



# MELDON

# LAW TALK

NEWSLETTER FROM THE LAW OFFICE OF JEFFREY MELDON & ASSOCIATES

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## Dumb Criminals...

When his .38 caliber revolver failed to fire at his intended victim during a hold-up in Long Beach, California, robber James Eliot peered down the barrel and tried it again. This time, it worked.

A guy wearing pantyhose on his face tried to rob a store in a mall. When security came, he quickly grabbed a shopping bag and pretended to be shopping, forgetting that he was still wearing the pantyhose. He was captured and the loot was returned.

A man was arrested last night after throwing a brick into the Plexiglas window of a jewelry store. .. the brick bounced back, hit him in the head, and knocked him out cold until the police got there.

Steven Richard King was arrested for trying to hold up a Bank of America branch without a weapon. King used a thumb and a finger to simulate a gun but unfortunately, King failed to keep his hand in his pocket.

A man went into a drug store, pulled out a gun, announced a robbery, and put a Hefty-bag over his head as a disguise. Only then did he realize that he'd forgotten to cut eyeholes in his mask.

Police in Los Angeles had good luck with a robbery suspect who just couldn't control himself during a lineup. When detectives asked each man in the lineup to repeat the words, "Give me all you money or I'll shoot," the man shouted, "That's not what I said!"

## May the wind at your back not be from...

March brings the start of spring, daylight savings time returning, and of course, St. Patrick's Day. Although St. Pat was born in Scotland, as the saying goes, *"Everyone is a little Irish on St. Patty's Day."*

Here are some Irish sayings that we wish for you this month:

- May the wind be always at your back.
- May your purse always hold a coin or two.
- May the hand of a friend always be near you.
- May the sun always shine on your windowpane.
- May the wind at your back not be from the cabbage and corn beef you ate.

Two St. Patrick's Day myths:

1. **St. Patrick drove the snakes out of Ireland.** *There is only one problem with this story—Ireland never had any snakes to drive away.*
2. **"Luck of the Irish" refers to an abundance of good fortune common to the Irish.** *Nope! With 1,000 years of invasion, colonization, exploitation, and starvation, the Irish were not a lucky group. During the gold rush, however, Irish immigrants did well and were called, "lucky" as if to say, only by sheer luck, as opposed to brains, could these fools succeed.*

## Can you guess what this office crew was doing?



If you guessed bowling you were correct.

This is a picture from the Office's Sunday night bowling extravaganza!

Pictured are:  
Back row: Grant Kerwit, Jeffrey Meldon, Tom Copeland, Gracie Copeland  
Front row: Donzie Allen, Lisa Allen, Manny Machin

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 to our readers.

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

### New proposed law could save lives—what is it?

The U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has proposed a new law that **if implemented would save 2,800 pedestrian and pedal-cyclist injuries over the life of each model year of hybrid cars, trucks, vans, and low speed vehicles.**

**What has the NHTSA proposed?** New minimum sound requirements for hybrid and electric vehicles. The proposal would require these vehicles when traveling under 18 mph to make a noise loud enough for pedestrians and cyclists to detect their presence. This is also extremely important for the visually and hearing impaired, as these vehicles are hardly audible at low speeds.



With the increasing numbers of eco-vehicles on the road, take extra precautions and look twice when cycling or crossing streets—you may not hear that approaching vehicle until it is too late.

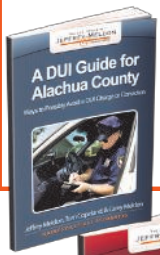
### Jeffrey Meldon/TV 20 Scholar-Athletes-of-the-Week Winners

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!**

- Dec. 20—Jimmy Wear from Forest High for Soccer—“Jimmy can be a goof-ball, but when he steps onto the soccer field, he is all business.”
- Dec. 27—Jailyn McGruder from Hawthorn for Basketball—“Jailyn is determined on and off the court.”
- Jan. 3—Sir Jackson from Eastside for Basketball—“Sir is one of the best athletes in North Central Fla.”
- Jan. 10—Jake Nangle from St. Francis for Basketball—“Jake works hard on and off the court.”
- Jan. 17—Tabby Tindell from Trinity for Soccer—“Tabby is a force to be reckoned with on the field.”
- Jan. 24—Conner Cheney from Buchholz for Wrestling—“Conner leads the team as if he was the coach.”
- Jan. 31—Jasmine Walker from Newberry for Basketball—“Jasmine has earned the respect of her teammates for her work on and off the court.”
- Feb. 7—Brooksie McGraw from P.K.Young for Basketball—“Brooksie is heading to the University of Alabama on scholarship in the fall.”

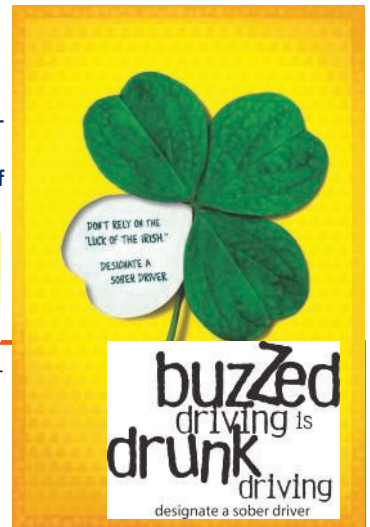
### Everybody is Irish on March 17th... But Not Everyone is a Designated Driver!



As Saint Patrick’s Day approaches, the Law Office of Jeffrey Meldon and Associates reminds drivers not to get behind the wheel if they have been drinking.



**DON’T RELY ON THE “LUCK OF THE IRISH”... DESIGNATE A SOBER DRIVER. (NHTSA.gov)**



### 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!



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## The Dangers and Lawsuits of the Depuy ASR Hip Replacement

In August of 2010, Depuy Orthopedics, a division of Johnson and Johnson, recalled more than 90,000 defective ASR hip replacement products due to high rates of failures in patients.



Since these defective hip implants were recalled, approximately 8,000 lawsuits have been filed alleging that the Depuy ASR metal-on-metal hip replacement system was defectively designed and that the Indiana based manufacturer knew its hip replacement device was failing at an alarming rate, yet failed to properly and timely alert consumers, orthopedic surgeons, or the general public.

In response to the thousands of lawsuits filed against Depuy, Johnson and Johnson, reportedly has set aside \$922 million to cover litigation and settlement costs related to the ASR hip implants.

In addition to the thousands of patients who have been forced to undergo additional surgeries to have their ASR hip system explanted and a new device implanted (if possible), all individuals who have a metal-on-metal hip implant (regardless of who the manufacturer is) need to be tested for metal poisoning. Blood tests for metal poisoning are now routinely recommended by treating orthopedic physicians. When the metal-on-metal components rub together, cobalt and chromium are released into the surrounding tissue and blood stream, which can cause serious problems and complications for patients.

*If you or a loved one has had a Depuy ASR or other metal-on-metal hip replacement system implanted, you may be entitled to compensation and must act quickly to preserve a potential claim.* We represent people who have been forced to have a defective hip system replaced, as well as patients which have started to experience discomfort in their hip or are having blood tests performed to confirm whether or not they have dangerously high cobalt or chromium levels.

**Give us a call at 352 373 8000 or 800 373 8000 for more information or to see if you may have a claim.**

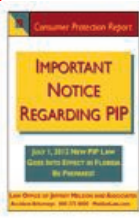
## March “Trivial Pursuit”—Do you know your March trivia?

- Q: The Ides of March, the fifteenth day of March is called the Ides of March in the \_\_\_\_\_ calendar. In this calendar method, the fifteenth day of every month was called Ides. True/False
- Q: On the Ides of March in 44 BC \_\_\_\_\_ was stabbed to death by \_\_\_\_\_.
- Q: Spring begins on Wed. March 20 at 7:02 A.M.. This day is also known as the \_\_\_\_\_ equinox. The word “equinox” is derived from the Latin word meaning \_\_\_\_\_.
- Q: Daylight savings time begins on Sunday March 20 at 2 A.M. Do we turn the clocks forward one hour or backwards?
- Q: “Mad as a March Hare,” refers to rabbits during \_\_\_\_\_ when they dash about wildly and get into fights.

Answers: Roman, False (only March, May, July & Oct.), Julius Caesar, Marcus Brutus, vernal, equal night, forwards, breeding season

## Important Note from Jeffrey—Get Med Pay Today (and UM!)

As of January 1, 2013, your Personal Injury Protection (PIP) has been reduced from \$10,000 to \$2,500. The only way to keep your original benefits (\$10,000) is if a medical doctor certifies that you have an “**emergency medical condition**” (among other new criteria). The doctors that we have been in touch with are trying to figure out what exactly that term means as it is not defined in the new law. The doctors are also being very cautious because if they incorrectly certify a patient as having an emergency medical condition, they could lose their right to treat accident victims and be reimbursed.



**What to do?** We advise all of our clients and readers to contact their insurance agent immediately and order a minimum of **\$10,000 in medical payments coverage (med pay)**. This will insure that your medial bills will be paid up to \$12,500 for injuries related to a crash. *(At the same time, make sure you have Uninsured Motorist Coverage (UM); we recommend a minimum of \$100,000.)*

**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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**Do you know the laws regarding ATVs?**

Here are five important laws to remember to be safe and legal in Florida on your ATV (all-terrain vehicle) or any other type of recreational off-road slow-speed vehicle:



1. **It is illegal to operate an ATV on public roadways:** *Except on unpaved roads where the posted speed limit is less than 35 mph during daytime hours.*
2. **An ATV operator under 16 years of age must be supervised by a licensed driver and must wear a helmet and eye protection.**
3. The operator of an off-road vehicle **may not carry a passenger unless it is specifically designed by the manufacturer to carry a single passenger.**
4. **An ATV may be operated on paved streets only if the posted speed limit is 35 mph or less. The operator may cross a roadway with a higher speed limit at the intersection if: The operator has a valid driver's license in his possession and the vehicle is registered, has operating headlights, stop lights, turn signals, tail lamps, windshield, rearview mirrors, parking brake, and seat belts.**
5. **Golf carts may not be operated on public roads except for roads specifically designated by a county for golf cart use. A person under 14 may not operate a golf cart on any public streets.**

**Remember, ATVs are recreational vehicles that should not be taken recreationally!**

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