CASE SUMMARIES

Georgia

Court grants partial summary judgment for trucking company, dismissing all direct-liability claims.

Taylor-Thomas v. Darar, 2025 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 200874 (N.D. Ga. Oct. 10, 2025)

In this personal injury action stemming from a 2022 parking-lot collision, the Court granted partial summary judgment in favor of HJ Trucking, dismissing negligent hiring, entrustment, training, and supervision claims, as well as punitive damages against the company. The Court found no evidence that the driver was unqualified, reckless, or had any history of similar incidents; he held a valid CDL, completed safety training, and had only two minor unrelated citations. The plaintiff also failed to oppose the motion. The Court separately denied the plaintiff's motion to exclude two defense experts, finding the late-served reports caused no prejudice. Claims against the driver and vicarious liability against HJ Trucking proceed.

Ohio

Court declines to dismiss counterclaim in trucking broker dispute involving alleged verbal co-brokerage agreement.

Reliable Truckload & Brokerage LLC v. Staar Logistics, LLC, 2025 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 199037 (N.D. Ohio Oct. 8, 2025)

This commercial dispute centers on a hazmat-load arrangement where Reliable, a broker, contracted with Eastern as the designated carrier, while Staar managed Eastern's operations and later claimed a separate verbal co-brokerage agreement with Reliable. Reliable moved for summary judgment on Staar's counterclaim, arguing Staar was bound only by the written agreement and that any verbal deal would be void as illegal double brokering. The Court found significant factual disputes regarding Staar's role, the existence and terms of any verbal agreement, Reliable's knowledge of third-party carriers, and whether Staar suffered damages. Veil-piercing arguments also failed on an undeveloped record. Staar's counterclaim moves forward.

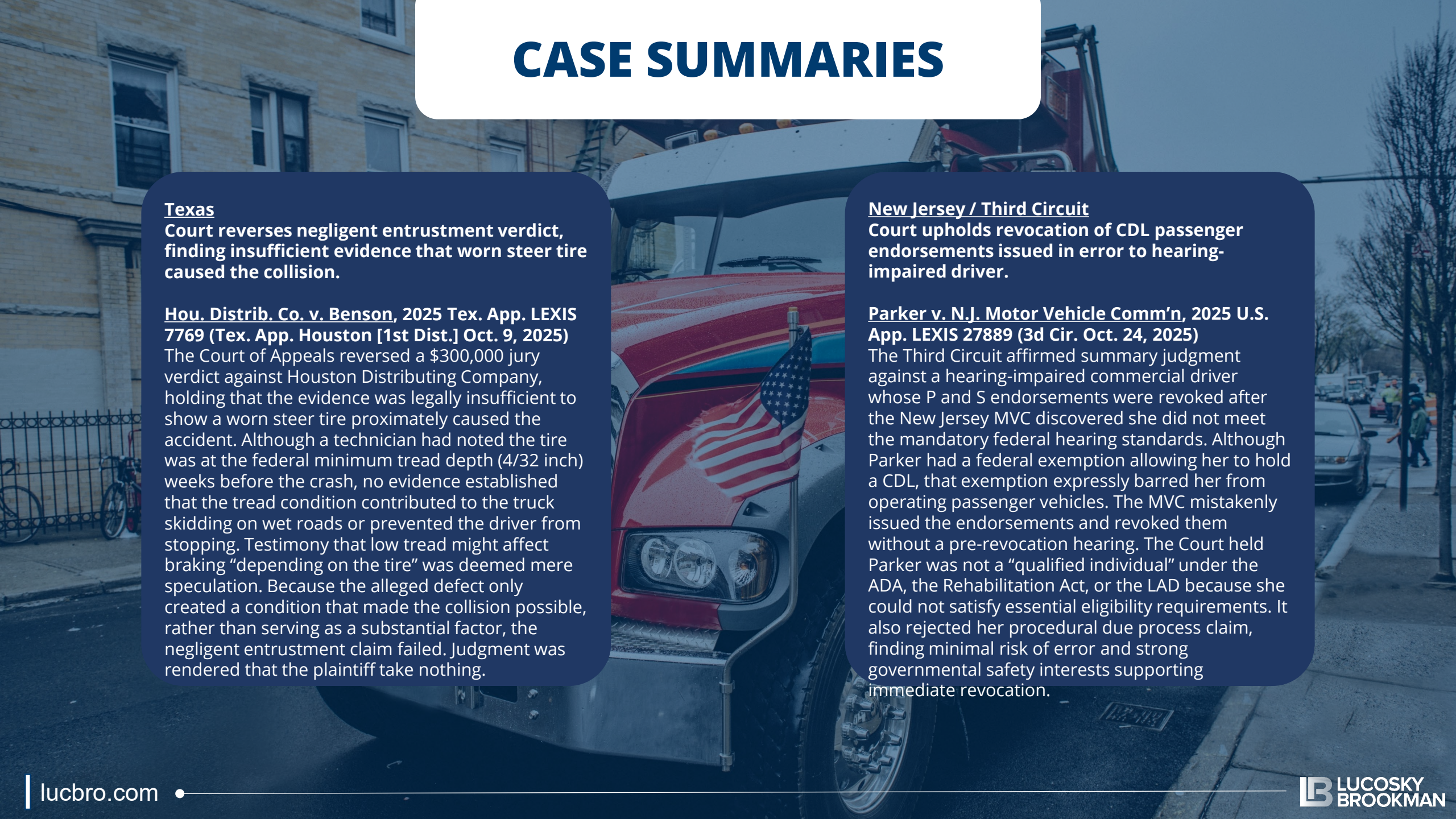
Pennsylvania

Court remands trucking accident case after finding removal defective due to missing defendant consent.

Molinary v. Kosimov, 2025 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 215627 (E.D. Pa. Nov. 2, 2025)

The Court granted the plaintiff's motion to remand after the defendants removed this state-court trucking accident suit without obtaining consent from co-defendant White Way. Defendants argued White Way was a nominal party with no real stake in the litigation, relying on an invoice suggesting Zeegot, not White Way, was the carrier for the shipment. The Court rejected this position, finding the invoice did not clearly relate to the load involved in the crash, the route described was nowhere near the accident location, and photos taken at the scene reflected shipment information pointing to White Way as the potential USDOT carrier. Because doubts must be resolved in favor of remand, the case returns to the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas.

CASE SUMMARIES



Texas
Court reverses negligent entrustment verdict, finding insufficient evidence that worn steer tire caused the collision.

Hou. Distrib. Co. v. Benson, 2025 Tex. App. LEXIS 7769 (Tex. App. Houston [1st Dist.] Oct. 9, 2025)
The Court of Appeals reversed a $300,000 jury verdict against Houston Distributing Company, holding that the evidence was legally insufficient to show a worn steer tire proximately caused the accident. Although a technician had noted the tire was at the federal minimum tread depth (4/32 inch) weeks before the crash, no evidence established that the tread condition contributed to the truck skidding on wet roads or prevented the driver from stopping. Testimony that low tread might affect braking "depending on the tire" was deemed mere speculation. Because the alleged defect only created a condition that made the collision possible, rather than serving as a substantial factor, the negligent entrustment claim failed. Judgment was rendered that the plaintiff take nothing.

New Jersey / Third Circuit
Court upholds revocation of CDL passenger endorsements issued in error to hearing-impaired driver.

Parker v. N.J. Motor Vehicle Comm'n, 2025 U.S. App. LEXIS 27889 (3d Cir. Oct. 24, 2025)
The Third Circuit affirmed summary judgment against a hearing-impaired commercial driver whose P and S endorsements were revoked after the New Jersey MVC discovered she did not meet the mandatory federal hearing standards. Although Parker had a federal exemption allowing her to hold a CDL, that exemption expressly barred her from operating passenger vehicles. The MVC mistakenly issued the endorsements and revoked them without a pre-revocation hearing. The Court held Parker was not a "qualified individual" under the ADA, the Rehabilitation Act, or the LAD because she could not satisfy essential eligibility requirements. It also rejected her procedural due process claim, finding minimal risk of error and strong governmental safety interests supporting immediate revocation.