

IN THE STATE COURT OF FULTON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

PATRICIA ANN WALDROP, Individually and as	)	
Representative of the Estate of Tony Ray Waldrop,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
vs.	)	CIVIL ACTION FILE
	)	NO. 17EV004844
JOSEPH R. PAYNE, M.D., and	)	
DERMATOLOGY ASSOCIATES OF	)	
ATLANTA, P.C.,	)	
	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	

JUDGMENT

This matter convened for trial on December 1, 2025. On December 9, 2025, the jury unanimously concluded in Phase I of the trial that Defendants Joseph R. Payne, M.D. and Dermatology Associates of Atlanta, P.C. were liable to Plaintiffs Patricia Ann Waldrop, Individually, and as Representative of the Estate of Tony Ray Waldrop, deceased.

The trial proceeded to Phase II on December 10, as to the issue of compensatory damages. The jury unanimously awarded thirty-two million dollars (\$32,000,000) to the Estate of Tony Ray Waldrop, as a pain and suffering award. The jury further awarded sixteen million dollars (\$16,000,000) to Patricia Ann Waldrop, individually, for her consortium claim.

Accordingly, the Court enters Judgment in the following amounts:

- As to Defendants Joseph R. Payne, M.D. and Dermatology Associates of Atlanta, P.C., The Estate of Tony Ray Waldrop shall have and recover the

amount of Thirty-Two Million Dollars (\$32,000,000), plus post-judgment interest at a rate of 9.75%¹;

- As to Defendants Joseph R. Payne, M.D. and Dermatology Associates of Atlanta, P.C., Patricia Ann Waldrop, Individually, shall have and recover the amount of Sixteen Million Dollars (\$16,000,000), plus post-judgment interest at a rate of 9.75%.

It is further ordered that pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 51-12-14 this Final Judgment shall include unliquidated interest damages from May 5, 2023 through December 12, 2025 as in the amount of \$8,802,725.12.² See April 5, 2023 Demand letters to each Defendant, attached as Exhibits 1 and 2.

¹ Under O.C.G.A. § 7-4-12(a), all judgments bear interest “at a rate equal to the prime rate as published by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, as published in statistical release H. 15 or any publication that may supersede it, on the day the judgment is entered plus 3 percent.” As of December 12, 2025, that rate is 6.75%, meaning that interest runs at 9.75% on the Judgment, annually. Given the verdict, post-Judgment interest would be \$3,120,000, or \$8,547.95 per day, as to the Estate. As to Ms. Worley, individually, the interest under O.C.G.A. § 7-4-12 would be \$1,560,000 annually, or \$4,273.97 per day.

² That time period amounts to 952 days at of December 12, 2025 (240 days in 2023; 366 days in 2024; and 346 days in 2025).

In this case, demand letters were mailed, separately, to each Defendant on April 5, 2023. The demands for each Defendant were for \$15,000,000. The jury’s verdict exceeds those amounts for each Defendant, triggering the right to pre-Judgment interest in the amount of the Federal prime rate, plus 3%. O.C.G.A. § 51-12-14(a), (c). Accordingly, the Court orders that each Defendant bear interest on the jury’s verdict under that statute.

Under O.C.G.A. § 51-12-14(c), interest on an unliquidated demand runs from the thirtieth day after mailing of a statutorily-compliant demand – that is, May 5, 2023 through December 11, 2025. As of May 5, 2023, the Federal prime interest rate was 8.25%, meaning that under Georgia statute the relevant interest calculation amounts to 11.25%. The annual interest would be \$1,687,500, or \$4,623.28 per day, per Defendant. Given the 952 days spanning the 30-day payment period under O.C.G.A. § 51-12-14 and the entry of this Judgment, each Defendant would be responsible for \$4,401,362.56 in interest, totaling \$8,802,725.12. The Court assesses that unliquidated interest award against each Defendant, and then awards that amount divided between the two Plaintiffs in proportion to the jury’s verdict.

Accordingly, the Court enters Judgment as to the Defendants as to the amount of the jury's verdict as follows:

- The Estate of Tony Ray Waldrop shall have and recover against the Defendants **\$ 37,868,512.76** (\$32,000,000 principal verdict + prejudgment unliquidated interest in the amount of \$8,802,725.12 x 2/3), plus post-Judgment interest at a rate of 9.75%; and
- Patrica Ann Waldrop/Worley shall have and recover against Defendants **\$18,934,238.77** (\$16,000,000 principal verdict + prejudgment unliquidated interest in the amount of \$8,802,725.12 x 1/3), plus post-Judgment interest at a rate of 9.75%.

This is hereby made the Final Judgment of this Court.

This 12th day of December, 2025.



The Honorable Eric A. Richardson
State Court of Fulton County

Prepared by:

Darren Summerville
Georgia Bar 691978
darren@summervillefirm.com
The Summerville Firm, LLC
1226 Ponce de Leon Avenue NE
Atlanta, GA 30306
T:770.635.0030