

## SECRET WARDLE SUCCESS STORIES

**ATTORNEY:** Jared Andrzejewski, Partner

**TYPE OF CASE:** Third-Party Automobile Negligence

**COURT/CASE #:** Macomb County Circuit Court / 24-001653-NI

**DATE OF DISPOSITION:** April 3, 2026

**TRIED/ARGUED BEFORE:** Jury

**NAME OF JUDGE(S):** Hon. Judge Toia

**DEMAND:** \$900,000 (Original demand) \$400,000 (Plaintiff asked the jury for)

**VERDICT/SETTLEMENT AMOUNT:** \$10,000 in favor of Plaintiff

**KEYS TO THE CASE:**

This matter arose from a September 16, 2023, motor vehicle accident involving Plaintiff Cody Davis and Officer Aiden Hudgens of the City of Warren Police Department. Officer Hudgens was responding to an emergency call involving a large fight at a local high school. With lights and sirens activated, Officer Hudgens proceeded through an intersection against a red light after slowing for traffic. Plaintiff, traveling through the intersection with a green light, failed to yield and collided with the officer's patrol vehicle.

Plaintiff alleged that Officer Hudgens acted negligently in entering the intersection and sought damages for claimed shoulder and neck injuries, including a SLAP tear requiring surgery. Plaintiff further relied on Tim Robbins, an accident reconstruction expert to argue that Plaintiff could not perceive or react to the emergency vehicle in time to avoid the collision.

The defense focused on objective evidence, particularly synchronized dash camera footage and eyewitness testimony. The videos clearly demonstrated that multiple vehicles at the intersection, despite having a green light, recognized the emergency, slowed, and came to a complete stop before the collision. In contrast, Plaintiff did not slow or brake, and proceeded directly into the intersection.

The defense, led by Jared Andrzejewski and assisted by Attorneys Matthew Nicols and Maxwell Cavellier, emphasized Plaintiff's violations of key Michigan traffic statutes, including MCL 257.653 (duty to yield to emergency vehicles) and MCL 257.627 (requiring drivers to operate at a speed that allows them to stop within the assured clear distance ahead), while arguing compliance by Defendant with MCL 257.603, which permits emergency vehicles to proceed through red lights under certain conditions. The defense argued that Plaintiff's failure to perceive and respond to obvious warnings, combined with distraction while running behind and arguing with his spouse, was the sole proximate cause of the accident.

The defense also challenged the credibility and foundation of Plaintiff's expert, highlighting the lack of independent measurements or data and reinforcing that the dash camera footage constituted the best and most reliable evidence of the events.

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With respect to damages, the defense presented evidence that Plaintiff made a strong recovery. Medical records and Plaintiff's own admissions established that he returned to work within two weeks, resumed regular gym activity shortly thereafter, and continued engaging in recreational activities such as golfing and kayaking.

Ultimately, the jury returned a \$10,000 verdict in favor of Plaintiff, substantially limiting exposure in a case involving claims of significant injury and liability disputes. The result reflects the effectiveness of focusing the jury on objective evidence, statutory duties, and common-sense decision-making.

For more information about **Jared J. Andrzejewski**, please visit <https://bit.ly/41eX3R0>; to contact directly: (248) 539-2814, [JAndrzejewski@secrestwardle.com](mailto:JAndrzejewski@secrestwardle.com).

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