

# The Mississippi Jury Verdict Reporter

The Most Current and Complete Summary of Mississippi Jury Verdicts

March 2024

Statewide Jury Verdict Coverage

15 MSJVR 3

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## In This Issue

### Hinds County

Breach of Fiduciary Duty - \$81,000 p.

### Federal Court - Jackson

Truck Negligence - \$310,000 p. 1

### Lamar County

Breach of Contract - \$1,000 p. 2

### Bolivar County

Uninsured Motorist - Directed verdict p. 3

### Rankin County

Auto Negligence - Defense verdict p. 5

### Jefferson County

Insurance Coverage/Bad Faith - \$70,000 p. 5

### Jones County

Auto Negligence - \$350.00 p. 6

### Warren County

Breach of Warranty - \$10,000 p. 6

### Notable Louisiana Verdict

New Orleans, LA

Premises Liability - \$350,000 p. 7

### Notable Tennessee Verdict

Nashville, TN

Auto Negligence - \$703,105 p. 8

### Notable Alabama Verdict

Birmingham, AL

Medical Negligence - Defense p. 10

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## Civil Jury Verdicts

Timely coverage of civil jury verdicts in Mississippi including court, division, presiding judge, parties, case number, attorneys and results. Notable results from the southern region, including Memphis and New Orleans, are also covered.

**Truck Negligence - The plaintiff complained of an L4-5 disc injury (it led to a decompression surgery and the need for a future fusion surgery) after a sideswipe interstate collision with a trucker – the plaintiff took a total award of \$310,000, representing his medicals of \$177,533 as claimed and \$97,650 for his non-economic damages which was a medicals-non-economic damages of .55**

*Criss v. Roll-Offs Trucking*, 3:22-457  
Plaintiff: Rocky Wilkins, Paul V. Ott and Nicholas A. Puckett, *Morgan & Morgan*, Jackson  
Defense: Jason H. Strong, *Daniel Coker Horton & Bell*, Jackson and C. Landon Kidd, *Copeland Cook Taylor & Bush*, Ridgeland  
Verdict: \$310,000 for plaintiff  
Federal: **Jackson**  
Judge: Kristi H. Johnson  
Date: 2-22-24

It was 11-9-20 and Brant Criss, then age 42, was driving a Toyota Corolla sedan on I-55 in Madison County. Suddenly he was sideswiped by a trucker, Jody White who was driving a big rig for Roll-Offs Trucking. That initial impact caused Criss to fish tail.

The Criss Corolla then spun in front of the tractor-trailer as White hit the brakes. There was then a second impact which caused Criss's vehicle to slide off the road and into the emergency. It was a moderate collision although the parties contested its severity. What they did not contest was that White was solely at fault.

Criss initially had a course of

conservative care which included seeking a chiropractor, physical therapy and an ESI. He was ultimately referred to a neurosurgery, Dr. Orhan Ilercil, who performed an L-5 decompression surgery on 4-17-23. There was proof Criss will likely require a future fusion surgery.

Ilercil confirmed the injury, the future course of care and linked it all to the collision. Criss also relied at trial on his treating chiropractor, Dr. Mark Ray. Finally a life care planner, Kathy Smith, quantified his future medicals at \$269,406.

Criss originally sued Roll-Offs Trucking in Madison County. The defendant removed the case to federal court. If Criss prevailed at trial he sought his medical bills (\$177,533) plus sums for future care and lost wages. The jury could also award him non-economic damages in a single line category on the verdict form. As the case was argued to the jury, Criss asked for a verdict of \$3,000,000.

The defense of the case minimized the claimed. An IME for Roll-Offs Trucking, Dr. Lynn Stringer, Neurosurgery, believed an MRI suggested degenerative changes and moreover there was no "structural injury" to Criss' spine. Stringer further testified that, (1) the surgery was not crash related, and (2) Criss had suffered just a temporary soft-tissue injury.

This case was tried for three days in Jackson. The jury deliberated damages only. The verdict form first asked: Has the plaintiff sustained damages a proximate cause of the accident. The jury said yes.

*Have you tried a case lately? We are traveling all over the state and communicating with court personnel, but if we know about a verdict, we'll get on it right away*

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### **Mississippi 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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against the weight of the evidence. This was especially so as Thompson testified she'd paid her premiums. State Farm had even negotiated to settle case in good faith, and if the result were to stand, it would led to a manifest injustice. Finally she cited newly discovered evidence that the tortfeasor had a Progressive policy that was later ruled invalid, this further indicating he was not

insured. Thompson's motion is pending.

**Case Documents:**

[Pretrial Order](#)

[Directed Verdict](#)

[Plaintiff Motion for a New Trial](#)