

OPERATION SIDESWIPE

HOW A NOLA PLAINTIFFS' RING MANUFACTURED CRASHES, INJURIES, BILLS & LAWSUITS

Vanessa Motta & Jason F. Giles convicted March 2026 · Danny Keating Jr. pleaded guilty 2021

60+

DEFENDANTS
CHARGED

~150

STAGED CRASHES
ATTRIBUTED

\$5M+

COURT-ORDERED
RESTITUTION IN ONE CASE

\$600

PER-FAMILY INSURANCE
PREMIUM IMPACT

"EASIER THAN SELLING DRUGS."

— A convicted slammer describing the racket (*The Advocate*)

HOW THE SCHEME WAS BUILT

A four-stage assembly line — each step engineered to look like ordinary litigation.

1 MANUFACTURED COLLISION

"Slammers" paid ~\$1,000 per wreck to deliberately sideswipe 18-wheelers — targeted for their **deep-pocket federal liability minimums**. Spotters extracted the slammer before police arrived; passengers swapped into the driver's seat. Spotters doubled back as "**independent eyewitnesses**" blaming the truck driver. Result: a legally clean-looking multi-vehicle crash.

2 MANUFACTURED INJURY

Claimants funneled to a **repeating roster of cooperating providers**. Coached complaints centered on neck/back soft-tissue injuries — hardest to disprove, easiest to escalate. Pipeline: chiropractic → injections → spinal surgery. Witnesses testified participants understood "**agreeing to more treatment would increase the value of their lawsuit.**" At least **17 underwent medically unnecessary surgery.**

WHY IT MATTERS

- Every feature exploited — **contingent fees, medical liens, letters of protection, third-party litigation funding** — is a standard tool of U.S. personal-injury practice.
- None is inherently corrupt, but each **silently aligns attorney, provider, and funder incentives** with maximizing billed damages over clinical or factual truth.
- Losses are **ultimately paid by ordinary policyholders** through higher auto and commercial insurance premiums — ~\$600 per Louisiana family.
- This scheme is not unique to Louisiana. The **same toolkit operates in Texas** and every jurisdiction where commercial carriers operate.
- Fraud extended from **roadway → operating room → courtroom** — a complete capture of the civil justice system.

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3 MANUFACTURED BILL

Medical liens, letters of protection, and third-party litigation financing **closed the economic loop**. Every actor aligned with maximizing billed charges – the bigger the paper bill, the bigger the demand, the bigger everyone's cut. Bills **routinely dwarfed usual-and-customary rates** and functioned as **negotiating instruments drafted backward from the targeted settlement**, not records of services rendered.

4 MANUFACTURED LAWSUIT

Stacked medical bills drove settlement leverage through demand letters and mediations. Beneath the surface of ordinary litigation: **Motta Law paid a witness to relocate to the Bahamas**; secretly recorded a charged co-conspirator to manufacture exculpatory evidence; engaged in systematic **obstruction of justice and witness tampering**. Cooperating witness **Cornelius Garrison was murdered execution-style** in September 2020.

REFORM AGENDA

- **Mandatory disclosure** of third-party litigation funding so courts and defendants see who profits.
- **Evidentiary reform** admitting amounts *actually paid* for medical care, not artificially inflated billed charges.
- **Non-discretionary sanctions** for frivolous or fraud-adjacent filings (Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act).
- **Faster state bar discipline** when a pattern of suspicious filings emerges.