

The Mississippi Jury Verdict Reporter

The Most Current and Complete Summary of Mississippi Jury Verdicts

September 2026

Statewide Jury Verdict Coverage

17 MSJVR 9

In This Issue

Hinds County

Alien of Affection - Defense verdict p. 8

Prentiss County

Truck Negligence - \$260,000 p. 1

Jackson County

Products Liability - Defense verdict p. 4

Neshoba County

Medical Malpractice - \$277,576 p. 6

Warren County

Medical Malpractice - Defense verdict p. 9

Federal Court - Hattiesburg

Insurance Contract - \$32,418 p. 9

Historical Jury Verdict

Pike County (1964)

Train Negligence (Wrongful Death) - \$150,000 p. 10

Notable Louisiana Verdicts

Plaquemine, LA (Iberville Parish)

Defamation - \$300,000 p. 12

Lafayette, LA (Lafayette Parish)

Massage Chair Neg - \$875,000 p. 15

Notable Alabama Verdict

Tuscaloosa, AL (Federal)

Defamation - \$9,250,000 p. 16

Truck Negligence - A trucker blew through a stop sign as she exited Hwy 45 in Booneville and the plaintiff (he had the right-of-way) crashed into the truck – the plaintiff subsequently complained of severe chest and internal injuries – the jury awarded the plaintiff a total of \$260,000 including \$87,500 in non-economic damages and \$10,500 more for a damaged mechanical bull he was hauling – the most interesting part of the award was that the jury awarded \$106,000 in lost earnings (an apparent error or math mistake) as the plaintiff's lost wages (a few months off work as an HVAC repairman) were no more than \$12,000 – a motion for remittitur has been filed by the defendant

Stevens v. Worldwide Trucking, 22-60

Plaintiff: Derek O. Fairchilds and Trenton G. Winford, *Nahon*

Saharovich & Trotz, Memphis

Defense: Earl W. Houston, II and

Christopher Myatt, *Martin Tate*

Morrow & Marston, Memphis

Verdict: \$260,000 for plaintiff less 30% comparative fault

Court: **Prentiss**

Judge: John White

Date: 8-20-26

Porche White was operating a big rig on the evening of 5-27-21 for Worldwide Trucking. She traveled on Hwy 45 S at its exit in Booneville onto West Chambers Drive. She had several versions of what occurred but ultimately settled on the version that she was going to make a left turn onto Chambers from Hwy 45 S



The plaintiff's truck depicting significant damage

Alienation of Affection - The plaintiff alleged his wife's affections (after fifteen years of wedded bliss and a union that produced five children) were alienated by her college boyfriend which led to their divorce – the wife thought otherwise and cited a “myriad” of problems in the marriage and that when she reconnected with the boyfriend, the marriage ended – the case was tried for three days in Jackson and a defense verdict was returned

Renick v. Hamrick, 21-415

Plaintiff: Michele D. Biegel, Brookhaven

Defense: Matthew L. Schloegel, Healy & Jordan, Gulfport

Verdict: Defense verdict on liability

Court: **Hinds**

Judge: James D. Bell

Date: 9-2-26

Nathan Renick and his wife (Robin) were married in 2004. They made a home in Clinton, MS. From Nathan's perspective, it was a happy one. The union produced five children. Nathan described himself as a loyal, contented, faithful and supportive husband.

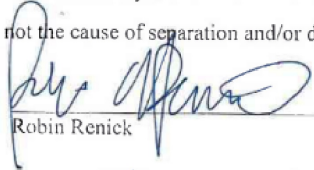
That all changed in 2018 when Robin rekindled a relationship with her college boyfriend, Harry Hamrick. It all started with an innocent Facebook message. Before long there were steamy texts, romantic dinners and trysts at hotel rooms. Nathan discovered his wife's affair when he saw a picture on her iPad. Thereafter she filed for a divorce. The marriage was over.

Nathan sued Hamrick and alleged he had alienated his wife's loving and loyal affections. This included seducing her with texts and emails all of which led the adulterous

STATE OF Mississippi
COUNTY OF Hinds

Robin Renick, being duly sworn, deposed and says:

1. That my marriage with Nathan Renick had a myriad of problems wholly unrelated to Harry Edward Hamrick, IV.
2. That I reached out to Harry Edward Hamrick, IV after my marriage was irrevocably broken and the relationship with Nathan Renick was over.
3. That I tried numerous times to reconcile with Nathan Renick without success before I reached out to Harry Edward Hamrick, IV.
4. That my marriage with Nathan Renick was already irrevocably broken when I reached out to Harry Edward Hamrick, IV.
5. That Harry Edward Hamrick, IV never attempted to get me to leave Nathan Renick.
6. That Harry Edward Hamrick, IV did not alienate my affection from Nathan Renick.
7. That Harry Edward Hamrick, IV was not the cause of separation and/or divorce from Nathan Renick.


Robin Renick

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me this the 8th day of March, 2022.


Notary Public

The affidavit from Robin disavowing that affections were alienated

relationship and the end of the marriage. Nathan sought compensatory and punitive damages.

Hamrick denied he had alienated anything. In fact when he first connected again with Robin, she told him the marriage was over. Robin might have been his best witness. She indicated the marriage had a “myriad” of problems and that it was irretrievably broken *before* the affair began. Thus from the perspective of Hamrick, there was nothing for him to alienate. Nathan countered and looked to the suggestive texts which indicated Hamrick knew what he was doing was wrong.

The case was filed in July of 2021 and languished for a time on the docket. It was ultimately assigned to

Judge Bell sitting as senior status. The case was tried for three days in Jackson. The jury's verdict was for Hamrick on liability and the plaintiff took nothing. A defense judgment was entered.

Case Documents:

[Complaint](#)

[Defense Summary Judgment Motion](#)

[Affidavit from Wife](#)

[Plaintiff Summary Judgment](#)

[Response](#)

[Final Judgment](#)

argued that the purported damage was less than the deductible. A defense expert was Andy Woodard, a roofer from Wiggins, MS.

The case was tried in Hattiesburg for three days. The jury rejected the contract case as to the April 2022 hail storm. The verdict by contrast was for the Steadmans as to the May 2023 storm. The jury assessed damages of \$32,418. The final judgment less the deductible was for the Steadmans in the sum of \$30,748.

Case Documents:

[Complaint](#)

[Plaintiff Expert Report](#)

[Jury Verdict](#)

Historical Mississippi Verdict

Train Negligence (Wrongful Death) - There was a tragic train versus gasoline truck collision in downtown Magnolia in January of 1961 that killed eight persons – this trial concerned the claim of the deceased trucker who struck the train at a purportedly dangerous crossing – a 1964 jury in Pike County awarded the estate \$150,000 (\$1.6 million in 2026 dollars) that was later set aside by the Mississippi Supreme Court

Pigott v. IC Railroad,

Plaintiff: Gordon Roach, McComb and B.D. Statham, Magnolia

Defense: Dick Stratton, Brookhaven for IC Railroad

Joe Pigott, Magnolia for Livingston (Train engineer)

Verdict: \$150,000 for plaintiff against IC Railroad; Defense verdict for Livingston

Court: **Pike**

Judge: H.H. Watkins, Jr.

Date: July 18, 1964

Morris Pigott, age 46 and a longtime truck driver for Standard Oil from Holmesville, MS, was operating a gasoline truck on the morning of 1-17-61. He traveled through downtown Magnolia. His truck contained 12,000 gallons of gasoline. It was nearly 9:00 a.m.

At the same time an I.C. Railroad passenger train with nine cars, the City of New Orleans, was traveling north through Magnolia. This location was not a flag stop for I.C. Railroad. The train just cruised through town at some 75 mph. The crossing was simply marked with a red and white sign. There were no lights, siren or other markers at the crossing.

There was evidence that as the train approached the crossing, the horn was blowing. Pigott in the gasoline truck didn't hear the horn. As he went over the crossing, the train plowed into the truck. Flames shot into the sky. The train's engineer (Joe Livingston) and the fireman on board were all killed. Five others working at a nearby grain depot also died. Pigott was killed in his truck. A total of eight persons were killed. It was a gruesome scene and the next day the local paper had a picture of the accident that depicted a charred body next to the smoking train.

The train itself came to a stop after 900 feet. It had an automatic stop feature that was triggered when the engineer's foot was lifted. Incredibly while the fire was large and intense, the passenger train did not derail. In fact a new engine was brought to the scene and the train continued to Chicago. The passengers didn't even get off the train.

While the lives of the passengers went on, the tragedy left a hole in the local community. Several of the deceased persons's estates pursued injury claims that were heard as bench trials in Chancery Court. The subject of this report is the claim of the estate of Pigott (representing his wife and adult children) against I.C. Railroad and the train engineer, Livingston. It was alleged the crossing was unsafe and the train was moving too fast. The defense was simple enough – Pigott was solely to blame, and while the railroad's lawyer (Stratton) said Pigott was a "fine man" his actions and those actions alone had caused the accident.

The case was tried for a week before Judge Watkins. The jury was

At Least Six Killed in Flaming Crossing Crash as Streamliner Rams Gas Truck in Magnolia



This is wreckage of gas truck hit by speeding 'City of New Orleans'

—Photo by James Jones

Three, Four Others Injured by Flames

By JOHN EMMERICH
Enterprise-Journal Reporter

The crack Illinois Central passenger train, the City of New Orleans, streaked through Magnolia this morning and rammed into a loaded gas truck, killing at least six men, possibly more, and injuring three or four others.

The flaming accident shot fire as high as tree tops spread out along the tracks for what appeared to be the length of the train.

TRIED TO CROSS

The "City" was barreling through the center of Magnolia at 75 to 80 miles an hour when a Standard Oil Co. gas truck, driven by Morris Pigott, started across the tracks.

Witnesses said the train's whistle was blowing its warning when the crash occurred, creating an explosion that rattled windows up and down the tracks.

James A. Livingston, about 60, a veteran McComb railroader who was engineer of the train, was among the dead. His body was taken to Hartman Funeral Home, next door to his home at 412 Delaware Ave.

Also among the dead were John Collins, Jackson, the fireman who either jumped or was thrown from the train; Morris Pigott, the truck driver; Bob Gwin, Mac

and groaned, but he appeared relatively calm and asked about "the other boys" on the work crew.

TRAGIC DRAMA

The hospital was a drama of tragedy as relatives and families hurried to identify the injured and to learn of the dead.

The lobby was crowded with volunteers from the high school and from nearby factories who had come to offer blood for the injured.

Hundreds of spectators quickly assembled, alerted by the sound of the crash and the flames and smoke that shot high into the air.

The gas flames quickly burned out, and within 45 minutes most of the other burning was under control.

BODIES BY TRACKS

As spectators milled about wondering who was among the dead and injured, make-do covers were spread over the burned victims. The bodies lay beside the tracks awaiting removal by the four or more ambulances which answered emergency calls.

At one time, the death toll was reported to be as high as nine. But Enterprise-Journal reporters, who checked hospitals and funeral parlors, could account for only six bodies.

'It Was Tragic'

Explosion, Fire Alarmed Town

By CHARLES H. STOGNER

Enterprise-Journal Reporter

I was in the Chancery Clerk's office in Magnolia this morning about to leave when I heard an explosion that rattled the door knob in my hand. All at once everyone wanted to know what happened.

I thought possibly someone was using dynamite nearby.

I ran from the building to the front and saw a mushroom cloud of smoke similar to an atomic blast billowing up in the downtown area.

I grabbed my camera and rushed to the corner of the business district where I was stopped by Miss Mary Elizabeth Smith. She wanted to know what happened.

PHONES TIED UP

I told her it was a fire in the business district and asked to use her phone to call the McComb Fire Department. I couldn't get an open line on the phone and left her to call for me. I later learned that all of the phones in the downtown area were not working on outgoing calls.

At that time I figured the fire was an explosion in Bilbo's feed mill. I ran through Pigott's Drug

packed with friends and members of families of men killed in the fire.

Some of the people were simply sitting with their heads in their hands — shocked and grief written on their faces, others were nearly hysterical.

Six Known Dead From Collision

At noon today the Enterprise-Journal could definitely establish that six persons died in the train-truck crash.

The known dead were:

JAMES A. LIVINGSTON, about 60, McComb, the engineer.

JOHN L. COLLINS, 42, Jackson, the fireman who either jumped or was thrown from the cab of the big rail engine.

MORRIS PIGOTT, a store operator about seven miles east of Magnolia who was driving the truck.

A report the next day on the crash in Magnolia in the local paper

instructed at noon on a Saturday and then deliberated for two hours. The verdict was mixed. It found the railroad negligent, but exonerated the engineer. The estate was awarded damages of \$150,000. That would be \$1.6 million in 2026 dollars.

The railroad appealed. The Mississippi Supreme Court reversed in December of 1965 in *I.C. Railroad v. Pigott*, 181 So.2d 144. Judge Henry Lee Rodgers wrote for the court and cited instruction error. The excessiveness of the verdict was also blamed on error in admitting gruesome photos of the decedent. A new trial was ordered. What became of the case? There is no record it was tried again.

Massage Chair Negligence -

An aesthetician in training was in a massage chair at a beauty college as her instructor was demonstrating skin care routines when the chair collapsed and she fell to the floor – she has treated for cervical and lumbar injuries (surgery recommended for both) and ongoing headaches – the plaintiff asked the jury for an award of \$3.75 million, the defendant valuing the case (if the plaintiff proved her case) at \$350,000, the jury settling on \$875,000 which included \$365,000 in non-economic damages

Blanchard v. Blue Cliff College, 23-3910

Plaintiff: Megan C. Kiefer and Nat G. Kiefer, Jr., *Kiefer & Kiefer*, New Orleans

Defense: Philip G. Watson, Kristian Caruso and Brian G. Lebon, Jr., *Duplass, APLC, Metairie*

Verdict: \$875,000 for plaintiff

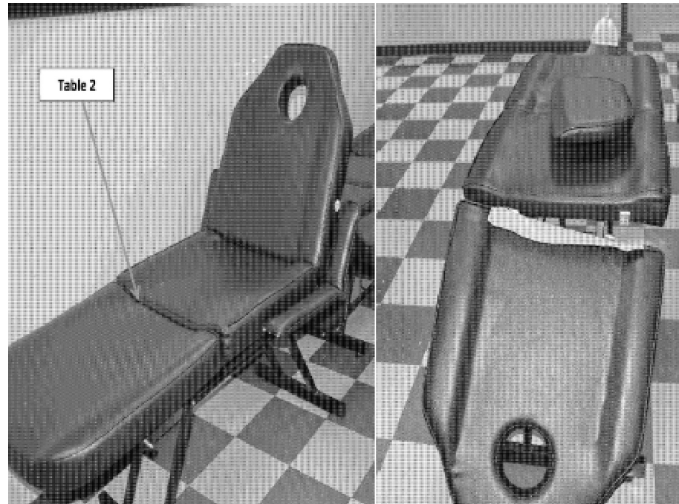
Court: **Lafayette, Louisiana
Lafayette Parish**

Judge: Thomas J. Frederick

Date: 8-21-26

Taylor Blanchard, then age 25 and six months pregnant, was a student at Blue Cliff College. It is a beauty school that operates as a d/b/a of Education Management. Blanchard was training to be an aesthetician. On 11-21-22 she was at school and the class was preparing for a practical session, in which the students practiced skin care techniques such as facials. That required Blanchard to serve as a model customer while another student performed the service.

Blanchard was seated in a massage chair. It was in an upright position. Suddenly the chair collapsed and Blanchard fell backwards. Her head struck the floor in the fall. She



The upright chair and then after it collapsed

claimed she lost consciousness for 15 minutes. Blanchard has since treated for neck pain and Dr. Jason Cormier, Neurosurgery, Lafayette, has recommended a surgical repair as well as a lifetime of injections to control pain. A pain management physician, Dr. Alvah Wickboldt, administered multiple RFA injections to her neck and back. Wickboldt indicated Blanchard will need ongoing care. Blanchard has also reported headaches related to suffering a mild TBI.

Blanchard sued Blue Cliff (a Travelers insured) and alleged negligence by it in either maintaining the chair or in failing to secure it. Her expert, Thomas Shelton, Engineer (Metallurgy), Baton Rouge, explained that the chair was missing a locking mechanism. If Blanchard prevailed at trial, she sought medicals, future medicals and future lost earnings. She also sought non-economic damages in six separate categories.

Blue Cliff defended on several fronts. The first was that if there was a defect with the chair, that defect was unknown – there were no

broken pieces or other indications it would collapse, and there had been no prior instances of similar collapses. The defense also diminished damages, based on Blanchard's admitted vacations, social gatherings, and outings since the accident. The defense also

focused on plaintiff's years-long history of treating for headaches, neck pain and back pain with a local chiropractor. An expert, Dr. Chad Domangue, Pain Management-Neurology, Hammond, noted Blanchard's history of prior pain and concluded she had "at worst" just a soft-tissue strain. Finally Blue Cliff contested that Blanchard had any wage loss and noted that since this incident, she has worked as both a bartender and a jail guard.

The plaintiff asked the jury for an award of \$3.7 million. The defendant suggested (if the jury found against it on liability) that a more fair award would be \$350,000.

As the jury deliberated the case, it asked a question. It wanted the jury instructions, a video of the chair and estimates from both parties on Blanchard's pain and suffering. The court played a video of the chair and gave the jury a copy of the instructions. However the court concluded that the arguments by the lawyers regarding the value of the case were not evidence.

The jury in this case found that

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