



MELDON

LAW TALK

NEWSLETTER FROM THE LAW OFFICE OF JEFFREY MELDON & ASSOCIATES

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

Courtroom Humor

In a courtroom, a purse-snatcher is on trial, and the victim is stating what happened. She says, "Yes, that is him. I saw him clear as day. I'd remember his face anywhere." At which point, the defendant bursts out, "You couldn't see my face, lady. I was wearing a mask!"

Attorney: "When was the last time you saw the deceased?"

Witness: "At his funeral."

Attorney: "Did he make any comments to you at that time?"

Prosecutor: "Did you kill the victim?"

Witness: "No, I did not."

Prosecutor: "Do you know what the penalties are for perjury?"

Witness: "Yes, I do. And they are a hell of a lot better than the penalty for murder."

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Happy March—Happy St. Pat's Day! May "luck" be with you...

Maewyn Succat (also known as Patricius the Cleric) is said to have died on March 17, 461 AD. March 17 is a day to celebrate Saint Patrick's life with parades and wearing green. Myth can often be more fun than truth, which is why there are many myths about this legendary man and Day. [Here are some:](#)

- **St. Patrick was Irish.** Not so. St. Pat was probably born in southwestern Britain, making him a Celtic Brit.
- **St Patrick was the first Christian missionary in Ireland.** Not so. Although he was not the first, he was the most successful.
- **St. Patrick used the shamrock to teach about Christianity.** While the use of the three leaf clover to explain the Holy Trinity to pagans is a common myth, it has no basis in fact. Early Celtic tradition used the shamrock as a metaphor, representing a "trust in your soul" and "belief in your heart."
- **St. Patrick drove the snakes out of Ireland.** There is only one problem with this story: Ireland never had any snakes to drive away.
- **The annual St. Patrick's Day parade is an Irish tradition.** Actually, the parade was invented in Manhattan. For centuries, St. Patrick was honored in Ireland as a solemn religious event.
- **Leprechauns are cute little elves.** No! Irish mythology portrays them as nasty, brutish, grumpy, alcoholic, and insufferable.
- **"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, they were not a lucky group. However, in the gold rush years, Irish immigrants did well and were called, "lucky," as if to say, only by sheer luck, as opposed to brains, could those fools succeed.



Office Reminder—Buckle up! It is the law!



Seatbelts saves lives. On June 30, 2009, not buckling up became a primary offense, meaning you can be stopped solely on the basis of not wearing a seat belt in Florida.

Who is required to wear a seat belt? The driver, front seat passengers, and any passenger under the age of 18. (Children under 6 must be restrained with an age-appropriate federally approved child safety restraint device.)

Since 2008, Florida traffic fatalities fell by 25 %, one reason cited is Florida's seat belt law.

A Note From Jeffrey: About my Office and thank you!

- My Office is proud to represent people in 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 in Gainesville. *Consultations are always free.*
- If you have a legal situation that my Firm does not handle, I will gladly refer you to a trusted attorney.
- To all who referred friends and family or gone out of their way to send notes of appreciation, I thank you!

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In honor of our clients and subscribers from North Central and Central Florida—a new column, Community Spotlight.

Community Spotlight: Citrus County—water, manatees, & cycling!

Here are some interesting tidbits and facts about Citrus County and its cities:

Citrus County:

- Named for its citrus trees, only one main citrus grove remains today after the “Big Freeze” of 1894-5.
- The original County Seat, Mansfield, is now a ghost town with only a street and a pond remaining.
- Phosphate mining played a major part in the county’s history. In fact, the first county newspaper was called, the Phosphate Times.
- **25% of the county is water!**

Inverness:

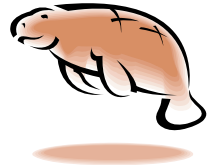
- Inverness is County Seat and originally named Tompkinsville. A homesick Scotsman changed the name to Inverness—**Inver** for “mouth of the river” and **Ness** for Loch Ness.
- **Withlacochee State Trail**, a 46-mile, paved, off-road, non-motorized trail runs through the town and is part of the State’s “rails-to-trails” program.

Crystal River:

- Crystal River is situated around **King’s Bay**, which is the second largest natural aquifer in Florida, after the Everglades. Crystal River is “**home to the manatees**” and at the heart of **Florida’s Nature Coast**.

Homosassa Springs:

- This city is home to **Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park**, where you can swim with the manatees.



Jeffrey Meldon/TV20 Scholar Athletes of the Week: Congratulations!

Every week during the school year, a deserving high school senior is awarded the “**Scholar-Athlete-of-the-Week**” title, a \$100 scholarship, and a plaque. The award is announced on TV 20’s Thursday evening sports news @ 6:00 pm and includes a video clip of the student and their achievement. **Here are the recent winners:**

Jan 13—**Lindsey Rivas** from Santa Fe High for Soccer—“**Lindsey kicks it in the classroom too. Balancing her sport and her schoolwork with a 3.8 un-weighted GPA.**”

Jan 28—**Kasey Newton** from North Marion High for Soccer—“**Kasey’s law for the soccer team is to let no ball go by. The team’s goalie does make goals in the classroom with a high GPA.**”

Feb 3—**Devin Wilson** from PK Youngs for Basketball—“**Devin has a lot of goals and wants to achieve every one of them, not just on the court but outside of it too, including academics.**”

Feb 10—**Kierstin Steiner** from Trinity Catholic High for Soccer—“**Kierstin knows what needs to be done on the field and in the classroom with an un-weighted 3.5 GPA.**”

Safety Reminder—Alcohol related traffic fatalities are 100% preventable.



Saint Patrick’s Day celebrations often include drinking. If heading to the local pub with friends is in your plans, here is a safety reminder:

Be responsible: Do not drink and drive, and don’t let your friends do so either. Decide on a designated driver, and stick to the plan. If plans fall through, keep cab money in a safe place, and take a cab.

Remember: Every injury and death caused by drunk driving is 100% preventable.

Wondering what you should do after an accident or injury?



Consumer Protection Accident Guide Book



Now available on audio CD!

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?**

Be safe, educated, adequately insured, and prepared!



Insurance Guide

FREE Accident Kit with Camera

FLORIDA LAW ACCIDENT & INJURY GUIDE

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

Office Blog: *Floridian motorists and pedestrians, beware—hit-and-run accidents.*

Florida is home to the top four U.S. cities for pedestrian hit-and-run crashes—Orlando, Tampa, Miami, and Jacksonville. In 2009, Time Magazine called the Sunshine State a breeding ground for “deadly hit-and-run car culture.” In 2008, Fla. topped the nationwide tally with 490 pedestrian hit-and-run deaths. Shockingly, nationwide, 400 pedestrians are killed each month in hit-and-run crashes.

What is a hit and run? A hit and run happens when a driver leaves the scene of a crash. It is often called leaving the scene of an accident.

How to avoid being accused of a hit and run:

- **Stop!** Florida law requires that a driver stop, render aid, and give identifying information to others, if injury or property damage occurs in a crash. *(Remember: Not only is it the law to stop and help, it may save a pedestrian or motorist’s life.)*
- **Florida law also requires** that a driver in a wreck call the police, if there are any injuries or damage, and they are reasonably able.

If you are a victim of a hit-and-run accident:

- **You also must stop, render aid, and provide identifying information**, if reasonably able.
- **Call 911 immediately.** If you have any identifying information regarding the vehicle or driver that left the scene, give it to the police right away over the phone.
- **Get witnesses names and contact numbers.** In a hit-and-run accident, witnesses are critically important.
- **Being a victim of a hit-and-run crash** in a vehicle or as a pedestrian, is much like being the victim of other traffic accidents in regards to your auto insurance policy. **The exception being, you must prove that the other person was at fault.**
- **Your Uninsured Motorist Coverage** will protect you in the event of a hit and run.
- **Anytime there are serious injuries resulting from an accident, it is best to get advice and help of an accident attorney.**

“Trivial Pursuit” for March... *March madness.*

Q: “Mad as a March Hare,” refers to rabbits during _____ when they dash about wildly and get into fights.

Q: What date is the Ides of March?

Q: Who was assassinated on the Ides of March in 44 BC?

Q: According to the Georgian calendar, March was the _____ month of the year.

Q: The word, March, honors _____, the Roman God of war.

Q: How many National Holidays are there in March?

Q: What is the flower of March?

Q: What sport is played in March Madness?

Q: Spring begins on _____ 20, 2011, at 7:21 pm EDT for the Northern Hemisphere.



Answers: breeding season, March 15, Julius Caesar, first, Mars, zero, daffodil, basketball, March

Slip and Fall—*First and foremost, be responsible for your safety.*

Recently, we represented a very nice lady who fell down an outside flight of hotel stairs because the stairway lights were **not on**. The hotel denied the claim, arguing the lights were on; there was a handrail; and another well light stairway was nearby. In spite of these obstacles, we obtained a fair settlement for our client .

The moral of the story:

- **Many people believe that just because they are injured** in a business establishment, the owner is legally responsible.
- **In Florida, that is far from the truth.** The legislature passed laws that made it difficult to win a slip-and-fall claim against a business, unless the victim can prove that the owner knew or should have known of the dangerous condition and then did nothing about it.
- **Florida jurors vote in favor of a store owner 62% of the time.**
- *Be aware, when you are at a business and watch for obstacles; water on the floor; use handrails; and pay attention.*
- *First and foremost, in Florida, you must be responsible for your own safety.*

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

Happy
St. Patrick's
Day!

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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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Ask Jeffrey: *How can traumatic brain injury be prevented?*

This is an important topic. Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is a serious medical condition with potential long term consequences and disability.

The number one cause of TBI is motor vehicle accidents. Since a person can never totally eliminate the risk of being in a serious accident, [here are 5 basics ways to protect your head and prevent TBI:](#)

1. **Wear your seatbelt every time you get on the road**, and make sure all passengers buckle up too.
2. **Protect babies and young children in age-appropriate car seats that are installed correctly.**
3. **Do not drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol.**
4. **Do not drive distracted.** Keep both hands on the wheel, both eyes on the road. Give your full attention to your driving and to the road.
5. **Wear appropriate protective head gear, such as a helmet when riding a motorcycle, bicycle, scooter, moped, or ATV. Make sure children use properly fitting head protection too.**

Remember: Diagnosis of a TBI can be difficult, and many people feel "just fine" after an accident that causes bleeding in the brain. If a head injury is suspected, have a medical doctor assess the situation immediately.

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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