

The Tennessee Jury Verdict Reporter

The Most Current and Complete Summary of Tennessee Jury Verdicts

August 2024

Statewide Jury Verdict Coverage

21 TJVR 8

Tennessee's Source for Jury Verdicts Since 2004

In This Issue

Davidson County

Medical Negligence - Hung jury p. 5

Breach of Contract - \$350,000 p. 7

Federal Court - Knoxville

Sexual Harassment - \$5,950,000 p. 1

Shelby County

Auto Negligence - \$10,000 p. 3

Federal Court - Memphis

Disability Discrimination - p. 4

\$138,624

Knox County

Auto Negligence - \$27,261 p. 5

Federal Court - Chattanooga

Insurance Coverage - Defense verdict p. 8

Updating a Recent Verdict

\$46.9 million Nashville Med Mal resolved by secret settlement p. 8

Sexual Harassment - A deputy court clerk alleged the elected Circuit Court Clerk sexually harassed her – the deputy presented three claims, (1) Equal Protection, (2) 42 USC § 1983, and (3) state-law Human Rights Act against both the Circuit Clerk and the county as his employer – the plaintiff prevailed on all counts and took damages of almost \$6,000,000 including punitive damages of \$1,000,000 against the Circuit Clerk

Ogle v. Anderson County, 3:20-293

Plaintiff: Richard E. Collins and Dan C. Stanley, *Stanley & Collins*, Knoxville and Ursula Bailey, Knoxville
Defense: Arthur F. Knight, III, *Taylor & Knight*, Knoxville for Anderson County

Hugh B. Ward, Jr. and Courtney Statham, *Lowe Yeager & Brown*, Knoxville for Circuit Clerk Jones
Verdict: \$5,950,000 for plaintiff
Federal: **Knoxville**
Judge: Charles E. Atchley, Jr.
Date: 7-11-24

The voters of Anderson County (TN) elected William Jones to be their Circuit Court Clerk in 2014. Anderson County has some 500 employees and for purposes of this case, Jones was one of them. His tenure as the clerk would be troubled.

The plaintiff, Amy Ogle, then age 44, started working as a deputy clerk in November 2016. She alleged that Jones regularly engaged in sexual harassment against women in the office. He requested sex and shared pornographic images. It was alleged

he referred to Ogle (who refused his advances) as a prissy bitch.

Jones, it was alleged, also told Ogle that she would not get a raise until she “got out of her shyness.” The implication of this quid pro quo threat that she would earn more money if she consented to Jones’ advances. Ultimately Ogle would allege Jones made good on that threat and denied her a raise. She ultimately took a medical leave (from November of 2017 until May of 2018) at which time she transferred to a different position in county government. Ultimately she went to work for a lawyer in Clinton.

Jones for his part was not long in public life. By February of 2018 the political tides in Anderson County had changed. He’d faced several complaints of sexual harassment and at this time, the Anderson County commissioners censured him. That May Jones lost his reelection bid in a primary.

Ogle filed this lawsuit (first in 2018, voluntarily dismissed and then filed again in 2010) against both Jones and Anderson County. She framed his alleged sexual harassment in the form of three counts. They were (1) an equal protection claim, (2) 42 USC § 1983, and (3) a Tennessee Human Rights Act violation. Jones did not advance a Title VII claim.

If Jones prevailed (the facts on each count were similar) she sought compensatory damages against both Jones and Anderson County as his

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

Let us know about it at the

Tennessee 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: _____

Return to the Tennessee Jury Verdict Reporter or use any other format to reach us with verdict news

Email to: info@juryverdicts.net

allergic reaction. A call was made to 911 and DeLoach was on the way to the hospital in an ambulance when she died.

The DeLoach estate sued Cox and alleged error by him in prescribing

codeine in light of disclosed allergy. The estate's experts were Drs. Dean DeLuke, Oral Surgery, Richmond, VA and Dr. Robert Aris, Pulmonology, Chapel Hill, NC. The plaintiff also alleged that Cox intentionally falsified

records to "wrongfully evade" liability. If the estate prevailed it sought general damages that were described in the verdict form as "Total Damages."

Cox denied fault and to the patient