



MELDON

LAW TALK

NEWSLETTER FROM THE LAW OFFICE OF JEFFREY MELDON & ASSOCIATES

April 2013

Volume V, Issue VI

MeldonLaw.com

Lawyer Jokes

(Inspired by the SKY's Bob Rose)

Murphy, a dishonest lawyer, bribed a man on his client's jury to hold out for a charge of manslaughter, as opposed to the charge of murder which was brought by the state. The jury was out for several days before it returned with a manslaughter verdict. When Murphy paid the corrupt juror, he asked him if had a very difficult time convincing the other jurors to see things his way. "Yes," the juror replied, "the other eleven wanted to acquit."

One morning at the law office, one attorney looked at the other and said, "Wow, you look really terrible this morning." The second lawyer replied, "Yeah, I woke up with a headache this morning, and no matter what I try, I can't seem to get rid of it." The first lawyer told him, "Whenever I get a headache like that, I take a few hours off during the day, go home, and make love to my wife. Works every time for me." Later that afternoon, the two lawyers met again. The first told the second, "You know, you look 100% better." The second replied, "Yeah, that was great advice you gave me. You've got a beautiful house, too."

A scientist and a lawyer were discussing the marvels of technology. The lawyer was asked to name an invention that he would classify as "miraculous." His answer was the thermos bottle. "Why the thermos bottle?" asked the scientist. The lawyer explained, "When you put hot things in it, it keeps them hot, and when you put cold things in it, it keeps them cold." The scientist then asked, "So what is the miracle?" The lawyer replied, "How does it know what to do?"

An April Tip From Jeffrey:

When disaster strikes—Public Insurance Adjuster!



Recently, an upstairs toilet leak caused tens of thousands of dollars in damages to my house. Considering myself an expert in negotiating with insurance companies, what did I do?

What did I do? I called the Public Insurance Adjuster that my friends used when they had a home disaster.

Why didn't I handle it myself? Proving a homeowner's casualty loss is as unique as proving an auto accident case to insurance companies, so it is best to get help from an expert.

What is a Public Insurance Adjuster? *This is a common question, as most people have never heard of them.* Public adjusters are licensed by Florida statute to act on behalf of homeowners to negotiate with the homeowner's insurance company to receive a fair and expedited settlement for their casualty loss. Generally, public adjusters are able to get homeowners much more than they would be able to on their own, even taking into account their fee. *This is much like what I do as an accident attorney, helping accident victims get a fair shake from the insurance company.*

How can they do this? Public adjusters know how to properly substantiate the legitimacy of a claim and document the damage. **This is their daily job.** They are the professionals who can meet the insurance company's adjusters on equal footing. *Remember, an insurance adjuster's goal is to save his company money by paying out as little as possible.*

My Tip: I highly recommend that you consider a public insurance adjuster if you have a casualty loss at home or a commercial location. *I can also highly recommend my public insurance adjuster, Joey Sharkey. He can be reached at 352 246 3096 or www.sharkeypia.com*

My outcome? *I was very pleased with my insurance claim settlement and must confess that I probably would have received a lesser amount had I gone through the claims process by myself. Furthermore, I did not have to spend endless hours on the phone with insurance adjusters. I also did not have to worry about obtaining estimates, recording documents, or filling out page after page of paperwork—all of which are required by insurance companies when making a claim. Most importantly, I did not have to get involved in negotiating my settlement figure. Joey, my public insurance adjuster, did it all.*

I hope this information is helpful if you ever have a home disaster! **Jeffrey**

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 falls, as well as DUI and criminal representation for Alachua County. **Available to you 24/7.**

Consultations are always free, welcomed, 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 does.

* 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 along.

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

STOP FOR PEDESTRIANS IN CROSSWALKS !

Drivers Be Aware: Little known to most Florida drivers is a law that was passed in 2008 requiring drivers to come to a complete stop for a pedestrian in a crosswalk. Previously, drivers were only legally required to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk. **Breaking this law is not only dangerous, it is costly—\$154 citation and possibly three points added to your driving record.**

Pedestrians Be Aware: Many Florida drivers do not know about the 2008 law change requiring them to stop, not just yield, to pedestrians in crosswalks, while other drivers may be driving distracted or choosing to ignore the law. **Do not assume a car will see or stop for you when you step foot in a crosswalk.**



Jeffrey Meldon/TV 20 Scholar-Athletes-of-the-Week Winners

The Jeffrey Meldon/TV 20 Scholar Athlete Program is celebrating its 16th year! Every week during the school year, a deserving high school senior is awarded the title, a \$100 scholarship, and a plaque. The award is announced on TV 20's Thursday evening sports news at 6:00 p.m. 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. **This is one of Jeffrey's favorite community services.**

Here are the recent winners—congratulations!

- Feb. 14—**Sam Cook** from Bradford for Weightlifting— **"Sam is a back-to-back state champion. She is a champion in the classroom too."**
- Feb. 21—**Shaimea Maeweather** from Union County for Basketball— **"Shaimea leads the team in almost every statistical category. Off the field he likes cooking, reading and writing poetry, and is looking forward to playing ball in college next year."**
- Feb. 28—**Jessica Thomas** from Buccholz for Basketball— **"Jessica's work ethic is what sets her apart and helped her be a state champion."**
- March 7—**Kirby Snead** from Santa Fe for Baseball— **"Kirby is proof that with hard work you can accomplish many things!"**

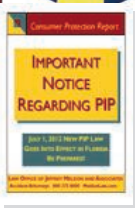
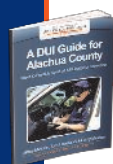
Did you know most teens report that alcohol is easy to get?

According to "We Don't Serve Teens," a national program created to prevent underage drinking, 61 percent of eighth graders, 80 percent of sophomores, and 90 percent of seniors reported that alcohol is easy to get. Teens also reported, they often don't even have to pay for the alcohol— family members or friends give it to them or they take it from their homes. **What are the dangers of teenage drinking?**

- **Teens tend to drink to excess.**
- Underage drinking is **linked to injury, poor judgment, and risky behavior.**
- **Drinking and driving fatalities** of teens are twice that of those 21 year or older.
- **Suicide risks** increase in teens who have been drinking.
- Teen drinkers are more likely to engage in **risky sexual behavior.**

What can you do? #1. Don't serve alcohol to teens. *It is unsafe. It is illegal. It is irresponsible.*

#2. Talk with your teens about underage drinking. #3. Keep track of the alcohol in your home.



Protect yourself and your family before and after an accident!

Most people think it will never happen to them. However, statistics show that one in five will be involved in a traffic crash each year.

How can you protect yourself and family?

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



FREE Accident Kit with Camera



Insurance Guide **1-800-373-8000**



Help! App

Consumer Protection Accident Guide Book

Give us a call, available 24/7—Consultations and Case Evaluations are **FREE!**

Jeffrey's advice on what to do if you think you are bad drug or device victim



It seems that we can't turn on the TV without being bombarded by commercials from nationally-advertising law firms suing pharmaceutical companies for bad drugs or manufactures of defective medical devices. In addition, simple internet searches on a particular drug or device reveals page after page of law firms wanting you to consult with them if you were prescribed the particular medication or a had problems with the particular device. However, the majority of these firms do not even tell you where their office is. These big lawsuit mills also don't tell you that if you call their 1-800 number for a case evaluation, you will most likely talk to someone in India, not an attorney who can answer your questions and will actually handle your case—leaving you all the more frustrated and confused.

My advice: Give my office a call. My law firm handles these types of cases differently than most of the firms advertising on TV or online.



Why call my office? At my office you will never be treated as a number or get lost among thousands of other similar cases. You will also be given the personal attention that you deserve along with experienced and capable representation.

What to do? If you see an ad on TV or the internet related to a particular drug or medical device that may have caused you or a loved one problems, just give my office a call and my team and I will evaluate your case. If you have a case, we will make sure that it is properly handled both personally and professionally.

When to contact us? It is very important to contact us as soon as you suspect that you may be the victim of a bad drug or medical device. This step is vitally important in order to obtain all the relevant medical records, begin the investigation on the drug or device, and start the filing process to litigate your case effectively.

Whom should I call? Call Lisa at my office: 352 373 8000 or 800 373 8000. Lisa will help clear up your questions.



Lisa Allen

April "Trivial Pursuit"—Do you know your Florida Earth Day trivia?

Q: Earth Day is always on April 22. True/False

Q: What Federal Agency was formed as a direct result of the first Earth Day in 1970?

Q: Florida's state tree is the _____, also known as the Cabbage Palmetto.

Q: Florida's state flower is the _____, and is one of the most fragrant flowers in Florida. Thanks to this flower, Florida's state beverage is?

Q: What determines the sex of an alligator embryo: temperature, humidity, or genetics?

Q: The Latin word for "tree" is _____. What holiday that falls at the end of April that is associated with planting trees?

Answers: True, Environmental Protection Agency, Sabal Palm, Orange Blossom, Orange Juice, temperature, Arbor Day



Note from Jeffrey: Have no fear—Gracie is here!

Sometimes people feel nervous or uncomfortable calling a law office.

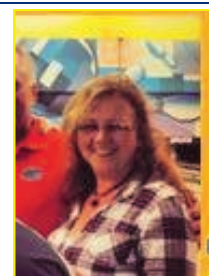
There is no need to feel that way here—Gracie is here.

The always smiling, friendly, and helpful Gracie will gladly assist you with whatever your questions might be.

My entire office staff is very caring and friendly and happy to help you.

However, if you should ever feel a little worried about giving us a call, have no fear—just ask for Gracie!

You can always count on Gracie to assist you with a friendly smile.



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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808 East Fort King St.
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Don't make a bad situation worse—**STOP!**

THE FACTS:

- Florida is seeing an increase of fatal hit-and-run crashes over the last two years.
- Florida had nearly 70,000 hit-and-run crashes last year.
- Three out of every five Florida crash fatalities in 2012 were pedestrians struck in hit-and-run crashes.

THE LAW IN FLORIDA STATES:

- After a crash, the driver must immediately stop and remain at the scene, exchange information, and render reasonable assistance to any injured persons.
- Leaving the scene of a crash involving a death is a felony of the first degree felony.
- Leaving the scene of a crash involving injuries is a third degree felony.
- Leaving the scene of a crash involving property damage is a second degree misdemeanor.



For more information go to www.flhsmv.gov

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