

Celebrity Trials: Trial Techniques and Tactics

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John C. Depp, II v. Amber Laura Heard

Circuit Court

Fairfax County, Virginia

April 11 – June 1, 2022

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Johnny Depp filed a defamation action against Amber Heard claiming \$50 million in damages; Heard counterclaimed for defamation seeking \$100 million in damages.

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Heard was found liable in all three matters of defamation. Depp was awarded \$10 million of the \$50 million claim and \$5 million in punitive damages (reduced to \$350,000 cap).

Depp found liable in one of three matters of defamation and Heard was awarded \$2 million. No punitive damages were awarded.

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Terry Sanderson v. Gwyneth Paltrow

Third District Court,

Park City, Utah

March 21 – March 30, 2023

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Lawsuit arose out of 2016 skiing accident at Deer Valley Resort, Utah. A retired optometrist, Terry Sanderson, sued Paltrow claiming she plowed into him on a beginner slope and caused lingering injuries including a TBI. Paltrow countersued for \$1.

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After the nine-day trial, the jury found for Paltrow awarding \$1 and her legal fees.

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