

Legal victory for Johnny Depp after he and Amber Heard found liable for defamation



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(CNN)A jury has found both [Amber Heard and Johnny Depp](#) **liable (winni [odpowiedzialni])** for **defamation (zniesławienia)** in their lawsuits against each other. The jury **awarded (przyznała, zasądzić)** significantly more **damages (odszkodowanie)** to Depp, a legal win for the actor.

Depp **sued (pозwał)** Heard, his ex-wife, for defamation over a 2018 op-ed she wrote for The Washington Post in which she described herself as a "public figure representing **domestic abuse (przemoc domowa)** ." Though Depp was not named in the article, he **claims (utrzymuje, twierdzi)** it cost him lucrative acting roles. Heard **countersued (złożyła pozew wzajemny)** her ex-husband for defamation over statements Depp's attorney made about her abuse claims **(twierdzenie, roszczenie)**.

The jury found that Heard defamed Depp in three separate statements in The Washington Post piece, and that Depp defamed Heard with one statement his attorney made.

The jury awarded Depp \$10 million in **compensatory damages (odszkodowanie kompensacyjne)** and \$5 million dollars in **punitive damages (odszkodowanie retorsyjne, karne)**. The jury awarded Heard \$2 million in compensatory damages and no money for punitive damages.

Depp **sought (domagał się, przeszły od seek)** \$50 million in damages and Heard sought \$100 million. Punitive damages in the state of Virginia are **capped (ograniczone)** at \$350,000, so the judge reduced the punitive damages award to that amount.

The verdict is a "tremendous" legal win for Depp and a **repudiation (odrzucenie [jej oskarżeń])** for Heard, according to CNN Legal Analyst Joey Jackson.

"It's a tremendous victory," Jackson said. "What he had to overcome was a First Amendment issue which is that we all have the right to express our thoughts and opinions. What they (the jurors) said was that, yeah, you do have *a First Amendment right (prawo chronione Pierwszą Poprawką)* unless you say

something that is false that **injures someone's reputation (szkodzić reputacji)** and causes damages to them in their industry."

David Shane, a spokesman for Heard, said she plans to **appeal (odwołać się)** the verdict.

Depp and Heard react to the verdict

Heard kept her eyes down in the courtroom as the verdict was read. Depp was not present in court, but released a **statement** that said, in part, "the jury gave me my life back."



Johnny Depp's attorneys Benjamin Chew and Camille Vasquez speak to the media after the verdict was **announced (ogłoszony)**.

"From the very beginning, **the goal of bringing this case was to reveal the truth (celem, dla którego sprawa została wniesiona było ujawnienie prawdy)** , regardless of the outcome (**bez względu na wynik**). Speaking the truth was something that I owed to my children and to all those who have remained **steadfast (niezłomny, wytrwały)** in their support of me," he said. "I feel at peace knowing I have finally accomplished that."

Depp's attorneys on Wednesday thanked the jury and said "it's time to turn the page and look to the future."

"We are grateful, so grateful, to the jury for their careful deliberation, to the judge and the court staff who have devoted an enormous amount of time and resources towards this case," attorney Camille Vasquez told reporters outside court.

Heard said in a **statement** she is "heartbroken" over the verdict.



Amber Heard hugs her lawyer Elaine Bredehoft after the verdict.

"The disappointment I feel today is beyond words. I'm heartbroken that the mountain of **evidence (dowód)** still was not enough to stand up to the disproportionate power, influence, and **sway (wpływy)** of my ex-husband," Heard said.

Depp and Heard met in 2009 on the set of their film "The Rum Diary" and were married from 2015-2016 before divorcing.

The trial

In her testimony, Heard said that Depp was verbally and physically abusive during their relationship. She also **accused (oskarżyła)** Depp of **sexual violence (przemoc seksualna)**.

Depp claimed multiple times **on the stand (tutaj: zeznając)** that he has never struck (nie uderzył) a woman, **denied Heard's allegation (zaprzeczył zarzutom)** of sexual battery and called himself a victim of domestic abuse by Heard, which she denies.



Amber Heard leaving court on Wednesday.

Attorneys for both Heard and Depp presented during the trial photographs and [audio and video recordings](#) to make their cases. One expert, Laurel Anderson, a clinical psychologist who worked with Depp and Heard in 2015 as their marriage counselor, said in testimony played on April 14 that the pair's relationship had what she characterized as "mutual abuse."

During the trial, Depp's team presented witnesses that included model Kate Moss, with whom he had a relationship previously, and [Walter Hamada](#), the head of DC Films. (CNN and DC Films are both owned by Warner Bros. Discovery.)

Actress Ellen Barkin and a number of former Depp associates testified on Heard's behalf.

Heard had notably fewer vocal supporters than Depp in the entertainment business and in and around the courthouse.