



MELDONLAW

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MELDON LAW TALK

A Monthly Newsletter Publication from Meldon Law

August
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MELDONLAW
You Matter Most



Personal Injury

Wrongful Death

Criminal Defense

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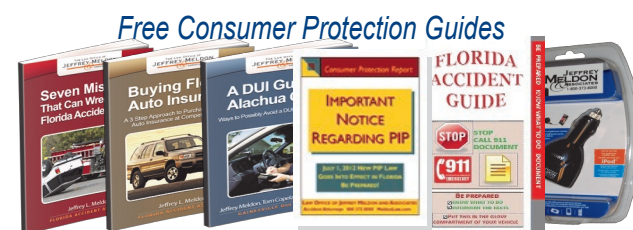
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Know Someone Who Needs Our Help? We are here for you...

Our best clients come from YOU– the folks who know us and trust us.

Serving the “Heart of Florida”. We are a team of experienced personal injury attorneys, trial lawyers, negotiators, litigators, case managers, and support staff that have been proudly working to get accident victims the justice they deserve for over 40 years in Gainesville, Ocala, Lake City, Inverness, and throughout the state of Florida. The types of cases we handle include, but are not limited to: Accidents involving cars, trucks, motorcycles, bicycle, or pedestrians, dog bites, slip and falls, medical malpractice and criminal defense. Feel free to contact our office to let us know how we can help you. Call us at (800) 373-8000 or visit us online at www.MeldonLaw.com today!

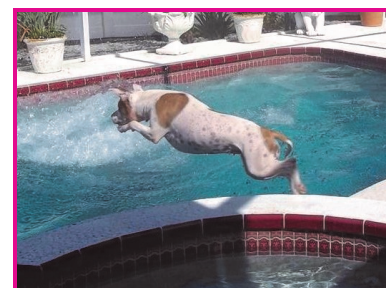
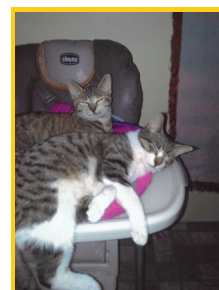


Our most recent pet photo contest WINNERS!

Cats Luther & Mia chilling on the high chair. Pets of Tiffany B. of Chiefland, FL

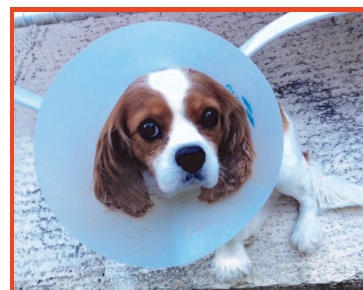


JJ the Jack Russell likes to take baths on hot days (kind of). Pet of Kevin C. of Gainesville, FL



Nala likes to swim, go for walks and lay in the sun. Pet of Kristin & Matt B. of Spring Hill, FL

Puppy Charlie keeping cool while he relaxes during the summer heat. Pet of Joe B. of Gainesville, FL



School Zone Safety

Help Your Kids Get Back to School Safely

As summer days grow shorter, communities across Florida will soon be observing that timeless annual ritual: the first day of school. It's a time when parents breathe a sigh of relief and students and teachers anticipate new beginnings and challenges.

An end to the summer heat may not be in sight for at least another month, but summer vacation is quickly coming to an end for millions of Florida's kids. Ready or not, over the next couple of weeks, children and teens will be headed back to school. That means a significant increase in the number of kids on our state's roadways. For students the act of getting to and from school has a greater potential for danger than any other act performed during the school day. Children are at an increased risk of transportation related injuries from bicycle, school bus, and motor vehicle crashes because there are so many more children on the road each morning and afternoon and many drivers' patterns change.

Motorists need to be on full alert for children waiting at bus stops and walking or riding bikes to and from schools. Younger children are at a disadvantage because they are less visible to motorists. Also, children have a harder time judging where and when it's safe

to cross the street. National statistics show that one-fifth of all children under age 14 who die as a result of motor vehicle related crashes are pedestrians. Many of these fatalities are children who run across the street, not paying attention to oncoming vehicles. To help ensure kids have the safest

transportation experience possible, parents should learn safety tips and relay this information to their children and teenagers, as well as teach the importance of personal responsibility. For more information on back to school safety, please visit www.flhsmv.gov.



- **Math Teacher:** A man from Los Angeles drove toward New York at 250 miles per hour and a man from New York drove toward Los Angeles at 150 m.p.h. Where did they meet?
Student: In traffic court
- **Teacher:** “Tom, you know you can't sleep in my class.”
Tom: “I know. But maybe if you were just a little quieter, I could.”
- What kind of school do you go to if you're...
...an ice cream man? Sundae school.
...a giant? High school.
...a surfer? Boarding school.
...King Arthur? Knight school.
- **Stevie:** Hey, Mom, I got a hundred in school today!
Mom: That's great. What in?
Stevie: A 40 in Reading and a 60 in Spelling.

A message from the Editor: Tavares Kettles



Tavares Kettles
Communications/
Public Affairs
Director

Greetings Meldon Law Friends,
My name is Tavares Kettles and I serve as the Director of Communications/ Public Affairs here at Meldon Law. I also have the pleasure of serving as the editor of the *Law Talk Newsletter* publication since January 2014. I want to take the opportunity to thank you for your loyal readership of our firm's monthly newsletter and I welcome your ideas for any topics you would like to see featured in our publication.

As a part of my role here at Meldon Law, I am always seeking opportunities to celebrate the work of organizations and citizens who are making a difference in the lives of others within our local community. If you know someone who deserves to be recognized, please feel free to send me information for a feature in our publication. Please contact me via email at tkettles@meldonlaw.com



In the Community

Meldon Law Needs Your Help!



The Meldon Law team is seeking your help in the fight against hunger for many school-aged children throughout Alachua County. In partnership with Catholic Charities of Gainesville, our firm is collecting donations of food items to help support the Weekend Hunger Backpack program.

The program was designed to supplement meals for children who depend on their school for breakfast and lunch during the school week. The program identifies chronically hungry children who are in need of nutritional assistance over the weekend.

Volunteers fill the backpacks during the week to be taken home on Friday with enough food for the child and their siblings for the weekend. In Alachua County one in four children don't have enough food to eat each day. Lack of access to a nutritious and adequate food supply has implications not only for the development of physical and mental disease, but also behavior and social skills.

Meldon Law is striving to reverse these effects by helping to provide food for over 700 children each week with the food they need to be healthy, happy and successful. Please drop off your "kid friendly" food donations at our Gainesville office between August 1, 2014 and May 28, 2014. For more information, please contact Tavares at (352) 373-8000.



Florida Gators Football Schedule

Date	Opponent
Sat. Aug 30	Idaho
Sat. Sep 6	Eastern Michigan
Sat. Sep 13	Kentucky
Sat. Sep 20	@Alabama
Sat. Oct 4	@Tennessee
Sat. Oct 11	LSU
Sat. Oct 18	Missouri
Sat. Nov 1	Georgia @ Jax
Sat. Nov 8	@Vanderbilt
Sat. Nov 15	South Carolina
Sat. Nov 22	Eastern Kentucky
Sat. Nov 29	@Florida State

Community Events...

-Saturday, August 2nd, at 11 a.m.
Kids Day at the Garden at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens of Gainesville.

Fun for kids ages 13 and under! Here is what to expect: dry bounce houses (one bounce house will be specifically reserved for young children); water slide bounce houses, so make sure to wear bathing suits and bring towels; choo choo train from 12pm - 5pm for kids and their parents riding through parts of the gardens.

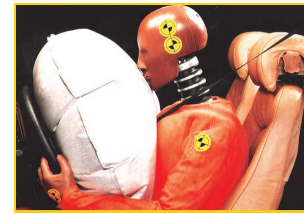
-Saturday, August 9th, at 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
In Ocala celebrate "Back to School" with backpacks, school supplies, health services, food, and entertainment. The event will be held at the MLK Recreation Complex/Croskey Center. For details, please contact Ire Bethea at (352) 368-5505.

-Saturday, August 16th, at 10 a.m.
Re-enactment of the Civil War Battle of Gainesville.

Join the Matheson Museum for the annual re-enactment of the Civil War Battle of Gainesville. This re-enactment will celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the battle and is free and open to the public. It will be held at Sweetwater Park. For more info please call (352) 378-2280.

This month's topic of interest: August 2014

At Meldon Law we strongly believe that public education is first step in the prevention of an accident. Although we aren't always able to take every case we receive, there is always an opportunity to educate others. Here's a topic worth discussing.



Exploding Airbags: The Next Hidden Danger.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is currently investigating whether to require a recall by at least seven major auto manufacturers whose vehicles are equipped with Takata brand airbags. Some automakers have already voluntarily recalled several million vehicles, beginning with model year 2008 through year 2014. The issue seems to be a defective airbag inflator which deploys the airbag with too much force.

Takata uses the compound ammonium nitrate (the same compound used by Timothy McVeigh to bomb the Federal building in Oklahoma City) in its airbag inflator. The substance is both volatile and highly sensitive to moisture.

Takata has identified manufacturing problems in which the ammonium nitrate used during the manufacture of their airbags was exposed to too much moisture in its plants in Moses Lake, Washington, and Monclova Township, Ohio. The result is that the inflator propellant burns too fast and may blow apart the metal casing surrounding it, sending hot gases and shrapnel into the passenger compartment, most notably into the driver.

NHTSA's preliminary investigation listed the following automakers as the primary users of Takata airbag inflators: Honda, Nissan, Mazda, Chrysler Group, BMW, Toyota, and General Motors. For more info on this topic please visit the NHTSA's website at www.nhtsa.gov/Vehicle+Safety/Recalls



Meldon Law Presents the Dog Days of Summer Pet Photo Contest!

Enter the pet photo contest by submitting photos of your pet keeping cool during the dog days of summer, for a chance to win cool prizes.

Please mail all submissions to:
Meldon Law
703 North Main Street, Suite A
Gainesville, FL 32601

Or via email to:
kettles@meldonlaw.com

Be sure to include your pet's name, hometown, and a few details about your pet's hobbies, etc.

Enter Today!



For cool prizes

Drink Tumblers



Gym t-shirts



Good Luck Students!
from Meldon Law



photo happenings...



Attorney Jeffrey Meldon enjoyed Father's Day with daughter Jessica and son in-law Alan in Miami, FL.

The Meldon Law team and friends gathered for a memorial dinner in honor of our dear friend and former co-worker T.G. Clark held at the Red Onion restaurant in Gainesville.



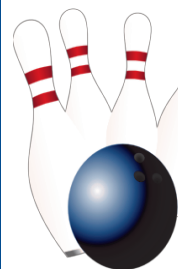
Abbie, Tavares and Gracie of the Meldon Law criminal defense team wear their cool sunglasses during the Dog Days of Summer.

Office Highlights

In the spirit of team building and after hour shenanigans, the Meldon Law team and friends hit the bowling alley for a night of laughs and fun last month at Splitz Bowling Alley of Gainesville.

The night included a competitive match of bowling between Attorney Jeffrey Meldon and EVERYONE ELSE. As you can see from Jeffrey's professional bowling attire pictured below, he came to win!

The staff welcomed the opportunity to break away from the "confines" of the office and share good times together. A terrific time was had by all!



Meldon Law Team and friends at Splitz Bowling Alley, Gainesville, FL



Lisa and Gracie



Legal Assistant Abbie Knight calculating her next strike.



Abbie, Jason, Jeffrey, and Carey.

Ask the Attorneys...

Q: What are the rules in Florida regarding stopping for a school bus?

A: You should always stop for a school bus with its lights flashing; except if you are driving on a divided highway in the opposite direction of a bus and there is at least five feet of unpaved space, a raised median, or a physical barrier (concrete abutment) separating the roadway on which you are travelling from the roadway where a bus stopped. Only then you can continue to drive at a legal speed, but should still drive with an increased awareness that children might be around.

The content in this publication is for informational purposes only and not for the purpose of providing legal advice. You should contact an attorney to obtain advice with respect to any particular issue or problem. Contact our office for a free consultation today! (800) 373-8000/ or visit us online at www.MeldonLaw.com

Public School Start Dates 2014 >>>

Alachua County: Mon. August 18th
Bradford County: Mon. August 18th
Citrus County: Wed. August 6th
Columbia County: Mon. August 18th
Dixie County: Mon. August 18th
Gilchrist County: Mon. August 18th
Hamilton County: Tue. August 19th
Lafayette County: Mon. August 18th
Lake County: Mon. August 18th
Levy County: Mon. August 18th
Marion County: Mon. August 18th
Putnam County: Tue. August 19th

Sumter County: Thu. August 7th
Suwannee County: Tue. August 19th
Taylor County: Mon. August 18th
Union County: Thu. August 21st
Volusia County: Mon. August 18th