The Mississippi Jury Verdict Reporter

The Most Current and Complete Summary of Mississippi Jury Verdicts

November 2026 **Statewide Jury Verdict Coverage** **17 MSJVR 11**

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Medical Malpractice - The plaintiff presented to an ER with the sudden onset of chest pain – after a battery of tests (EKG, chest x-ray and troponin) were normal, she was discharged after 90 minutes with a working diagnosis of a chest wall bruise from a recent car crash with a deer – the woman was found dead the next morning of an apparent (there was no autopsy) cardiac event – her estate alleged negligence by her treaters at the ER (a PA and emergency room doctor) in failing to perform more tests and otherwise sufficiently clear her chest pain symptoms

Ball v. Jackson HB Medical Services,

PATRICIA BALL, Individually and as Administratrix of the Estate of FORMEKA BALL, DECEASED, and on behalf of all wrongful death beneficiaries of FORMEKA BALL, DECEASED

Oct 08 2026
ARTHUR JOHNSTON, CL
By: _____ Depu

PLAINTIFF

VS. CIVIL ACTION NO. 3:24-CV-632-DPJ-ASH

JACKSON HB MEDICAL SERVICES, LLC; and JOHN DOES 2-10 DEFENDANTS

VERDICT FORM

Based on all instructions you have received, please unanimously answer these questions.

QUESTION NO. 1

Do you find by a preponderance of the evidence that Jackson HB Medical Services, LLC, acting through its employees Patrick Lewis, P.A. and/or Dr. Victoria Ross, breached the applicable standard of care in the evaluation, treatment, and/or discharge of Formeka Ball?

_____ YES ___✓___ NO

If your answer is NO, sign and date this verdict form and return it to the Court. If your answer is YES, proceed to Question No. 2.

QUESTION NO. 2

Do you find by a preponderance of the evidence that such negligence proximately caused or contributed to cause Formeka Ball's death?

_____ YES _____ NO

The Ball v. Jackson HB Medical Services jury verdict

3:24-632
Plaintiff: Benjamin N. Philley, *Kilpatrick & Philley*, Madison and Nelson W. Wagar, III and Jennifer S. Avallone, *Wagar Hickman*, Mandeville
Defense: Whitman B. Johnson, III and Lisa W. McKay, *Currie Johnson & Myers*, Jackson
Verdict: Defense verdict on liability
Federal: **Jackson**
Judge: Daniel P. Jordan, III
Date: 10-8-26

Formeka "Meka" Ball, age 46 and of Florence, MS, was not feeling well on the morning of 10-23. She awoke with a cold sweat and pain that radiated to her hand. Ball took her daughter, Rylee, age 9, to school. Ball continued to feel poorly and presented to the Merit Health River Oaks ER in Flowood at 10:41 a.m. She came under the care of a physician assistant, Patrick Lewis. Lewis worked under the supervision of an emergency room doctor,

Historical Mississippi Verdicts

Railroad Negligence - An Ole Miss student (a popular woman and the star of the basketball team) was killed when a drunk driver in a race struck her as she walked on the railroad bridge that connected the university to town – her estate alleged negligence in that there was no barrier separating pedestrians from vehicular traffic – the estate prevailed at a 1931 trial in Tallahatchie County (the plaintiff was from Rosebloom) and it was later reversed at the Supreme Court

Bloodworth v. Illinois Central,
Plaintiff: Richard Denman, *Denman & Breland*, Sumner
Defense: W.E. Stone and John M. Kuykendal, Charleston
Verdict: $35,000 for plaintiff
Court: **Tallahatchie**
Date: December 11, 1931

Blanche Bloodworth of Rosebloom, MS was a big shot on the Ole Miss campus in the fall of 1929. She was the President of the YWCA and the star of the women's basketball team. On the evening of September 14, 1929, she walked over the railroad bridge that connected campus to Oxford. The two-lane wooden bridge (it's now University Avenue) had been there for sixty years. It was maintained by the Illinois Central Railroad. The bridge is located near The Grove and had significant pedestrian traffic.

This evening Van East was driving drunk and racing his vehicle. A first car cleared the bridge. A moment later East lost control. He struck Bloodworth and knocked her off the bridge. She fell sixty feet down the embankment. Bloodworth died of her injuries the next morning.

Bloodworth's death was a great tragedy and the sadness had an element of anger. East was charged with vehicular homicide and moved out of the county because of fears he would be lynched. East was later tried and a mistrial was declared. Some 800 Ole Miss students attended a memorial for her at the school's chapel. A day later in Rosebloom, her Ole Miss basketball teammates served as pallbearers.

The Bloodworth estate (representing Blanche's parents) sued the railroad and alleged negligence regarding the design of the railway bridge. The primary criticism was that it lacked any barrier to protect pedestrians from vehicle traffic. The case was tried to a Tallahatchie County jury in December of 1931. The estate prevailed and took $35,000 in damages. That would be $775,000 or so in 2026 dollars.

The railroad appealed. The Mississippi Supreme Court reversed in January of 1933. Judge McGowen wrote for the court in *Illinois Central v. Bloodworth*, 145 So. 333 (1933) that the railroad had no duty to control traffic on the bridge. The olden wooden bridge is long gone. It was replaced by a four-lane concrete bridge in 1940.



Bloodworth was memorialized in the 1930 Ole Miss yearbook – also pictured (top row) with the basketball team

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