



# MELDON

# LAW TALK

NEWSLETTER FROM THE LAW OFFICE OF JEFFREY MELDON & ASSOCIATES

## Lawyer Jokes (Inspired by The SKY's Bob Rose)

### Knowing the facts

At a trial, an attorney was putting witnesses through an exacting cross-examination. While the lawyer knew that no witness has a perfect memory, he had honed a skill in exploiting minor inconsistencies and lapses of memory in order to challenge the credibility of honest witnesses. After a series of scathing cross examinations, he was looking forward to examining his next witness.

"Did you actually see the accident?" the lawyer asked.

The witness responded with a polite, "Yes, sir."

"How far away were you when the accident happened?"

"I was thirty-four feet, seven and three quarters inches away from the point of collision."

"Thirty-four feet, seven and three quarter inches?" the lawyer asked, sarcastically. "Do you expect us to believe that your memory is so good, and your sense of distance so precise, that months after the accident you can come into court and give that type of detail?"

"Sir, I had a hunch that some obnoxious, know-it-all lawyer would ask me the distance, and would try to make it seem like I was lying if I could not give an exact answer. So I got a tape measure, and measured out the exact distance."

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## August Hails a 'new year' of Football, School, and More

**Labor Day is Monday, September 5, 2011.** While the holiday has evolved into a "last fling of the summer," before the new school year begins, it is important to remember why this is a National Holiday.

Here is a brief history of Labor Day, the "working person's holiday:"

- **Labor Day's origins** began over a century ago in New York City at the height of the industrial revolution when the average American worked 12-hour days, seven days a week, in order to eke out a basic living in unsafe working conditions.
- **The Knights of Labor** initiated the day as a celebration of American factory workers in 1882.
- The Knights of Labor, founded by nine Philadelphia tailors in 1869, **was one of the most important labor organizations of the 19th century.**
- **The Knights of Labor demanded an end to child labor, equal pay for women, and an 8 -hour-work day through unionism.**
- Membership in the Knights of Labor **was open to all wage earners, except doctors, lawyers, bankers, traders, and manufacturers of liquor.**

As we enjoy our long weekend, let us take time to appreciate the benefits that we have today because of the early Labor Movements and the contributions workers have made to the power and prosperity of America.



Labor Day weekend also symbolizes the kick-off of football season!

**The Gator's first game is Saturday, September 3, at the Swamp, against Florida Atlantic.**

**Go Workers! Go Gators! Go Back-to-Schoolers!**

## Protect Yourself—Review Your Auto Insurance Today!



As you hit the road to celebrate Labor Day, keep in mind that one in four drivers has no insurance in Florida; and many more carry only the minimum levels. If you or your family are seriously injured in a crash at the fault of an uninsured or underinsured driver, there will be little chance of recovering expenses for medical care or lost wages that could run into many thousands, if not millions of dollars. **Take the time to start your "new year" off, being adequately protected.**

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 and welcome.*

- \* If you have a legal situation that my Law Firm does not handle, I will gladly refer you to a trusted attorney that can.
- \* To all who referred friends and family or gone out of their way to send notes of appreciation, I thank you! *Jeffrey Meldon*

**ALWAYS, JUST  
A CALL AWAY!**

THE LAW OFFICE OF  
**JEFFREY MELDON**  
ASSOCIATES

**800 373 8000**



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*

**Boaters, Beware: Florida ranks first in boating deaths.**

With the “last fling of summer,” Labor Day weekend is upon us. Let us all learn from the past.

The recent deaths of two Gainesville men over the Fourth of July weekend should remind Floridians of the danger present in Florida waters.

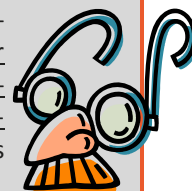
Florida has ranked first in boating fatalities since 2006, and the state’s boating-related deaths are on the rise. In 2010, there were 79 fatalities statewide, up from 65 in 2009.

Authorities warn that many boating deaths are preventable, if **boaters wear life vests and reduce alcohol consumption, while on the water.** In 2010, 22 percent of boating deaths were related to alcohol or drug use. While life vests are required by law on most boats, boaters often do not wear them.

**A Breath of Fresh Air? Think again...**

Florida’s dog-days of summer often bring odors into our homes due to the heat and humidity, which may tempt many to use air fresheners. However, air fresheners, known for their refreshing scents, may actually contain deadly air pollutants. The National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) is alerting consumers that many air fresheners contain phthalates, a toxic carcinogenic chemical that can damage the lungs, eyes, reproductive development, hormones, sperm count, and worse. Children, unborn babies, women, pets, and the elderly are especially at risk. While air fresheners remain unregulated by the Food and Drug Administration, the NRDC urges consumers to use other means to treat the source of the odor.

For more information: <http://www.nrdc.org/media/2007/070919.asp>



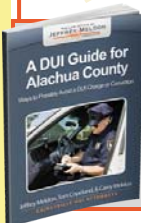
**Safety Reminder: Do you know when to stop for a school bus?**



Monday, August 22 is the first day of classes for Alachua and Marion County Public Schools. This means sharing the road with school buses. Do you know when to stop? Here is the Golden Rule:

You must always stop when you see a school bus that has its lights blinking and stop sign showing, regardless if you are behind the bus or driving in the opposite direction. There is one exception to this Golden Rule:

If, and only if, you are on a divided highway traveling in the opposite direction of the stopped bus and there is at least 5 feet of unpaved space, a raised median, or a physical barrier, you may proceed without stopping.



**NO PARENT WANTS TO THINK ABOUT THEIR CHILD CONSUMING ALCOHOL... MUCH LESS DRINKING AND DRIVING!** However, it happens even to the best of parents and young people. What can you do as a parent? Request or download a copy of Meldon Law’s educational DUI book as a first step. In it you will find: consequences of a DUI; what it takes to be over the “limit”; how to avoid being charged with a DUI; the effects of alcohol on the body; and much more. It is free and without any obligation. 800 373 8000 or MeldonLaw.com

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

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?**



Now available on audio CD!

Be safe, educated, adequately insured, and prepared!



Insurance Guide



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Consumer Protection Accident Guide Book

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

## Office Blog: *When a tank is just not an option for your teen driver...*

For some parents, a new school year may mean looking for a vehicle for your teen or college-bound driver. While we would all like to buy our young drivers a tank, unfortunately, it really isn't an option.

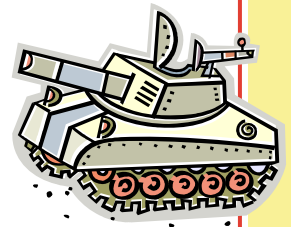
**Let's face it—teen drivers bring risk to the road.** Statistics show a teen-aged driver, who has just received a driver's license has a higher risk of getting into an accident, especially during the first year of driving. As the group with the highest crash rate, it makes sense to carefully consider the safest vehicle for your teen driver.

It is no easy task to find a car that satisfies teen-aged taste, the check book, and a parent's desire for safety. **Here are some car-buying pitfalls to avoid when car shopping for a teen:**

- **Avoid pick-up trucks.** Trucks are easy to rollover in a crash and have fatality rates twice as high as most cars.
- **No sports cars.** Sports cars may tempt a young driver to exceed the speed limit or race.
- **Steer clear of all-wheel drive (AWD):** In slippery conditions, a young driver can drive an AWD vehicle faster than intended, hit the breaks, and skid out of control.
- **Avoid SUV's, unless** the model is equipped with Electronic Stability Control and a parent imposes strict passenger limits.
- **Old cars are just too old.** They don't have the safety technology, like anti-lock breaks or side air bags, necessary to protect your teen in a crash.

Remember to weigh the cost of new versus used since the odds of a minor to major car wreck are 1 in 4 for a teen driver.

For more information and Wall Street Journal's recommendations of best cars for this category go to: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703712504576244871890273248.html>



## August "Trivial Pursuit" - *Do you know your August facts?*

- Q: Labor Day is considered the last day of the year when it is fashionable to wear \_\_\_\_\_.
- Q: Labor Day was signed into law in 1894 by President \_\_\_\_\_.
- Q: How many actual days of school are there for students in Marion and Alachua Counties Public Schools?
- Q: What is the name of the new Gator's football head coach?
- Q: What is the best way to avoid a DUI arrest?
- Q: What is the first thing affected after drinking alcohol?
- Q: Phthalates, a carcinogenic chemical that is often found in air fresheners, is generally listed as an ingredient on the product's label. True/False

Answers: white, Grover Cleveland, 180 days, Will Muschamp, Do not consume alcohol or drugs and drive, judgment, False

## Interesting Case of the Month—*We called in a key expert witness...*

Recently, we represented a very nice lady, who **injured her shoulder and back in a serious T-Bone accident**. Her shoulder injury required a MRI and surgery.

**She had a preexisting problem** with that shoulder from an accident several years earlier and luckily had a MRI done on it at that time. Arguing that the surgery was only due to a preexisting condition and not the crash, the insurance company only offered to pay \$20,000, which would not come close to meeting her expenses.

**We hired an expert radiologist** to examine the past and recent MRIs for a "comparison read." The radiologist recognized edema (swelling) on the recent post-crash MRI. The radiologist reported that the swelling was caused by the trauma of the recent accident. Therefore, her shoulder surgery was shown to be caused by an aggravation of a preexisting condition.

The insurance company recognized we were prepared for trial and paid the \$100,000 policy limit rather than chance a higher verdict.

**Moral: Hiring the best experts to work with us on our cases is often the key to obtaining winning results.**

**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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THE LAW OFFICE OF  
**JEFFREY MELDON**  
ASSOCIATES

TOLL FREE  
1-800-373-8000

703 NORTH MAIN STREET SUITE A  
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32601



**MELDON LAW TALK NEWSLETTER**

Phone: (352) 373-8000  
Toll Free: (800) 373-8000  
Fax: (352) 373-8400  
Email:  
jmeldon@meldonlaw.com  
On the web:  
MeldonLaw.com



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**Important dates for the "new year"**

  
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**Alachua & Marion Public Schools Calendar  
2011-2012**

Aug. 22.....First Day of School  
Sept. 5.....Labor Day Holiday  
Nov. 4.....UF Homecoming (Alachua County)  
Nov. 11.....Veterans' Day Holiday  
Nov. 24-25.....Thanksgiving Holiday  
Dec. 19-30.....Winter Holiday  
Jan. 3.....Classes Resume  
Jan. 16.....Martin Luther King Holiday  
Feb. 20.....President's Day Holiday  
March 19-23.....Spring Break (Marion County)  
April 2-6.....Spring Break (Alachua County)  
May 28.....Memorial Day Holiday  
June 6.....Last Day of Classes

*Teacher Work Day Holidays for Marion and Alachua Counties vary and are not included in this chart.*

**Gator Football Schedule  
2011**

Sept. 3.....Florida Atlantic @ The Swamp—7:00  
Sept. 10.....UAB@ The Swamp—7:00  
Sept. 17.....Tennessee @ The Swamp—3:30  
Sept. 24.....Kentucky @ Lexington, KY  
Oct. 1.....Alabama @ The Swamp  
Oct. 8.....LSU @ Baton Rouge, LA  
Oct. 15.....Auburn @ Auburn, AL  
Oct. 29.....Georgia @ Jacksonville, FL—3:30  
Nov. 5.....Vanderbilt (HC) @ The Swamp  
Nov. 12.....South Carolina @ Columbia, SC  
Nov. 19.....Furman @ The Swamp  
Nov. 26.....Florida State @ The Swamp

*All games are on Saturdays. Other than the kick-off times stated in this chart, they are TBA.*

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Jeffrey Meldon is a proud Life Member of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum, a prestigious group of trial lawyers throughout the country. Membership is limited to attorneys that have won million dollar verdicts, awards and settlements for their clients. Less than 1% of U.S. lawyers are members!



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