

# Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal State of Louisiana

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No. 26-C-123

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CANDASE CASTILLO INDIVIDUALLY AND AS NATURAL  
TUTRIX OF ZANE MOLINA, ET AL

*versus*

A. DAVIS TRANSPORTATION, LLC, ET AL

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IN RE A. DAVIS TRANSPORTATION, LLC AND HARTFORD FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY  
APPLYING FOR SUPERVISORY WRIT FROM THE TWENTY-FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
COURT, PARISH OF JEFFERSON, STATE OF LOUISIANA, DIRECTED TO THE HONORABLE  
STEPHEN D. ENRIGHT, JR., DIVISION "N", No. 829-252

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TRUE COPY

April 20, 2026



LINDA TRAN  
DEPUTY CLERK

Panel composed of Judges Jude G. Gravois,  
Scott U. Schlegel, and Timothy S. Marcel

## WRIT DENIED

Defendants, A. Davis Transportation, LLC (“ADT”) and Hartford Fire Insurance Company (“Hartford”), seek supervisory review of the trial court’s reasons for judgment and judgment of February 25, 2026, which granted in part and denied in part the *Daubert* Motion to Exclude Testimony and Report of Plaintiffs’ Expert, Dr. Patricia Williams.

This case arises out of an accident that occurred on August 17, 2021, between Christopher Molina, driver of a motorcycle, and Akeem Davis, driver of a Mack tractor-trailer. Mr. Molina died approximately three hours after the accident.

Defendants assert that Dr. Williams' opinions fail to satisfy the requirements of La. C.E. art. 702 or the standards set forth in *Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc.*, 509 U.S. 579, 113 S.Ct. 2786, 125 L.Ed.2d 469 (1993) and *State v. Foret*, 628 So.2d 1116 (La. 1993), with respect to her testimony as to Mr. Molina and Mr. Davis. Plaintiffs respond that Dr. Williams was retained to evaluate toxicological issues relevant to the accident, including, *inter alia*, the interpretation of alcohol and drug testing. Plaintiffs submit that Dr. Williams is qualified to testify and that her opinions reflect a reliable application of the principles and methods to the facts of the case.

The trial court began the *Daubert* hearing on January 20, 2026, and held the matter open until February 3, 2026, when Dr. Williams was available to testify. During her testimony, Dr. Williams was examined at length by both counsel and the trial judge. Exhibits were also admitted during the hearings before the trial court. Following the hearings, the trial court entered judgment granting the motion in part and denying the motion in part, and set forth with specificity the areas in which she would be allowed to testify and the parts of her testimony that would be excluded.

On the showing made, we find that the trial court did not abuse its discretion in granting in part and denying in part defendants' motion to exclude the testimony of Dr. Williams. It is well settled that a district court has wide discretion in determining whether to allow a witness to testify as an expert, and its judgment will not be disturbed by an appellate court unless it is clearly erroneous. *LaBauve v. Louisiana Medical Mutual Ins. Co.*, 21-763 (La. 4/13/22), 347 So.3d 724, 728.

Accordingly, the writ is denied.

Gretna, Louisiana, this 20th day of April, 2026.

SUS  
JGG  
TSM

SUSAN M. CHEHARDY  
CHIEF JUDGE

FREDERICKA H. WICKER  
JUDE G. GRAVOIS  
MARC E. JOHNSON  
STEPHEN J. WINDHORST  
JOHN J. MOLAISSON, JR.  
SCOTT U. SCHLEGEL  
TIMOTHY S. MARCEL

JUDGES



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CURTIS B. PURSELL  
CLERK OF COURT

SUSAN S. BUCHHOLZ  
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

LINDA M. TRAN  
FIRST DEPUTY CLERK

MELISSA C. LEDET  
DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL STAFF

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**NOTICE OF DISPOSITION CERTIFICATE OF DELIVERY**

I CERTIFY THAT A COPY OF THE DISPOSITION IN THE FOREGOING MATTER HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH **UNIFORM RULES - COURT OF APPEAL, RULE 4-6** THIS DAY **04/20/2026** TO THE TRIAL JUDGE, THE TRIAL COURT CLERK OF COURT, AND AT LEAST ONE OF THE COUNSEL OF RECORD FOR EACH PARTY, AND TO EACH PARTY NOT REPRESENTED BY COUNSEL, AS LISTED BELOW:

**CURTIS B. PURSELL**  
CLERK OF COURT

**26-C-123**

**E-NOTIFIED**

24th Judicial District Court (Clerk)

Honorable Stephen D. Enright, Jr. (DISTRICT JUDGE)

Christopher A. Mason (Relator)

Douglas K. Williams (Relator)

Darleen M. Jacobs (Respondent)

Connor J. Krone (Relator)

**MAILED**

Leonard J. Cline (Respondent)

Lionel J. Favret, III (Respondent)

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