

would happen at least two or three times per week.

The significance of this allegation was that Jones was not identified in the policy documents as a regular driver of the car. Thus, there was no coverage for the car when Jones was driving it. This, of course, meant there was no coverage for the crash in Montgomery. Brown denied that Jones regularly drove the car.

The case was tried for two days in Wetumpka. The jury returned a verdict for Equity Insurance, and the court entered a defense judgment.

Case Documents:

[Pretrial Order](#)

[Jury Verdict](#)

Auto Negligence - Plaintiff claimed to have suffered multiple disc bulges and a soft-tissue injury that she attributed to a rear-end crash; defendant disputed causation and argued that plaintiff's claimed injuries post-dated the crash

Gadsden v. Johnson, 22-900011

Plaintiff: John T. Stamps, III, *The Stamps Law Group, LLC.*, Bessemer; and Taylor T. Perry, Jr., *Manley Traeger Perry Stapp & Compton*, Demopolis

Defense: Amanda Graham, *Gaines Gault Hendrix, P.C.*, Birmingham

Verdict: \$15,000 for plaintiff

Circuit: **Jefferson - Bessemer**, 2-7-24

Judge: Reginald L. Jeter

On 7-12-21, Jerralyn Gadsden was driving on Eastern Valley Road in Bessemer. Behind her and traveling in the same direction was vehicle being driven by Elizabeth Johnson. Gadsden stopped for a red light at the intersection with I-459 with the intention of making a right turn onto the interstate.

Johnson observed the red light at the intersection and that Gadsden had stopped. Johnson likewise slowed down. However, just as she pulled up behind Gadsden, her foot

slipped off her brake pedal. In the next instant, Johnson rear-ended Gadsden.

According to Gadsden, the impact was strong enough that she took what she called a "hard lick." Gadsden claimed that her body was jolted forward and that her vehicle was pushed into the intersection where other vehicles had to drive around her.

In the aftermath of the crash, Gadsden was diagnosed with a disc bulge in her back, two disc bulges in her neck, and soft-tissue injuries to her left shoulder. Her medical expenses came to \$24,032.

Gadsden filed suit against Johnson and blamed her for failing to stop in time and thereby causing the crash. Additionally, Gadsden presented an underinsured motorist claim against her own insurer, Allstate.

Allstate opted out of the case. The litigation continued thereafter solely against Johnson. She defended the case and characterized the crash as merely a bump that left no damage to her own vehicle and only a few scratches to Gadsden's vehicle.

Johnson also denied that Gadsden's claimed injuries had been caused by the crash. Although Gadsden's treating physician initially linked her injuries to the crash, at trial he later called the injuries "acute" – i.e., recent. Johnson argued that if the injuries were recent, they couldn't have been caused by the crash that had happened some two years earlier.

The case was tried for three days in Bessemer. In closing arguments Gadsden asked the jury for an award of \$200,000. The jury deliberated for approximately three hours before returning a verdict for Gadsden in the amount of \$15,000.

This figure represented a ratio of verdict to medicals of approximately 0.6. In any event, the court entered a judgment for that amount. The

judgment has since been satisfied. Gadsden filed a post-trial motion for costs of \$4,165. The court granted the motion for the reduced amount of \$2,665.

Case Documents:

[Final Judgment](#)

Auto Negligence - Plaintiff sought recovery for injuries he sustained in a crash in Baldwin County; after settling with the tortfeasor, plaintiff pursued a claim against the tortfeasor's employer

York v. Coastal Alabama Construction & Development, LLC., 22-900691

Plaintiff: Amanda H. Herren, *Cunningham Bounds, LLC.*, Mobile
Defense: Jordan W. Gerheim, *Outside Chief Legal, LLC.*, Mobile

Verdict: \$250,000 for plaintiff

Circuit: **Baldwin**, 1-30-24

Judge: Jody W. Bishop

A crash took place on 10-18-21 on Canal Road in Baldwin County. It happened when Lehman York collided with a vehicle occupied by Robert Peterson and Matthew Holt. Although the record is not explicit on this point, it appears that Peterson and Holt were employed by Coastal Alabama Construction and Development, LLC. and were on the job at the time of the crash.

The record does not reveal the nature of York's claimed injuries or the amount of his medical expenses. He filed suit against Peterson, Ho It, and Coastal Alabama. He blamed Peterson and Holt for causing the crash, and he targeted Coastal Alabama on what seems to have been a claim for vicarious liability.

Additionally, York presented a claim against State Farm for underinsured motorist coverage. State Farm opted out of the case. York also settled with Peterson and Holt. The litigation proceeded against Coastal Alabama. The company defended the case and minimized York's claimed injuries.