

The Tennessee Jury Verdict Reporter

The Most Current and Complete Summary of Tennessee Jury Verdicts

March 2026

Statewide Jury Verdict Coverage

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Truck Negligence - The plaintiff was sleeping in the berth of his big rig at a truck stop when another trucker took a turn too sharply and struck the plaintiff's truck – the plaintiff was thrown from his sleeper berth and has since treated for a spinal injury which includes a recommendation for a surgical repair – the case was tried on damages and the plaintiff took medicals of \$120,000 and \$110,000 more in non-economic damages

Guillory v. Western Express, 10495

Plaintiff: Oscar "Kay" Spivey, III, *The Roth Firm*, Atlanta, GA

Defense: Richard C. "Chuck"

Mangelsdorf, *Thompson Mangelsdorf*,
Nashville

Verdict: \$230,000 for plaintiff

Court: **Humphreys**

Judge: Larry Wallace

Date: 3-6-26

Wilbert Guillory, a trucker from Texas, parked his big rig on the evening of 10-26-21 at a Pilot truck stop near I-40. He was parked at the end of the parking lot. Guillory went to bed in the sleeper berth of his tractor. At the same time, Donovan Ford, operating a tractor-trailer for Western Express, was navigating the parking lot.

As Ford turned the corner at the



An image of the plaintiff's truck depicting damage from the collision

Employment Retaliation

(PUMP Act) - A sonographer at a cardiology clinic alleged she was fired in retaliation for her complaints she was not provided breaks to pump breast milk in violation of the PUMP Act – she cited a termination meeting where her cardiologist employer told the young mother to get a lawyer if she wanted and then, “You’re fired. Fuck off. Get out” – a Jackson jury found for the plaintiff and awarded lost wages of \$116,174 and \$116,000 in non-economic damages

Newell v. The Cardiovascular Clinic et al, 1:24-1224

Plaintiff: Janelle C. Osowski and Bryce W. Ashby, *Donati Law*, Memphis

Defense: Teresa A. Luna and Sara Barnett, *Spragins Barnett & Cobb*, Jackson

Verdict: \$232,174 for plaintiff

Federal: **Jackson**

Judge: S. Thomas Anderson

Date: 2-26-26

Ashden Newell started working in May of 2023 for The Cardiovascular Clinic in Jackson as a sonographer. Her job was to perform ultrasounds. It is a small for-profit medical office with just one physician on staff, Dr. Adeyinka Agbetoyin. Agbetoyin is also the owner.

Newell became pregnant soon after she started at the clinic. She gave birth in January of 2024. Newell was off work for maternity leave for several months. In advance of returning to work, she texted Agbetoyin’s wife that she would need breaks at work to pump breast milk three times a day.

Newell had a meeting with her manager on 4-11-24. It was agreed she’d have three breaks a day at 9:00 a.m., noon and then again at 3:00 p.m.

DR. AGBETOYIN: -- in any position to question any of our former employee. Say whatever you want, get a lawyer, we'll go with that. Do work like we tell you to do or get out.

MS. NEWELL: I mean, I do work.

MS. AGBETOYIN: No. No

DR. AGBETOYIN: You don't work you come in here threaten me with the lawsuit.

MS. AGBETOYIN: This is really bad this is --

DR. AGBETOYIN: Go ahead and bring all the (inaudible) you want.

MS. AGBETOYIN: I can't believe this.

DR. AGBETOYIN: No. You don't talk to her -- don't -- or anybody (inaudible) anything about a former --

MS. AGBETOYIN: I don't --

DR. AGBETOYIN: -- employee.

MS. AGBETOYIN: -- look at what she's saying. All I did was -- if (crosstalk).

DR. AGBETOYIN: It shows that -- it shows what character or lack of character this person has. You're fired. Fuck off. Get out.

A transcript of the end of the termination meeting

Newell was back to work a few days later. Almost right away she noticed that she was being scheduled for her pump break times. She would then have to take the breaks at a later time. Newell expressed her belief this was in violation of the so-called PUMP Act, an acronym for Providing Urgent Maternal Protection. She continued to make complaints.

A meeting was called for 5-23-24 with her manager and Agbetoyin. Agbetoyin began the meeting and wanted to discuss his view that

Newell’s performance was subpar. She was taking too long (90 minutes or so) to perform an ultrasound when others on the staff could do it in less than an hour.

Newell replied right away and went to the PUMP Act issue. She expressed her belief her rights were not being respected and the clinic was not complying with federal law. The meeting became contentious and Agbetoyin indicated that she could get a lawyer if she wanted. The meeting concluded with an angry

Historical Tennessee Verdicts

This month we are looking (quite by chance) at two interesting jury verdicts that were returned within a week of each other in 1979. The first case involved a five-year old girl, Christen Gillespie of Wilson County. She was bitten on the face by a German Shepherd in January of 1978 while her family was visiting Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Clay.

Gillespie, through her mother, sued the Clays in Wilson Circuit Court. The girl was left with a jagged scar on her face. The case came to trial in October of 1979.

It was recalled that little Christen was the star witness. Upon examination by her attorney, Charles Jackson, the girl first recited her ABCs on the jury stand. She then took a piece of candy from him before giving her testimony on the merits.

A Lebanon jury awarded the girl damages of \$2,500. The plaintiffs had claimed \$90,000. Judge Allison B. Humphreys, Jr. presided. The defense lawyer was Lawrence Levine.

The second case in our look at older verdicts was tried the same week in Nashville. The plaintiff, James Wilson, then age 28, lived in an apartment building owned by Janet Batson. Janet had taken ownership in 1975 in her divorce from the prior owner, Dr. Miller Batson, an internist.

There was a fire in the apartment building on 3-2-78. Wilson opened his door to his third floor apartment but could not escape. There was not an enclosed main stairwell in the building that impeded the spread of fire between floors. This was required by the fire code.

Wilson was able to escape by jumping from his window. He suffered serious injuries in the fall

Woman Jury Awards Injured Man \$115,000

An all-woman Circuit Court jury awarded \$115,000 in damages yesterday to a man who suffered multiple injuries when he jumped from a

window of his burning third-floor apartment.

The jury assessed the damages against Janet Evans Batson, owner of the former Wallace Apartments, 1203 17th Ave., S., but rejected her claim that her ex-husband, Dr. Miller Batson, who signed the building over to her in their 1975 divorce, should have to share in the blame.

Contaminated Smyrna Wells Placed at 28

By BEN EUBANKS

Tennessee State Correspondent
SMYRNA, Tenn. — Three additional wells have been added to a list of 25 others contaminated in the

ATTORNEYS FOR James T. Wilson, 28, argued that the building was unsafe because it did not have an enclosed main stairwell (to block the spread of fire from floor to floor) and at least one additional exit for third-floor apartments, as required by fire safety codes.

including a crushed wrist, lumbar injury and broken pelvis. Wilson sued Janet as well as her former husband. He argued that even though Batson no longer owned the building, he was responsible for failing to maintain it to code at relevant times.

A jury composed entirely of women decided the case on November 2, 1979. It exonerated Dr. Batson but found against his ex-wife, Janet. The jury awarded Wilson \$115,000 in damages. That would be a little more than \$500,000 in 2026 damages.

Wilson's lawyers were Fred E. Cowden, Jr. and Hunter B. Short. Janet's lawyer was Phillip North. Dr. Batson was represented by William Woods. Judge Hamilton Gayden presided over this jury trial some 47 years ago in Nashville.

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