MELDON LAW TALK

A Monthly Newsletter Publication from Meldon Law

Attorneys

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Wrongful Death

Personal Injury

Criminal Defense

April

2016



Lawyer Jokes

Q: What did the lawyer name his daughter?

A: Sue.

A defendant isn't happy with how things are going in court, so he gives the judge a hard time:

Judge: "Where do you work?"

Defendant: "Here and there."

Judge: "What do you do for a living?"

Defendant: "This and that."

Judge: "Take him away."

Defendant: "Wait; when will I get out?"

Judge: "Sooner or later."



I spend time reading books and listening to cd's (do they still exist?) about everything. I recently listened to a brilliant lecture on *time management*. It's a topic we all think we know about, but spend little time changing our behavior so that we really do "manage our time." To me what time management means is creating priorities in life that enhance the short time we spend on earth. It is so easy to get caught up in just doing what is necessary to get through the day. Some of us have it a little easier than others, but the truth is that we should *make a conscious decision about how we want to spend our time*. I frequently wake up and have so many things on my plate that it is easy to get overwhelmed and stressed out! That is when I say to myself "How can I make this a blessed day?" "What can I do to control and reduce the stress and have a good time?" The first thing I do is to decide *what matters are urgent and important and should be dealt with ASAP*. After I knock out a few of those things I move on to the things that are important, but not urgent. If I still

have some time left I review the matters that are neither urgent nor important, but often find those things can wait. *Wouldn't you rather spend some time with your spouse, kids, best friends, family, or activities you love?* I choose to do that consciously and try to rejoice in making that happen! It's not always easy when you feel like you're in the middle of a tornado, but believe me, at the end of your life you will be grateful for the effort you make to "manage your time" so that you can say **"I have no regrets!"**



- Jeffrey Meldon



Bikes for Kids: February Winner

Sharonda Lovett, 18, from *Gainesville* is the February winner of Bikes for Kids! She was nominated by UF Shands for her hard work towards fulfilling her dream of becoming a Physical Therapist. Her hard work and dedication to the community have made her stand out among her peers. *CONGRATULATIONS*!

Schwinn Frontier Bike and Helmet were provided by: *Schwinn Shop Inc* Located in Gainesville, FL (1225 W. University Ave. Phone: 352-374-2064)

Pictured: (Left) Jess Roberts | Meldon Law Marketing Director, (Right) Sharonda Lovett



Community Spotlight...

Schwinn Shop Inc. - Located in Gainesville at 1225 W. University Ave. Phone: 352-374-2064

Dave from Schwinn Shop, Inc showed Meldon Law how they stand out from their competition. Their friendly laid-back atmosphere makes shopping for your next bike a great experience.

Schwinn Shop, Inc partnered up with Meldon Law and WSKY for the Bikes for Kids give-a -way in February; where they helped give our lucky nominee a brand new Schwinn Frontier Mountain bike and brand new helmet!

Community Events...

-Saturday, April 16th , at 9a.m. - 1p.m.

Hands Across the Highway Art Expo Circle Square Cultural Center 8395 SW 80th Street Ocala, FL 34481

Local artists from On Top of the World and surrounding communities showcase their masterpieces at the annual art expo. Works include paintings, sculptures, clay jewelry, watercolors and much more.

For more info visit: www.csculturalcenter.com/hands-across -the-highway-art-expo/

- April 30th—May 1st at 9:30.m. - 5p.m. 2nd Annual Spring Festival Cedar Lakes Woods & Gardens 4990 NE 180th Avenue, Williston, FL 32696

Come celebrate the 2nd Annual Spring Festival at North Central Florida's newest botanical garden. Featuring picturesque waterfalls, Koi ponds, and over 50 magnificent gardens, Cedar Lakes Woods and Gardens offers a unique experience you'll never forget.

For more info visit: www.cedarlakeswoodsandgarden.com/



The Gators for Israel student delegation to the AIPAC policy conference at the office of Ted Yoho asking for his support of Israel.



Gators for Israel on Ted Yoho's porch outside his office with the U.S. Capital building under construction in the background.



Located right next to the University of Florida campus, and only two doors down from Leonardo's Pizza. They are open from 10a.m. to 6p.m. every day of the week except for Sunday.

There isn't a better spot to rent bikes from for gameday. You ride right out the door and then you're right at the beautiful University of Florida campus!

Meldon Law in the Community



Meldon Law took part in the annual *King of the Wing* event hosted at ARC Marion. Meldon Law partnered up with *Wingzone of Ocala*, located off

of East Street, to help them towards their goal of being titled "King of the Wing!" During the event Meldon Law offered our Gift Boxes to those in attendance. There were many people interested in the <u>Meldon Law Accident Kits</u> and a few had a chance to speak with Jeffrey Meldon while on

site. The King of the Wing

guests were educated about Meldon Law and how helpful our Accident Guides and insurance materials are. This was a great opportunity for Meldon Law. We look forward to being an annual sponsor of this event. Congratulations to *Mojos Grill* for winning the *King of the Wing 2016* trophy!



Pictured (Left to Right): Jerry Davis & Jeffrey Meldon





AIPAC Conference 2016

Jeffrey Meldon attended the AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee) Policy Conference from March 20th—22nd in Washington D.C. This year's conference received nationwide attention because of the 2016 Presidential Election. Hillary Clinton, John Kasich, Ted Cruz, and Donald Trump were a few of the keynote speakers who addressed the 18,700 people in attendance. Jeffrey is Chairman of the AIPAC 3rd Confessional District Delegation. Our U.S. Congressman is Ted Yoho.



Gators for Israel AIPAC 2016 with Jeffrey Meldon and U.S. Congressman Ted Deutch



Rabbi Berl and Chanie Goldman, Carolyn Yoho, and U.S. Congressman Ted Yoho, and Jeffrey Meldon

This month's topic of interest: **April** 2016

Each month our staff takes a number of calls from people within the North Central Florida Community. Although we aren't always able to take every case

we receive, there is always an opportunity to educate others.

Implied Consent and Breath, Blood, or Urine Testing

The breath test for determining blood-alcohol content is the most recognizable part of the process of being arrested for Driving Under the Influence (DUI). The breath test has become so popularized that many companies even sell portable breathalyzers for personal use. Like many other parts of the DUI process though, very few individuals are aware of their rights and the consequences of their actions in relation to breath testing.



Carey Meldon

After being arrested for DUI, the police will take you to the police station with the goal of securing a breath, blood, or urine

test as evidence that you were under the influence while operating a motor vehicle. Prior to administering the test though, the police will likely read you what is called the *"Implied Consent"* warning. *Implied Consent* is a provision in Florida law that states that "any person who accepts the privilege extended by the laws of this state of operating a motor vehicle within this state is, by so operating such vehicle, deemed to have given his or her consent to submit to an approved chemical or physical test. Put in plain English, this provision means that by having a Florida driver's license you have already consented to being tested.

Due to the fact that under the law you are deemed to have already consented to being tested, the police will likely also inform you that *refusing to submit to the test will result in a suspension of your license*. What the police will not tell you is that you have the power to challenge this suspension and you may be able to get your license back. Also, you may be eligible for a hardship license during the entirety of your suspension regardless of whether or not you are convicted of DUI so long as you make certain choices within 10 days of the date of the arrest.

The choice to refuse or submit to the breath test is one that varies greatly based on your personal situation. If you have had very little to drink, submitting to the test may be advisable, but be extremely wary that you may feel considerably more sober than your blood-alcohol content will show on a test. Also, there is never a guarantee that the breath test instrument will be working properly and registering accurate results

If you choose to submit to the tests, you will typically be subjected only to the breath test. Blood tests are usually only utilized in DUIs involving death or serious bodily injury or if for some reason a reliable breath test cannot be secured. *It is worth noting that you cannot choose to take a blood test instead of a breath test*, however, *you are entitled to an independent blood test if you first submit to a valid breath test*. If you choose to get an independent blood test done, the police are required to reasonably assist you in obtaining this test. Finally, urine tests should only be requested when the police suspect that you were driving under the influence of something other than alcohol.

I would advise you to read the **Implied Consent Law** for complete information regarding your rights.

The 2015 Florida Statutes

Title XXIII
Chapter 316
View Entire Chapter

MOTOR VEHICLES
STATE UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL

316.1932
Tests for alcohol, chemical substances, or controlled substances; implied

consent; refusal.



Welcoming Back our Meldon Law / WCJB TV20 Scholar Athletes of the Week !

Meldon Law has sponsored the Scholar Athlete Program since 1997. Every week of the school year a high school senior in the North Central Florida area is chosen as the Scholar-Athlete of the Week and given a \$100 scholarship and a plaque.

At the end of the school year we hold a banquet for all the winners and their families. Last year nearly 200 people attended the Scholar Athlete Banquet where one male and one female are chosen as **The Scholar Athletes of the Year**.

The winners receive a \$1,000 scholarship plus a beautiful glass trophy commemorating their achievement. Starting in 2003 the Meldon Law Firm teamed up with **WCJB TV20** to promote the event widely on **TV 20**.

Our Most Recent Scholar Athletes!

February 25th, 2016: Spencer Haire from **Santa Fe** for Baseball. He started playing in high school and fell in love instantly with the sport. With his arsenal of pitches and curveballs he stands out on the team. He also stands out with his 4.3 GPA.

March 2nd, 2016: Andrew MacNeil is an outfielder & pitcher for Buchholz's baseball team. His strong work ethic and talent on the field earned him a scholarship to Stetson.

March 9th, 2016: Katie Chronister is a softball player for Gainesville High School. With the help of her dad she was able to hone her skills. She now has speed, control and mental toughness. And she isn't just great on the field! She has a 4.6 GPA.

March 16th, 2016: Austin Langworthy is a baseball player for Williston High School. He has been dominant on the field his entire High School career! He will continue his baseball career in college at The University of Florida!

March 23rd, 2016: Brandon Reitz is a baseball player for **Trinity Catholic High School**. As a freshman he found himself playing on the varsity team; which has made him the player he is today! Brandon has a lot of success on the field as well as in the classroom with a 4.3 GPA.

To nominate someone for Scholar Athlete of the Week, make sure he or she has at least a 3.0 GPA, is a major contributor in his or her sport, and a high school senior. Please send your nominations to Brandan McCalla via email at **BMcCalla@divcom.com**, or you can call Brandan at (352) 416-0646.



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Contact us at (800) 373-8000 or visit us online at www.MeldonLaw.com

AccidentLawyerMeldon





Thank You For Your Referral: Ryland Wagner

Ryland Wagner, of Joyner Construction, is one of our favorite clients. He recently referred a case to the Meldon Law team, knowing that it would be handled with the utmost professionalism. As a thank you for thinking of us when making this referral, we will be making a donation to a charity of Ryland's choice in his name.

- The Meldon Law Team

This month's "Trivial Pursuit" >>>

Questions:

- 1. What famous company was formed by Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak in 1976?
- 2. Who did Alex Trebek switch jobs with as an April Fool's joke in 1997?
- 3. What is the oldest city in the United States of America?
- 4. Who killed Jesse James?
- 5. Who was the first woman elected to the U.S Congress?
- 6. Where was the first cell phone call placed from?
- 7. Which president died after only one month in office?
- 8. In what year did the Crocodile Hunter premier?
- 9. Who was the first African-American to be depicted on a postage Stamp?
- 10. How much did Alaska cost the United States in 1876?

