: Kelly Balfour

Date: 4-18-24

John Butler, then age 67 and a retired BlueCross BlueShield

executive, was admitted to Baton Rouge General Medical Center in the middle of the night on 9-13-11. He had abdominal pain and was in the midst of a pancreatic crisis. Butler would be dead within three days.

The plaintiff (representing his adult children, Dr. Lauren Britt, a Birmingham doctor and Randy Butler of Houston) alleged error by his