

The Mississippi Jury Verdict Reporter

The Most Current and Complete Summary of Mississippi Jury Verdicts

October 2026

Statewide Jury Verdict Coverage

17 MSJVR 10

In This Issue

Federal Court - Oxford

Defamation - \$245,000 p. 1

Yalobusha County

Construction Negligence - Directed verdict p. 4

Federal Court - Jackson

Disability Discrimination - \$436,007 p. 5

Jones County

Medical Malpractice - Defense verdict p. 6

Clarke County

Truck Negligence - Defense verdict p. 7

Lamar County

Breach of Contract - \$166,902 p. 8

Historical Jury Verdicts

Leflore County (1979)

Medical Malpractice - \$15,112 p. 9

Federal Court - Jackson (1997/1999)

Negligent Security - \$5,053,000 p. 9

Notable Louisiana Verdict

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Employment Contract - \$67,981 p. 12

Defamation - A lawyer (the plaintiff) for a Memphis personal injury law firm alleged that after quitting his job, the firm's principal defamed him in an email to a defense lawyer involved in a case, that email indicated the plaintiff lacked integrity, practiced with "sheer incompetence" and the principal lawyer was "embarrassed to have ever been affiliated" with the plaintiff – the plaintiff also alleged breach of contract in failing to pay earned bonuses – the verdict was mixed, the plaintiff prevailing on the defamation count but he lost

on the contract claim

Myatt v. Reaves Law Firm, 3:25-65

Plaintiff: William B. Ryan and

Janelle C. Osowski, *Donati Law*,

Memphis, TN

Defense: Wesley T. Evans, *Reaves*

Law Firm, Memphis, TN

Verdict: \$245,000 for plaintiff

Federal: **Oxford**

Judge: Robert P. Chamberlin

Date: 9-10-26

Jody Myatt graduated from law school at Texas Tech in 2003 and was

licensed in Texas. Thereafter he spent time as a JAG lawyer. He became licensed in Mississippi in 2016.

Myatt took a job with the Memphis-based The Reaves Law Firm in February of 2023. The law firm's principal is Henry Reaves.

Myatt had a melded compensation package. He was paid a base \$95,000 per annum salary to work plaintiff's personal injury cases. There was also a convoluted bonus structure that provided additional compensation

Dawn,

This matter is resolved. There are no fee disputes.

Jody was fired from RLF due in part to his lack of integrity and failure to meet RLF standards as an attorney. He was an attorney on payroll and had no contractual right to any fees from any case I had him work as an employee.

His current actions, reaffirm that we made the right decision firing him.

I took this case from Jody because of his sheer incompetence, prior to mediation.

Jody is currently misrepresenting himself and attempting to mislead others.

He in no way reflects the Reaves Law Firm. *I try to give fellow veterans an opportunity when no one else will, sometimes it doesn't work out. I'm embarrassed to have ever been affiliated with a man of such low character.*

If Jody Myatt continues with these tactics, there will be ramifications.

Best,

Henry E. Reaves III, Esq.

The email from Henry Reaves to Dawn Carson

Historical Mississippi Verdicts

Medical Malpractice - A doctor performed a tubal ligation and a year later the woman gave birth to a child – in this lawsuit she and her husband sued the doctor and alleged error by him in failing to confirm with pathology that both fallopian tubes were removed – the trial court directed a verdict for the plaintiffs on liability and a Greenwood jury was asked in 1981 to value damages

Walker v. Sandifer

Plaintiff: H.L. "Sonny" Meredith, Greenville

Defense: Jim Upshaw and Thomas Williams, Greenwood

Verdict: \$15,112 for plaintiff

Court: **Leflore**

Judge: Arthur B. Clark

Date: June 9, 1981

Mrs. Billy Walker of Greenwood underwent a tubal ligation in November of 1978. It was performed by Dr. Fred Sandifer, also of Greenwood. A year later the Walkers gave birth to a healthy little boy named Tony. They loved Tony and welcomed him to the world. However he was certainly unplanned.

What could have happened? Sandifer did not review the pathology report after the tubal ligation that indicated Walker's right fallopian tube had not been removed. The Walkers sued Sandifer and sought damages associated with raising Tony to the age of 18. An economist from USM valued that cost at \$91,000.

The case came to trial in June of 1984 and was heard for two days. The presiding Judge Clark (noting this was a novel case) directed a

verdict for the Walkers on liability. The jury would only consider damages. Sandifer defended the case and argued the love and affection of Tony far outweighed any mistake he had made. The jury's verdict was for the plaintiffs in the sum of \$15,112. There is no record of the resolution of the case beyond the jury verdict.

Negligent Security - A mother and her teenage daughter were abducted in a K-Mart parking lot by two teenage boys and driven to a remote location where the mother was raped and sodomized by the boys as her daughter was held at gunpoint and forced to watch – the plaintiffs (mother, daughter and husband for consortium claim) sued K-Mart and alleged a negligent security theory – they prevailed at a 1997 jury trial and took damages of \$3.4 million – K-Mart appealed and the 5th Circuit affirmed on liability but ordered a new trial on damages – at that second trial in 1999 (the only issue being the horrific damages), the verdict was \$5.053 million

Whitehead v. K-Mart, 3:95-827

Plaintiff: Paul S. Minor, *Minor & Associates*, Biloxi

Defense: James Holland, *Page Kruger & Holland*, Jackson and Don K. Haycraft, *Liskow & Lewis*, New Orleans, LA

Verdict: \$3,400,000 for plaintiffs at first trial in 1997; \$5,053,000 for plaintiffs at second trial in 1999 after new trial ordered by 5th Circuit after successful appeal by K-Mart

Federal: **Jackson**

Judge: Henry T. Wingate

Date: 5-19-97 (First Trial)

9-3-99 (Second Trial)

Susan Whitehead, then age 31, shopped on the evening of 10-18-92 at a Jackson K-Mart located on E. Beasley Road. Her daughter (Amy, age 12) was with her. As the Whiteheads loaded shopping bags into their SUV, they were abducted by two teenage boys, James Seaton and Shanta Jones.

The boys held the Whiteheads at gunpoint and first drove to an ATM.

Notable Louisiana Verdict

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, LA 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, LA as Special Assistant Attorneys General

Verdict: \$67,981 for plaintiff

Court: **Baton Rouge, Louisiana East Baton Rouge Parish**

Judge: Veronica Jones

Date: 9-3-26

William "Bill" Armstrong has made his life about basketball. He played college basketball 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

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)

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.

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 per year 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 allegation. 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

The Mississippi Jury Verdict Reporter

9462 Brownsboro Road, No. 133

Louisville, Kentucky 40241

1-502-644-9017

Online at Juryverdicts.net

Timely Mississippi Jury Verdict Coverage since 2011

Ordering is Easy

The Mississippi Jury Verdict Reporter

The Most Current and Complete Summary of Mississippi Jury Verdicts

Order in the [Online](#) store or return this form

Name

Firm Name

Address

City, State Zip

Your e-mail

Return with your check to:

The Mississippi Jury Verdict Reporter

At the above address

_____ \$399.00 for a one-year subscription to the
Mississippi Jury Verdict Reporter
(*422.94 with tax*)