

The Indiana Jury Verdict Reporter

The Most Current and Complete Summary of Indiana Jury Verdicts

September 2022

Statewide Jury Verdict Coverage

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Unbiased and Independently Researched Jury Verdict Results

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Civil Jury Verdicts

Timely coverage of civil jury verdicts in Indiana including court, division, presiding judge, parties, cause number, attorneys and results.

Ambulance Negligence - Plaintiff suffered a traumatic brain injury in an intersection crash with an ambulance that had run a red light despite not being on an emergency run

Lucas v. Brown, et al.,

49D12-1910-CT-44888

Plaintiff: Sarah Graziano and Christopher Czernik, *Hensley Legal Group, P.C.*, Fishers

Defense: David F. Ryan and Michael J. Hallock, *Patton & Ryan*, Chicago, IL; and Michael Wroblewski,

Kightlinger & Gray, LLP., Indianapolis

Verdict: \$25,000,000 for plaintiff

County: **Marion**, Superior

Court: J. Dietrick, 8-19-22

On 7-20-20, Yehudy Lucas was riding as a passenger in a vehicle that was traveling west on Epler Avenue in Indianapolis. At the same time, Ranae Brown was driving an ambulance for her employer, Indiana University Health, Inc. Brown was on the job at the time but was not on an emergency run.

Brown was driving north on East Street toward the intersection with Epler Avenue. As she approached the intersection at slightly over the posted speed limit of 45 mph, Brown thought she had a green light. She was mistaken and instead was facing a red light.

The Lucas vehicle entered the intersection on a green light. At just that moment Brown ran her red light and also entered the intersection. In a split second she saw the Lucas vehicle, slammed on her brakes, and attempted to veer to the left. Instead,

the two vehicles collided.

Lucas suffered extensive injuries in the crash that included a traumatic brain injury, hemorrhaging, facial fractures, respiratory failure, and pulmonary collapse. He was taken to Eskenazi Hospital where he remained for 25 days. During at least part of that time Lucas was intubated.

Lucas was eventually discharged home with assistance. He complains of continuing difficulties with memory, concentration, cognition, and balance. Lucas has undergone, and continues to undergo, multiple therapies with multiple medical specialists in an effort to address his problems. The record does not reveal the amount of his medical expenses.

Lucas filed suit against Brown and her employer, Indiana University Health, Inc. He blamed Brown for running the red light and thereby causing the crash. He targeted Indiana University Health on a theory of vicarious liability. Lucas's identified experts included Kevin Johnson, Accident Reconstruction, Zionsville; Dr. Polly Westcott, Psychology, Carmel; and Sara Ford, Vocational Economics, Louisville, KY.

Lucas initially sought both compensatory and punitive damages. However, the court granted partial summary judgment for defendants on the claim for punitive damages. The case thus proceeded on the claim for compensatory damages.