

The South Carolina Jury Verdict Reporter

The Most Current and Complete Summary of South Carolina Jury Verdicts

March 2026

Statewide Jury Verdict Coverage

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Civil Jury Verdicts

Timely coverage of civil jury verdicts in South Carolina including court, presiding judge, parties, attorneys and results, also including settlement reports and notable recent civil complaints filed.

Medical Malpractice - The plaintiff died of a pulmonary embolus at a rehabilitation hospital just two days after leaving a hospital after a spinal surgery – the estate blamed his orthopedist and a PA for failing to coordinate DVT prophylactic care with the rehabilitation hospital to prevent the known embolic risk related to the decedent's immobility – a Spartanburg jury awarded the estate \$6,000,000 (\$3,000,000 for each adult daughter) and also found the defendants acted with gross negligence – new trial motions were denied and the case is now on appeal

Jefferies v. Lim et al,
2020-CP-42-002169

Plaintiff: Gerald D. Jowers and Kenneth M. Suggs, *Janet Janet & Suggs*, Columbia and Luther J. Battiste, III, *Johnson Toal & Battiste*, Columbia

Defense: Ashby W. Davis and Ryan J. Ginty, *Davis & Snyder*, Greenville

Verdict: \$6,000,000 for plaintiffs

Court: **Spartanburg**

Judge: Grace D. Knie

Date: 6-6-25

Albert Jefferies, then age 72 and both a retired Navy veteran and a postal employee, underwent a

laminectomy revision surgery on 7-18-18 at Spartanburg Medical Center. It was uneventful. However Jefferies was at risk of developing blood clots in the post-operative period. The risk was especially significant as he had limited mobility. Dr. Chi Hun Lim, an orthopedist on his team and a physician assistant, Megan Nicholas, were managing the risk of deep venous thrombosis (DVT) complications. That involved a variety of prophylactic treatments including mechanical clot protection.

Over the next week (7-18-18 to 7-26-18), Jefferies continued to have limited mobility which was unexpected. In response to this, Nicholas added heparin (an anti-coagulant) as additional clot protection. Jefferies was discharged on 7-26-18 to a rehabilitation hospital, Peachtree Center.

Lim stopped the clot protection at

the rehabilitation hospital. This was both his and the physician assistant's standard practice. They also failed to communicate with staff at Peachtree Center about the DVT risk or ongoing prophylactic care. Jefferies did not receive such treatment. Two days later Jefferies was dead of a pulmonary embolus. He was survived by his two adult daughters, one a nurse and the other a healthcare administrator.

One daughter (Angela Allen) as executor of the estate, filed this lawsuit against a variety of defendants. There were two named defendants that survived to trial, Kim and Nicholas. They also pursued damages against Carolina Orthopedics and Neurological Associates (CONA) as the employer of Lim and Nicholas.

The alleged malpractice was that Lim and Nicholas had a duty to continue the clot protection until the

Andres Allen, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Albert Charles Jefferies, deceased, Plaintiff, vs. Chi Hun Lim, M.D., Megan Nicholas, P.A., and Carolina Orthopedics and Neurological Associates ASC, LLC, Defendants.

Civil Action No.: 2020-CP-42-0169

VERDICT

We the jury unanimously find as follows:

1. Did Chi Hun Lim, M.D., deviate from the standard of care in the treatment of Albert Jefferies? (circle one)
 YES NO
- 1a. Was Chi Hun Lim, M.D.'s deviation from the standard of care a proximate cause of the death of Albert Jefferies? (if you answered "YES" to question 1, circle one)
 YES NO
2. Did Megan Nicholas, P.A., deviate from the standard of care in the treatment of Albert Jefferies? (circle one)
 YES NO

- 2a. Was Megan Nicholas, P.A.'s deviation from the standard of care a proximate cause of the death of Albert Jefferies? (if you answered "YES" to question 2, circle one)
 YES NO

If you answered "YES" to questions 1a and/or 2a, complete the following:

3. We the jury award damages for the wrongful death of Albert Jefferies as follows:

Andres Allen 3 million

Michelle Hemphill 3 million

If you awarded damages in question 3, please answer the following:

4. Was Chi Hun Lim, M.D., grossly negligent with respect to his care of Albert Jefferies? (circle one)
 YES NO
5. Was Megan Nicholas, P.A., grossly negligent with respect to her care of Albert Jefferies? (circle one)
 YES NO

Lusana Matheson
Jury Foreperson

Date: June 6, 2025

The Jefferies v. Lim jury verdict

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June 17, 1984

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National Origin

Discrimination - A longtime HR manager at BMW suffered an adverse action because of the company's hierarchical management protocol and prevailed on a national origin discrimination count – she took \$100,000 in compensatory damages (she now works in a similar less lucrative position at the local airport) and \$5,000,000 more in punitive damages

Dawsey v. BMW, 7:22-3738
Plaintiff: Brian P. Murphy, *Stephenson & Murphy*, Greenville
Defense: Kent M. Rozelsky, *Spencer Fane*, Greenville and Ellison F. McCoy, D. Randle Moody, II and Mallory H. Gantt, *Jackson Lewis*, Greenville
Verdict: \$5,100,000 for plaintiff
Federal: **Greenville**
Judge: Timothy M. Cain
Date: 2-25-26

Kelly Dawsey, an American woman and U.S. citizen (that's unusual to mention but is ultimately relevant to this case), was a long-time employee of BMW Manufacturing at its Greer, SC auto plant. She worked in human resources. Dawsey started with BMW in 1995. She became a department manager in HR in 2015. Her work was well-reviewed and she was in consideration for promotion to a VP position which would be one above her manager position.

It is important to note that BMW utilizes a hierarchical system. How does it work? They rotate in the hierarchy, a German, a non-German and then a German. The chain of command then doesn't have two non-Germans in the same chain of

Damages

1. We award compensatory damages in the amount of:

\$ 100,000.00

2. We award punitive damages in the amount of:

\$ 5,000,000.00

This is the unanimous decision of the jury.

Signed



Foreperson

Date: February 25, 2026.

The Dawsey v. BMW jury verdict on damages

command.

That worked just fine for Dawsey. As the HR department manager, she was essentially the Number Two. The Number One (the HR vice-president) was a German, Christina Petrasch. By 2021 Petrasch was preparing to leave her term at BMW in South Carolina. Dawsey thought she was a good candidate for promotion.

BMW went another direction. It hired an American woman (a qualified one) to fill the HR VP position. Petrasch had previously explained the hierarchical hiring process to Dawsey. The decision was announced in November of 2021.

What did that mean for Dawsey? She recognized that in the BMW hierarchy, she'd have to be demoted.

She could no longer be the HR No. 2 if the HR No. 1 was an American. That would mean less responsibility and opportunity for advancement. Dawsey considered it a demotion. A German male took her Number 2 position.

Dawsey immediately moved to mitigate her situation. She hired a headhunter and began to look for a new job. In December of 2021 she announced her resignation and took an HR position with Madewell Concrete. She has since moved into an HR spot at the local airport. There was proof she earns less at her current position than if she'd stayed at BMW.

Dawsey filed this lawsuit in October of 2022 and alleged national origin discrimination, sex

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Auto Negligence - The plaintiff complained of a permanent TBI after a multi-car rear-ender (he lost consciousness at the scene) and sought substantial damages at trial – the defense diminished the damages and pointed to the plaintiff’s Facebook post 18 months later where he indicated he was in the best shape of his life – the jury’s verdict (\$37,000) was far less than the incurred medical bills, and following the jury trial, the presiding judge denied the plaintiff’s motion for a new trial
Robertson v. Tate, 2021-CP-23-04979
 Plaintiff: Brian T. Smith, Greenville and William T. Young, III, *Young Law Firm, Greenville*
 Defense: Eric R. Tonnsen and Wilson G. Murff, *Tonnsen Bach, Greenville*
 Verdict: \$37,000 for plaintiff
 Court: **Greenville**
 Judge: Christopher D. Taylor
 Date: 9-25-25

Shaun Robertson, age 43, was involved in a multi-car (there were five in total) rear-ender on Hwy 290 in Greer. It occurred on 9-27-21. He was struck by Verna Tate. Tate conceded fault for the wreck.

Robertson lost consciousness at the scene. He subsequently treated for a concussion, a post-concussive syndrome and ultimately a TBI. It has manifested as double vision, anxiety, cognitive and short-term memory issues. He now wears special prism glasses. His injuries were confirmed by the treating Dr. Eric Berman, Neuro-Ophthalmology and Dr. Marshall White, Neurology. His medical bills were \$55,090 and his future care was estimated at \$515,278.

In this lawsuit Robertson sought

Facebook Post – April 8, 2023

I like to believe that being broken at the highest level brought out a beast in me that's been asleep for a long time. I've replaced hurt, betrayal, anxiety, depression, a very broken heart, xanax and alcohol with discipline, hope, faith, structure, prayer, positivity, thousands and thousands of push-ups, a clean diet and a lot of super late nights at the gym 6-7 days a week. It's become my sanctuary and therapist. I'm literally the strongest I've ever been but not just physically, which to me is absolutely crazy this late in life. I work hard in the gym, doing the shit that hurts me the most. If I'm not crawling to my car, I didn't go hard enough... so usually back within a couple of hours.

In the darkest moments of my life, when I couldn't control anything, when I had lost everything... it felt like my health was the only thing I could control... Health is wealth. I understand that now. This is the best version of me that I've ever seen... and I did it alone. Just me and the Big guy upstairs.



The critical "Best shape of my life" Facebook post

damages from Tate. She diminished the claimed damages and noted two events. The first was to look to a video where Robertson fired an AK-47 weapon at a firing range. He shot dozens of shots without apparent vision problems. Robertson also had a Facebook post in April of 2023 where he indicated he was in the best shape of his life.

Tate took the position that at most,

the day of this post was the end of his compensable injury. Robertson’s medical bills to this point were \$36,000 and change.

The case was tried for four days in Greenville. The verdict was for Robertson and he took damages of \$37,000. A consistent judgment was entered.

Robertson moved for a new trial and argued the verdict was

[Complaint](#)
[Petition for Settlement](#)

**Wrongful Death/Dram Shop -
 A little boy drowned when he
 walked away from a splash park
 and fell into a retention pond – his
 estate blamed the splash park for
 not having a fence surrounding it –
 the Charleston County Parks &
 Recreation Commission which
 operates the splash park settled
 with the estate for \$200,000 – there
 are ongoing claims against a
 landscape architect that designed
 the park**

McLemore v. James Island County Park,
 2023-CP-10-01324

Plaintiff: Gene M. Connell, Jr.,
Kellaher Connell & Conner, Surfside
 Beach for mother and Logan Rollins,
HawkLaw, Spartanburg for father
 Defense: Jonathan L. Anderson,
Barnwell Whaley Patterson & Helms,
 Charleston

Settled: \$200,000 for plaintiff
 Court: **Charleston**
 Judge: R. Keith Kelly
 Date: 2-19-26

Little Duffy McLemore, age 3,
 visited the James Island City Park
 and its Splash Zone Waterpark on
 the afternoon of 5-14-16. It is
 operated by the Charleston County
 Parks & Recreation Commission. The
 boy was with his mother and
 relatives. As his family was packing
 up to go home, a cousin splashed the
 mother with water. She chased that
 boy for a moment.

In an instant Duffy wandered
 away. A frantic search was
 undertaken. The boy couldn't be
 found. The police were called and
 the search went on for several hours.
 Finally bloodhounds took the boy's
 scent from his shirt. They were led to

an algae-covered retention pond that
 was 50 feet away. There was no
 fencing or other barrier from the
 splash park to the pond. Divers
 found the boy's body under a dock
 in the pond.

His estate (representing his mother
 and father who were each
 represented separately) sued a
 variety of defendants. They included
 the South Carolina Department of
 Health and Environment Control
 (DHEC). DHEC (which was involved
 in the development of the pond)
 settled and paid the estate \$10,000.
 The settlement made clear this did
 not release any other claims.

A second government defendant,
 Charleston County Parks &
 Recreation Commission, moved for
 summary judgment. It argued that as
 the estate had settled with a
 government entity, it was prohibited
 by the South Carolina Tort Claims
 Act from pursuing damages against
 a separate government entity. The
 civil procedure involved was
 complex but the trial judge Keith
 Kelly granted the motion.

The estate took an appeal. In an
 unpublished opinion in August of
 2025, the Court of Appeals reversed.
 It concluded there was nothing in the
 statute that divested the trial court of
 jurisdiction over the second
 governmental entity.

Upon remand to the trial court, the
 litigation continued against
 Charleston County and a private
 defendant, SGA Architecture. SGA is
 the landscape architect that designed
 the park. The heart of the case was
 that the design of the park failed to
 include fencing or any barrier to the
 attractive and dangerous nuisance of
 the nearby retention pond.

The estate and Charleston County
 reached a settlement on 2-19-26. The

plaintiff has moved the court to
 approve the settlement. Its terms
 provided the government will pay
 the estate \$200,000. It provided an
 attorney fee of \$66,667 for Connell
 and \$54,975 in expert fees. That left a
 remainder of \$39,178 for each of the
 boy's parents. The case against SGA
 continues.

Case Documents:

[Complaint](#)
[Court of Appeals Opinion](#)
[Petition to Approve Settlement](#)

Trampoline Park Negligence - Plaintiff fell over a pad at a trampoline park*Hyams v. Urban Air Adventure,*[2026-CP-10-00236](#)Plaintiff: William H. Yarborough, *Cavanaugh & Thickens,*
Columbia

Date: 1-15-26

Court: **Charleston****Premises Liability - Fall on a slippery floor***Gadsden v. The Codfather,*[2026-CP-10-00399](#)Plaintiff: Marc Mambo, *The Mambo Law Firm,* Summerville

Date: 1-23-26

Court: **Charleston****Race Discrimination***Mapp v. Dick's Sporting Goods,*[2026-CP-10-00104](#)

Plaintiff: Emmanuel J. Ferguson, Sr, Charleston

Date: 1-8-26

Court: **Charleston****Medical Malpractice - Dermatologist blamed for removing the wrong cancerous lesion on the plaintiff's head***Lyons v. Leach,*[2026-CP-10-00173](#)Plaintiff: Robert B. Ransom, *Leventis & Ransom,* Charleston

Date: 1-13-26

Court: **Charleston****Premises Liability - Slip and fall in the bathroom***Richardson v. McDonald's,*[2026-CP-10-00248](#)Plaintiff: C. Shea Brighthop, *Cavanaugh & Thickens,* Columbia

Date: 1-15-26

Court: **Charleston****Premises Liability - Fall at a car dealership***Blake v. Kia,*[2025-CP-10-7123](#)Plaintiff: Catherine D. Meehan, *Steinberg Law Firm,*
Summerville

Date: 12-29-25

Court: **Charleston****Dram Shop - An underage man (20) bought vodka at a liquor store and his car caught fire at 100 mph, his passenger (the plaintiff) suffering serious burns***Johnson v. Sweetgrass Spirits*[2026-CP-10-00386](#)Plaintiff: John J. Dodds, IV, *Yarborough Applegate,* Charleston

Date: 1-23-26

Court: **Charleston****University Negligence - College soccer player sustained collapsed lung secondary to dry needling***Gonzalez v. Limestone College,*[2026-CP-11-00022](#)Plaintiff: Jamie Ackerman, *Hammack Law Firm,* Greenville

Date: 1-15-26

Court: **Cherokee****School Negligence - Child broke his arm on the school playground***English v. Chesterfield Co. School District,*[2026-CP-13-00031](#)Plaintiff: Elizabeth McDaniel, *Poulin Willey,* Charleston

Date: 1-15-26

Court: **Chesterfield****Pharmacy Negligence - Dosage error in prescribing Methotrexate to treat rheumatoid arthritis***Joell v. CVS Pharmacy,*[2026-CP-14-00019](#)Plaintiff: Gene M. Connell, Jr., *Kelagher Connell & Connor,*
Surfside Beach

Date: 1-12-26

Court: **Clarendon****Premises Liability - Slip and fall on a wet floor***Briggs v. McDonalds,*[2026-CP-14-00036](#)Plaintiff: Luther J. Battiste, III, *Johnson Toal & Battiste,*
Columbia

Date: 1-16-26

Court: **Clarendon****Auto Negligence - Pedestrian struck and killed by a vehicle***Andrews v. Rojas,*[2026-CP-14-00035](#)Plaintiff: Kelsey E. Saalman, *Morgan & Morgan,* Columbia

Date: 1-16-26

Court: **Clarendon**

Auto Negligence - A teenage girl (who had her restricted license for just six days) driving a 1978 Chevrolet Camaro turned left in front of a young Marine on his motorcycle and left him with a very serious injury to his lower left leg – a jury in 1984 awarded the Marine \$260,000 in damages which was a then-record for Beaufort County
Campbell v. Paschal, 0772

Plaintiff: Samuel Svalina and Joab Dowling, Jr., *Dowling Sanders Dukes & Svalina*, Beaufort

Defense: A. Parker Barnes, *Barnes Davis & Tupper*, Beaufort

Verdict: \$260,000 for plaintiff

Court: **Beaufort**

Judge: William T. Howell

Date: June 17, 1984

Staff Sgt. Clarence Campbell, then age 22, was riding a motorcycle in Beaufort on August 30, 1981. Kimberly Paschal, she was 15 at the time, approached from the opposite direction. She was driving her brother's 1978 Chevrolet Camaro. Paschal had her restricted driver's license at the time for just six days.

Paschal came to an intersection. It looked clear. She made a left turn. What she didn't see was Campbell approaching. She struck his motorcycle as she turned. An investigating police officer indicated that Campbell could have done nothing to avoid the crash.

Campbell suffered a very serious injury to his lower left leg. That included a compound fracture. He was hospitalized for 131 days and underwent seven surgeries. The effect of this permanent injury also cut short his Marine career.

Campbell sued Paschal as well as her father pursuant to the family purpose doctrine. The case was tried almost three years later in June of

Jury returns record verdict

By FLETCHER JOHNSON
Gazette staff writer

After a week of trial and four hours of deliberation, a Beaufort County jury on Friday returned the largest verdict ever received in the county in a lawsuit involving personal injuries.

At 11:30 p.m. Friday a six-man, six-woman jury in the Beaufort County Court of Common Pleas awarded Staff Sgt. Clarence E. Campbell, 27, \$260,000 for injuries he received in an Aug. 30, 1981 accident.

On that date the motorcycle he was riding was struck by a 1978 Chevrolet Camaro at the intersection of S.C. 170 and S.C. 280. The car was driven by Kimberly Kaye Paschal of 3056 Mink Point Blvd., Burton. She was 15 years old at the time of the accident.

According to testimony presented during the week-long trial before Circuit Judge William T. Howell, Ms. Paschal turned left into Campbell at the intersection.

The civil suit asked damages of Ms. Paschal and her father John Paschal Jr. for injuries Campbell received. He suffered severe com-

pound fractures of the left lower leg and was hospitalized for 131 days. Campbell underwent seven operations to repair damage to his leg.

Campbell, who is assigned to Detachment B, Marine Wing Support Group 27, MCAS, was represented by Samuel L. Svalina and Joab Dowling Jr. of the law firm of Dowling, Sanders, Dukes and Svalina.

A major issue raised in the trial was whether Ms. Paschal was driving the car for family purposes or as an agent for her father. At the time of the accident she had had her driver's license for six days.

The \$260,000 verdict is reported to be the largest for personal injuries received in a motor vehicle accident ever rendered in Beaufort County.

"This was a difficult case which involved complicated issues of law," Svalina said this morning. "We're extremely happy over the verdict."

Motions made by defense attorneys requesting a new trial were denied Friday night by Howell.

1984 (42 years ago) over the course of a week. The jury deliberated until 11:30 in the evening. It returned a verdict for Campbell against both Paschal and her father in the sum of \$260,000. This was described as the largest verdict in the history of the county.

Paschal took a wide-ranging appeal that included alleged misconduct by Campbell having a conversation with a juror during the trial. The Court of Appeals affirmed in August of 1986. Judge Goolsby wrote for the court and was joined by Gardner and Cureton. See *Campbell v. Paschal*, 347 So.2d 892 (1986)

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