



# MELDON

# LAW TALK

NEWSLETTER FROM THE LAW OFFICE OF JEFFREY MELDON

## For Those Of Us Who Remember:

Hollywood Squares—from the days when the game show's responses were spontaneous. With host, Peter Marshal asking the questions....

**Q:** Do female frogs croak?

**A:** Paul Lynde: If you hold their little heads under water long enough.

**Q:** If you're going to make a parachute jump, at least how high should you be?

**A:** Charley Weaver: Three days of steady drinking should do it.

**Q:** Jackie Gleason recently revealed that he firmly believes in them and has actually seen them on at least two occasions. What are they?

**A:** Charley Weaver: His feet.

**Q:** According to Ann Landers, what are two things you should never do in bed?

**A:** Paul Lynde: Point and Laugh.

**Q:** According to Cosmopolitan, if you meet a stranger at a party and you think that he is attractive, is it okay to come out and ask him is he's married?

**A:** Rose Marie: No. Wait until morning.

**Q:** As you grow older, do you tend to gesture more or less with your hands while talking?

**A:** Rose Marie: You ask me one more growing old question Peter, and I'll give you a gesture you'll never forget.

**Q:** According to Ann Landers, is there anything wrong with getting into the habit of kissing a lot of people?

**A:** Charley Weaver: It got me out of the army.

**Some say—We don't stop laughing because we grow old, we grow old because we stop laughing!**

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## February—Be prepared and leap ahead

February is full of holidays to celebrate, from Valentines Day to Groundhog Day. **This year is special because it is also leap year**, giving us an extra day to celebrate.



**Boy Scout Day is February 8.** Honoring the day when William Dickson Boyce created the Boy Scouts on Feb. 8, 1910. The Boy Scout Motto is, **"Be Prepared!"** The Boy Scout Slogan is, **"Do a Good Turn Daily."** Interesting fact—57.4% of astronauts and 35.5% of West Point Cadets are boy scouts.

**The third Monday of February, Feb. 20, 2012, is Presidents' Day.** This federal holiday was originally created in 1885 to honor George Washington's birthday on Feb. 22. It then expanded to include Abraham Lincoln's birthday (Feb. 12). The holiday now is a day to honor and celebrate the lives and accomplishments of all our Presidents.

*We wish you and yours a safe month with many reasons to celebrate.*

## The Meldon Law Office Team—On your side!



**From left to right:** Nicole Talcik (Case Manager), Manny Machin (Investigator and Tech Support), Gracie Copeland (Receptionist), Dana Hallstrom (Office Communications Director), Carey Meldon (Attorney), Lisa Allen (Case Manager), Jeffrey Meldon (Attorney), Carolyn Watson (Case Manager), Barbara Caswell (Bookkeeper), Tom Copeland (Attorney), Meagan Connelly (Office Assistant), TG Clark (Receptionist and Office Assistant), Abbie Knight (Case and Office Manager)

The Meldon Law Firm serves the "Heart of Florida" and the entire state for accidents, personal injury, wrongful death, medical malpractice, dog bites, slip and fall, DUI, and criminal defense.

*Consultations are always free, welcome, and just a call away. 800 373 8000*

\* If you have a legal situation that my Law Firm does not handle, I will gladly refer you to a trusted attorney who can.

\* To all who referred friends and family or have gone out of their way to send notes of appreciation, I thank you! *Jeffrey Meldon*



The Law Office of Jeffrey Meldon & Associates is dedicated to public safety & education. We are always on the look-out for timely safety news and reminders to pass on to our readers.

**“AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION IS WORTH A POUND OF CURE!”** Ben Franklin

## Safety Reminder—**MOVE OVER**—It is the law!

It is not just being courteous—it is the law!

Many drivers are not aware of the Move Over Law. It is an easy law to remember. **When an emergency vehicle is stopped by the side of the road with its lights flashing a driver must:**

1. Reduce speed to 20 mph less than the posted speed on a two lane road (or 5 mph less in a 20 mph zone); and
2. Vacate the lane closest to the vehicle, if possible, on a multi-lane roadway or interstate.



## Jeffrey Meldon/TV20 Scholar Athlete of the Week Winners!

The Jeffrey Meldon/TV 20 Scholar Athlete Program—celebrating its 15th year! Every week during the school year, a deserving high school senior is awarded the “Scholar-Athlete-of-the-Week” title, a \$100 scholarship, and a plaque. The award is announced on TV 20’s Thursday evening sports news @ 6:00 pm and includes a video clip of the student and their achievement. The year ends with a Sports Banquet, honoring each scholar athlete, at which a male and female “Scholar-Athlete-of-the-Year” are selected and awarded a \$1,000 scholarship and trophy. In existence since 1997, this is one of Jeffrey’s favorite community services!

Here are the recent winners—congratulations!

Oct. 6—**Ryan Waters** from Santa Fe High for Football—“With a 4.0 GPA and dual enrollment at Santa Fe College, there is nothing in Ryan’s way he is not afraid to tackle.”

Oct 13—**Cullen Fitzgerald** from PK Younge High for Diving—“Cullen not only makes a splash for the Dive Team, he is one of the top five in his class with a 4.4 weighted GPA. “

Oct. 20—**A.J. Legree** from Fort White High for Football—“Catching 30 passes for over 450 yards and four touchdowns, A.J. has led the Indians to a 4-2 record. He also boasts a 3.7 GPA in the classroom.”

Oct. 28—**Kelsey Sack** from St. Francis High for Volleyball—“Kelsey is a hard hitter on the court and in the classroom with a 4.0 GPA.”

Nov. 3—**Hannah Buckler** from Trenton High for Volleyball—“Hannah may be short, but she is unstoppable on and off the court.”

Nov. 10—**Mark Herndon** from Forest High for Football—“The Wildcat captain is leading the team with over 1,300 rushing yards and 18 touchdowns. In the classroom, Mark is just as driven with a 3.0 GPA.”

Nov. 17—**Najee Jamerson** from Vanguard High for Football—“With a 3.9 GPA, Najee’s hard work on and off the field is paying off as he leads his team into the playoffs.”

Nov. 24—**Calib Alexander** from Saint John High for Football—“Calib The Great, is leading the Saints in and out of the classroom.”

## Wondering what you should do after an accident or injury?

MELDONLAW



Help! App



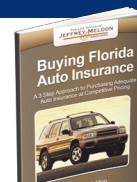
Consumer Protection  
Accident Guide Book



Now available on audio CD!

Most people think it will never happen to them. However, statistics show that one in five will be involved in a traffic crash. **How can you protect yourself and family?**

Be safe, educated, **adequately insured**, and prepared!



Insurance Guide



1-800-373-8000

Have your **free** accident kit, including camera and guide, at hand!

### 3 Tips that save lives and make passengers more secure!

**Distracted driving is the #1 cause for accidents, and cell phone use is the #1 distraction.**

We have all heard about the dangers of celling and driving, yet the vast majority of us do it anyway.

**The facts are in**—chatting (hands-held or hands-free), is as dangerous as driving drunk and makes you 4 times more likely to crash. Texting behind the wheel makes you 28 times more likely to crash.

Many drivers think that texting or chatting while driving is only dangerous when someone else does it. Even though you may think you can multitask while driving, you could be making a fatal mistake.

**In addition, statistics show that 90% of passengers feel less secure when the driver is using their cell phone.**

*Here are three easy-to-remember tips to manage cell phone use while driving:*

1. **Turn your cell phone off or silence it** before you start the car.
2. **Pull over to a safe place** if you need to make a call, or have your passenger make the call.
3. **Know your driving directions**, or set your GPS, before you get on the road.



Florida is one of only six states that currently has no laws prohibiting cell phone, even for a school bus driver or a new driver. However, this does not mean it is safe. We do not have to wait for it to be the law. We can put down our cell on our own.

**It could save a life, and it will make your passenger/s feel better riding with you.**

### February “Trivial Pursuit” - Do you know your February facts?



Q: The first valentine was said to have been sent by Saint Valentine. True/False?

Q: Cupid was the Roman god of love, based on the Greek god of love, \_\_\_\_\_.

Q: Mount Rushmore, the Presidents’ Mountain, is located in the Black Hills of \_\_\_\_\_. It was built as a \_\_\_\_\_. Four presidents faces are carved into the mountain side, they are: \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_; and \_\_\_\_\_.

Q: George Washington was known as, “The Father of our Country.” Abraham Lincoln, was known as, “\_\_\_\_\_.”

Q: Which amendment added to the Constitution, after the death of President Lincoln, abolished slavery?

Q: Leap year folklore tradition holds that leap years confer upon women the “privilege” of proposing marriage to a man. T/F?

Q: Leap year babies, babies born on February 29th, are known as, “\_\_\_\_\_,” and once it was thought that these babies would be inevitably prove sickly and “hard to raise,” though no one remembers why.

*True, Eros, South Dakota, tourist attraction, Washington, Jefferson, Roosevelt, Lincoln, The Great Emancipation, 13th, True (Ladies Privilege), leaplings*

### Don’t give up—there are ways to deal with pre-existing conditions!

Recently, we settled a case in which a woman was seriously injured when a dump truck crashed into her SUV. Her vehicle was totaled, and her left shoulder required surgery. **The insurance company offered a low-ball settlement** claiming her shoulder injury was a pre-existing condition, and not caused by the accident. In fact, the woman had an MRI on the shoulder just four months prior to the crash.

**We anticipated this insurance company tactic** and sent her prior medical records to her treating doctor to compare with post-accident ones. Both the treating doctor and the orthopedic surgeon, we hired to provide an independent evaluation, concluded it was the crash that necessitated surgery.

We settled the case in pre-suit mediation, and our client was happy with her \$125,000 settlement, and surgical results.

**Moral—make sure to get experienced representation with any serious accident, especially if you have a pre-existing condition.**

**Note:** This publication is intended to **educate** the general public. **It is not intended to be legal advice.** Every case is unique.

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SINCE 1971

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HAPPY PRESIDENTS' DAY!

**MELDON LAW TALK NEWSLETTER**

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**Do I really have to yield to a bus trying to re-enter traffic?**

We appreciate your referral of family and friends. Show them you care enough to help.



You may have noticed, while driving behind a city transit bus that there is a sign on the back that reads something along the lines of, "Yield, Allow Bus Back Into Traffic."

Although it can be annoying to let a bus, which usually makes frequent stops and moves slowly, back in front of you, it is actually required by Florida law.

According to the 2011 Florida Statutes, *"The driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to a publicly owned transit bus traveling in the same direction which has signaled and is re-entering the traffic flow from a specifically designated pullout bay."*

This law, does not permit a bus driver to drive irresponsibly: *"This section does not relieve the driver of a public transit bus from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using the roadway."*

Failure to yield to a re-entering bus is a traffic violation and can result in fines, points on your driver's license, and possibly an accident.

Drive safely and patiently—**yes**, you must yield to that city bus!



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