

Jeffrey Meldon

MELDON

LAW TALK

NEWSLETTER BY THE LAW OFFICE OF JEFFREY MELDON & ASSOCIATES

June 2010 Volume II, Issue VIII

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Lawyer Jokes

(Inspired by The Sky's Bob Rose)

Things people actually said in court:

Q: What gear were you in at the moment of the impact?

A: Gucci sweats and Reeboks.

Q: All your responses must be oral, OK?

A: Oral

Q: And where was the location of the accident?

A: Approximately milepost 499.

Q: And where is milepost 499?

A: Probably between 498 & 500.

Q: Trooper, when you stopped the defendant, were your red and blue lights flashing?

A: Yes, sir

Q: What did she say?

A: What disco am I at?

Q: Now, doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?

Q: Were you present when the picture was taken?

Q: Did he kill you?

Q: How many times have you committed suicide?

Q: How far apart were the vehicles at the time of the collision?

Welcome To Our June Newsletter: *Congratulations!*

June brings Father's Day, Flag Day, and the Summer Solstice. The annual Scholar Athlete Banquet was held the end of May. To honor the accomplishments of our Scholar Athletes, we are devoting a large part of this month's Newsletter to them. *We wish you and yours a wonderful month of June!*

Office News: *Congratulations Scholar Athletes!*

The annual Jeffrey Meldon/WCJB TV20 Scholar Athlete Program banquet was held Thursday, May 20, at the Gainesville Women's Club. Thanks to Southern Sisters Hospitality Catering, for the delicious and plentiful feast they cooked up for the 36 scholar athletes, their parents, grandparents, family, friends, and coaches, the event was a huge success. The scholar athlete program has been in existence since 1997. Every week of the school year a senior athlete is chosen as the scholar athlete of the week. At the end of the school year, a banquet is held. At the banquet, each one of the 36 weekly winners is honored with a plaque and a \$100 scholarship. One male and one female Scholar Athlete of the year are chosen and presented with a trophy and a \$1,000 scholarship. **We congratulate all the Scholar Athletes for the 2009–2010 school year for their hard work and dedication in and out of the classroom. This year's Scholar Athletes of the year:**

Will Allen from Buchholz High for Baseball. Will is, without a doubt, one of the best players to ever step foot in Buchholz. He was the team's top hitter and captain, leading in runs, runs driven in, and home runs. He is a two-time All State and Max Prep High All American. In 2008, he was selected to be on the USA National team, which only picks 18 athletes in the entire country. He played against nine other countries in Mexico, bringing home a gold medal. Will also ranks high in his Honors and AP classes, finishing his senior year with a 3.8 GPA and a scholarship to play for Ole Miss. *Congratulations, Will!*

Kasey Fagan from Dunnellon High for Softball. 5 feet and 11 inches tall, Kasey is an all-star softball player and scholar (4.7 GPA) at Dunnellon High. This season, she averaged two strikeouts per inning, led her team in home runs, and still managed hitting close to an impressive 700! She also led her team to winning the State Championship and ranking no. 1 in the country. Being that her father is a Canes fan and in their Hall of Fame, Kasey never thought she'd be a Gator. But sure enough, she will be playing on scholarship for UF in the Fall.

Congratulations, Kasey!



HANK ASTENGO (TV 20), KASEY FAGAN, WILL ALLEN AND JEFFREY MELDON

A Note From Jeffrey: *Welcome and Thank You!*

My Staff, Associates, and I **welcome our new clients** that joined the Meldon Law Family this past month and send our **personal thanks to all that referred friends and family and have gone out of their way to send notes of appreciation.** The Law Office of Jeffrey Meldon is **proud to represent people in the "Heart of Florida"** for accidents, personal injury, wrongful death, medical malpractice, dog bites, slip and falls, and criminal defense. **Consultations are always free.** My thank you's go out as well to those that took the time to request topics they would like to see addressed in the Newsletter. **Thank you and please, feel free to call the Office if we can be of help.**



THE LAW OFFICE OF
JEFFREY MELDON
ASSOCIATES

TOLL FREE
1-800-373-8000



Tom Copeland

Tom Copeland has been a Fla. Trial lawyer Litigator since 1986. He represents ordinary people who have been hurt by the negligence of others. Born and raised in Valdosta, GA., he joined our Office in 2002. When he is not in the Courtroom or the Office, he enjoys being a Gentleman Farmer on his 15-acre Alachua farm with his family and their horses, cattle, and big garden.

Tom on “Torts:” *The value of our civil justice system.*

The question is whether our civil court system needs to be changed to limit or eliminate the right of the people to file a lawsuit for certain types of civil wrongs, such as: a personal injury claim, interference with a business relationship, or an environmental injury (e.g. if your neighbor built a structure on their property that caused your property to flood)? Last month I told you that the primary purveyors of “tort reform” are some of the richest groups/organizations/corporations in the United States. Is this fact or opinion? While there are several organizations that have been pulling the “tort reform” wagon, one of the largest and most powerful is the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Consider these statements from their website. “*The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world’s largest business federation ...As the voice of business; the Chamber’s core purpose is to fight for free enterprise... The Chamber consistently leads the pack on lobbying expenditures...*” **They make it abundantly clear** that they are not looking out for you, the individual/consumer, nor your spouse, children, extended family, friends, or neighbors. So, what is my basis for saying that this group represents some of the richest business interests? **Look at some of the members of their Board of Directors.** They include senior management from: JP Morgan Chase & Co. (banking), Pfizer, Inc. (drug company), PepsiCo, Inc., Conoco Phillips (oil industry), New York Life Ins., American Medical Association, UPS, Xerox Corp., Anheuser-Busch Corp., State Farm Ins., Rolls-Royce North America, Inc., and Harrah’s Entertainment, Inc. (gaming industry), among many others.

Now don’t get me wrong—I’m not against successful, prosperous businesses. In fact, it’s the “American way,” and I’m all for it. **But, I am against any change in our current laws that favor business interests at a cost, which includes not only monetary loss, but, physical injuries and death of the employees and public that most of these businesses are created to serve.** Next month, I’ll start with an asbestos case as evidence that “big business” always has been, and likely always will be, like a hog.

The Scholar Athletes of the Week; North Central Florida’s Best and Brightest!

April:
4/29—Kasey Metzler from Santa Fe High School for Softball

May:
5/6—Ed Ray from Hawthorne High for Track (Last, but not the least for the year!)

Congratulations to our last two Scholar Athletes of the Week for the year!

Jeffrey Meldon/WCJB TV 20’s Scholar Athlete Update... Congratulations Students!

The Jeffrey Meldon/WCJB TV 20 Scholar-Athlete program has been in existence since 1997. Every week during the school year a deserving high school senior is awarded the title of “Scholar-Athlete Of The Week” and receives a \$100 scholarship and a plaque. The award is announced on TV 20’s Thursday evening sports news @6:00 and includes a video clip of the student and their achievements. In the column to the left are the latest winners.

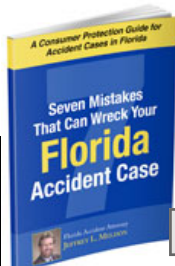
Meldon & Friends’ “Trivial Pursuit” for June

- Q: In 1924, President _____ proclaimed the 3rd Sunday in June to be Father’s Day.
- Q: Father’s day is celebrated around the world and is not just an American “Hallmark” holiday. T/F
- Q: Flag day is June 14. A day for America to celebrate and show respect for our flag and its designers and makers—A flag which even stands on the surface of the moon. True/False
- Q: When a flag is old, and it is time to retire it, the proper procedure is to _____ it rather than throwing it in the trash. Your local Boy Scout Troup can do this procedure for you. T/F
- Q: The flag should not be flown at night without a light on it. T/F
- Q: Our flag has _____ stars, which represent the _____, and _____ strips, which represent the _____.



Answers: Coolidge, True, True, Burn, True, True, 50, 50 States, 13, Original 13 Colonies

Have you read your Consumer Guide Accident Book yet?



Good news! In an effort to make it more convenient to get the information in Jeffrey’s Consumer Guide Book, **Seven Mistakes That Can Wreck Your Florida Accident Case**, Storm Roberts of KTK has read it on audio CD. With the help of many others, the book on CD is now available and complimentary to our readers. To request yours, call the Office and request that a copy be sent for you @ (800) or (352) 373-8000. **Be safe and be prepared!**

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Thanks to Storm Roberts, the book is now available on audio CD. Request yours today!

The Office Blogs: *6 Simple things to do for a safer road trip.....*

The summer travel season is upon us. Over the next several months, many Floridians will pack up the car and hit the road. Here are 6 simple safety tips to make your vacation as safe as possible.

- 1. Avoid blow-outs.** Make sure your vehicle is properly maintained and its tires are up for the drive—especially with a loaded car. Before you leave, check for adequate tread and proper inflation. Remember, with a penny, Lincoln's head down, if you see all of his head... you need new tires.
- 2. Pay attention to the road at all times.** Avoid distracted driving, such as cell phones. Keep both eyes on the road, both hands on the wheel, and your mind on the road. ***Distracted driving is the leading cause of crashes.*** We can't control many road hazards, but distracted driving isn't one of them.
- 3. Buckle up!** Proper use of seatbelts and age-appropriate safety devices rank number one in keeping you and your loved ones safe in the event of an accident.
- 4. Follow the speed limit, and keep a safe distance between you and the car ahead of you.** Speeding and tailgating are forms of aggressive driving. ***Aggressive driving has been shown to be a factor in at least half of all accident.***
- 5. Avoid driving drowsy and allow plenty of time to reach your destination.** Driving sleepy can have the same effect as alcohol. It can decrease awareness, slow reaction time, and impair judgment. Make frequent stops to stretch your legs, and be realistic about how many hours it is safe for you to drive. It just takes a second of nodding off to cause a tragic accident.
- 6. Do not overload your vehicle.** Even when a vehicle does not appear to be overloaded, it may be over its weight limit. Check your vehicle's maximum load capacity to find out how much it can safely hold. Overloaded vehicles are less stable, more difficult to steer, and take longer to stop. Overloading causes breaks and tires to overheat, leading to blowouts crashes.



More on the Scholar Athletes...

We acknowledge and congratulate each of the 36 Scholar Athletes of 2009-2010 for their hard work, dedication, and accomplishments on and off the field. They are listed below with their school and sport:

Gainesville High: Kevin Nelson—Football; Crey Wilson—Football; J Hall—Basketball; and Kyle Brooks—Wrestling. **Eastside High:** Harold Hosking—Football; Danielle Kerr—Swimming; and Summer Woods—Soccer. **Buchholz High:** Sara Soltis—Swimming; Anna Bedford—Volleyball; Lauren Hyden—Soccer; Bodi Karsono—Golf; Damien Boada—Wrestling; and Will Allen—Baseball.

P.K. Young: Mayan Alvarado—Volleyball; Jaterra Bonds—Basketball; Brittany Hendrix—Softball; and Tiebout McCray—Basketball.

Trinity Catholic High: Kadron Boone—Football; David Leopard—Football.

Santa Fe High: Cynthia Smith—Volleyball; Matt Duval—Baseball; and Kasey Metzler—Softball.

Fort White: Alex Gilmer—Football.

Columbia High: Cameron Sweat—Football and Jamaal Montaque—Football. **North Marion High:** Chuckie Looney—Football.

Some previous Scholar Athletes of the Year are:
John Brantley (football), Andrew Miller (baseball), C.J. Spiller (football), Marcia Hampton (volleyball), Bobby Gates (golf), Brittany Davis (basketball), and Hillary White (track).



Keystone Heights High: Karleigh Smoak—Baseball.

Hawthorne High: Ivy Bush—Basketball and Ed Ray—Track.

Saint Francis High: Billy Donovan Jr.—Basketball.

Oak Hall High: Breckley Neale—Basketball.

The Rock: Greta Bartkute—Basketball.

Bell High: Samantha Williams—Softball.

Forest High: Brooke Bennett—Softball and Stephanie Cameron—Softball.

Dunnellon High: Kasey Fagan—Softball.

Congratulations Scholar Athletes!

THE JEFFREY MELDON/ WCJB TV 20 2009 –2010 SCHOLAR ATHLETES OF THE YEAR WITH JEFFREY MELDON AND HANK ASTENGO (TV20)

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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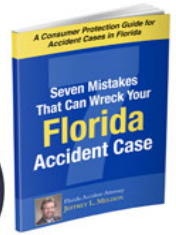
703 NORTH MAIN STREET SUITE A
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32601



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

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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Look Inside This Issue

- ▲ 6 Simple things you can do to make your summer trip safer.
- ▲ Congratulations Scholar Athletes.
- ▲ Help buying car insurance.
- ▲ Tom on "Torts."

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Ask Jeffrey: Help!... Buying car insurance is confusing!

Q: I want to get good coverage to protect myself and 2 kids. I recently called one of the companies that advertise insurance at the best prices on TV, and it was very confusing. In short, the salesman and I could only guess at the coverage I needed and at what limits. **Help!**

A: *This is a common problem.* Buying car insurance is confusing. However, having adequate insurance is vitally important, especially in Florida, to protect yourself and family on the road. It may sound confusing why I, an accident attorney and not an insurance salesman, frequently talk and write about purchasing adequate insurance. **Why do I?** In short, **if the money (insurance) isn't there on a client's (victim's) part, or on the part of the at fault party**, there just isn't any money to pay for past and future medical bills, loss of income, pain and suffering, and property damage. *A person in this situation is just plain out of luck, and it can be a heartbreaking and devastating situation for the victim and their family—no matter how skilled or talented the lawyer.* In addition, people often think they have "full coverage" only to find that they were misinformed. To help make purchasing adequate auto insurance less confusing, I have written an easy to read booklet, describing the various insurances and my tips and recommendations on them. I have also come up with a sensible, easy **3-step approach to purchasing adequate auto insurance at competitive pricing.** Please feel free to call my Office or go on-line to request your complimentary copy. *Be safe. Be protected!*

BUYING FLORIDA AUTO INSURANCE

3
A Step Approach to Purchasing
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JEFFREY L. MELDON

JEFFREY'S NEW BOOKLET

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