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**MELDON LAW TALK**

A Monthly Newsletter Publication from Meldon Law

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**MELDONLAW**  
*You Matter Most*



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*Wrongful Death*

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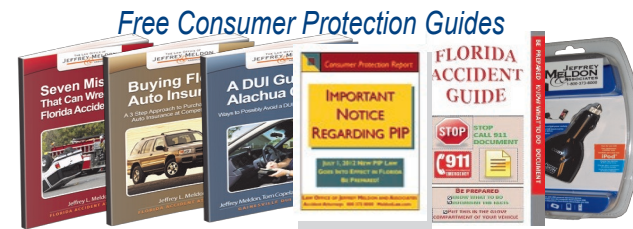
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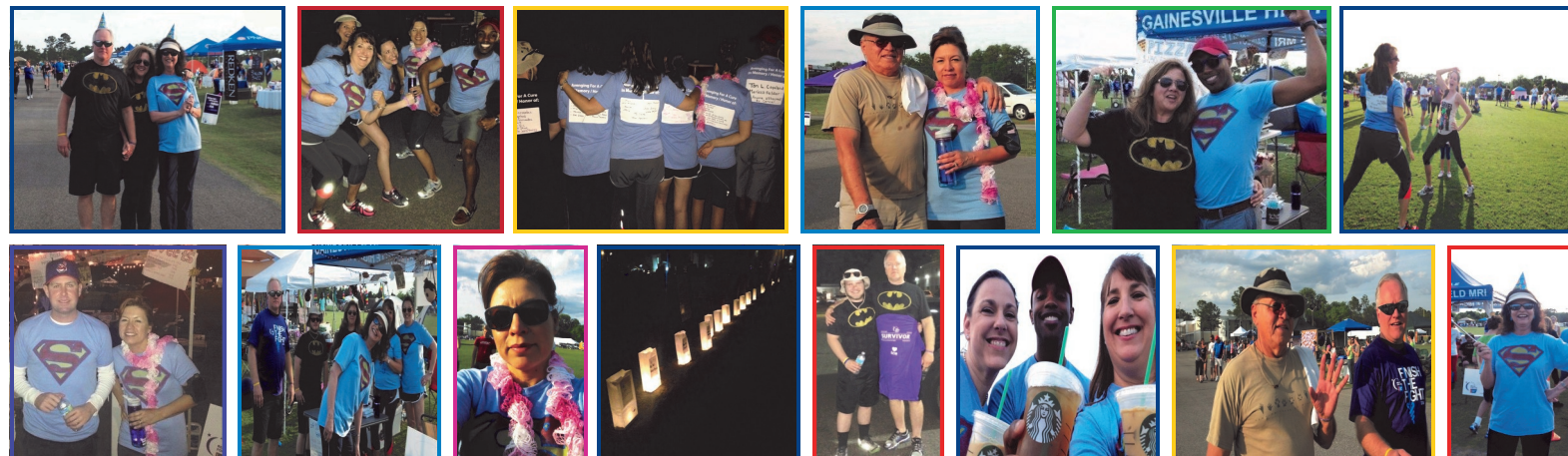


**Know Someone Who Needs Our Help? We are here for you...**

**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](http://www.MeldonLaw.com) today!

**Scenes from the Gainesville Relay for Life event.**



Dressed as a team of super heroes "Avenging for a Cure", the Meldon Law team had a great time attending the Gainesville Relay for Life event held at Santa Fe College on April 11, 2014.



In the spirit of Mother's Day, here are a few Jokes to make both you and your Mom laugh!

- I don't think I'll be able to get my Mom what she really wants on Mother's Day, a doctor for a son-in-law.
- I told my kids on Mother's Day I wanted to be pampered, so they bought me some diapers.
- If you feel tense and get a headache, follow the instructions on the bottle of aspirin: Take two tablets and keep away from children.
- A police recruit was asked during the exam, "What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?" He answered, "Call for backup."
- The newlywed wife said to her husband when he returned from work, "I have great news for you. Pretty soon, we're going to be three in this house instead of two."

Her husband ran to her with a smile on his face and delight in his eyes.

He was glowing of happiness and kissing his wife when she said, "I'm glad that you feel this way since tomorrow morning, my mother moves in with us."



**Mother's Day**  
**The History of Mother's Day**

Mother's Day is celebrated in several countries around the world including the U.S. and is celebrated on the second Sunday in the month of May, but in many other countries Mother's Day is celebrated during an entirely different time of the year. But whatever may be the date of Mother's Day around the world, the spirit is the same everywhere.

The origins of Mother's Day are attributed to different people. Many believe that two women, **Julia Ward Howe** and **Anna Jarvis** were important in establishing the tradition of Mother's Day in the U.S. Other sources say that **Juliet Calhoun Blakely** initiated the Mother's Day in Albion, Michigan, in the late 1800s. Her sons paid tribute to her each year and urged others to honor their mothers. Around **1870**, Julia Ward Howe called for Mother's Day to be celebrated each year to encourage pacifism and disarmament amongst women. It

continued to be held in Boston for about ten years under her sponsorship, but died out after that. In **1907**, Anna Jarvis held a private Mother's Day celebration in memory of her mother, Ann Jarvis, in Grafton, West Virginia. Anna Jarvis had organized "Mother's Day

Work Clubs" to improve health and cleanliness in the area where she lived. Anna Jarvis launched a quest for Mother's Day to be more widely recognized. Her campaign was later financially supported by John Wanamaker, a clothing merchant from Philadelphia. In **1908**, she was instrumental in arranging a service at the Andrew's Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton, West Virginia, which was attended by 407 children and their moms. The church has now become the **International Mother's Day Shrine**. It is a tribute to all mothers and has been designated



as a National Historic Landmark. Mother's Day has become a day that focuses on generally recognizing mothers and mother figure roles. Mother's Day has also become an increasingly important event for businesses in recent years. This is particularly true of restaurants and businesses manufacturing and selling cards and gift items.

**Staff Spotlight : Abbie Knight**



For over 30 years Abbie Knight has served as the Office Manager and lead Case Manager/ Legal Assistant in the Criminal Defense Department here at Meldon Law. On a daily basis Abbie has the opportunity to work closely with clients and their families during their case, while assisting attorneys to obtain the best possible result for the client. A native of Vero Beach, FL, Abbie moved to Gainesville in 1971 and has called Gainesville her home ever since. Abbie is an avid Gator fan and served for four years as the President of the Gator Dugout Club, a private

booster club for Gator Baseball at the University of Florida. To find out more about Abbie, please visit [www.MeldonLaw.com](http://www.MeldonLaw.com)

# In the Community

## Meldon Law Team Takes Part in Relay for Life Gainesville

The Meldon Law team took part in the Relay for Life event on April 11, 2014. The event was held at Santa Fe College of Gainesville and included over 300 participants who raised over \$36,000 to benefit the work of the American Cancer Society.



Dressed as a team of Super Heroes "Avenging for a Cure" in memory and honor of lost friends and loved ones, The Meldon Law staff formed a joint team with the staff of Medical Injury Group of Gainesville (Medig) and Gainesville High Field MRI to trek the 5.1 mile walk.



On June 18, 2012 our office lost one of our most beloved co-workers and friends after a valiant battle with cancer. T.G. Clark left this world as she lived her life, with courage and a smiling face. Although she is no longer physically with us, her spirit and our memories of T.G. will always be present and remembered.

See additional photos on Pg. 4

# Community Events...

**-Tuesday, May 13:** Michael Jackson the Immortal World Tour by Cirque du Soleil. A once-in-a-lifetime electrifying production that combines Michael Jackson music and choreography with Cirque du Soleil creativity. UF Stephen C. O'Connell Center at 8pm. For Ticket info, please call (352) 392-1653.

**-Thursday, May 15:** The Royal Opera House presents Verdi's "Nabucco" Director Daniele Abbado explores themes of identity, exile and religion in a powerful staging of Verdi's epic opera. Each ticket comes with a complimentary glass of wine. Hippodrome Theater, Gainesville. For Ticket info, please call (352) 375-4477.

**-Saturday, May 24:** Feel Downtown LIVE presents Diamond Rio! This is one of several live concerts in the Spring 2014 lineup for Downtown Ocala. To learn more about the venue and show, visit feeldowntownlive.com. Tickets will be available at the gate as well. General admission is only \$10, kids 10 and under are free.

# This month's topic of interest: May 2014

Each month our staff takes a number of calls from people within the North Central Florida Community. 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.



## Teen drivers and Strict Liability in Florida

Motor vehicle accidents involving teen drivers are a very common occurrence in the state of Florida. In the state of Florida, parents have to sign for their teenaged child to receive a driver's license. The parent of the teen driver is personally liable in the event of a motor vehicle accident up to age 18.

Of course, if the teen driver is 18 or older they can enter into a contract to purchase a car and car insurance. If the parent co-signs for the car loan, this doesn't create "liability" under the Dangerous Instrumentality Law of Florida, but this may differ in other states.

However, in Florida the owner of the motor vehicle has primary liability and the driver of the vehicle has secondary liability. As a parent you should consider whether or not you want your teen driver to have good insurance coverage which, of course, costs more for younger drivers. We believe it is important for younger drivers to have adequate insurance coverage so they can recover for uninsured or underinsured claims. Usually it is best to keep teen drivers on the family auto insurance policy.



## Congratulations To Our Jeffrey Meldon/TV20 Scholar Athletes of the Week!

Meldon Law has sponsored the Scholar Athlete Program since 1997. Every week of the school year a high school senior in the North Central Florida area is chosen as the Scholar-Athlete of the Week and given a \$100 scholarship and a plaque. At the end of the school year we hold a banquet for all the winners and their families. Last year nearly 200 people attended the Scholar Athlete Banquet where one male and one female is chosen as The Scholar Athlete of the Year.

The winners receive a \$1,000 scholarship plus a beautiful glass trophy commemorating their achievement. Starting in 2003 the Meldon Law Firm teamed up with WCJB TV20 to promote the event widely on TV 20.

## Our Most Recent Scholar Athletes!

**March 6, 2014: Logan Boss** from Suwannee H.S. for Track & Field— Logan participates in the 100 and 200 Meter hurdle, triple jump, an event she won the state championship in Class 2A last year. In the classroom Logan holds a 4.0 GPA and is slated to be valedictorian of her class. Logan will attend Mississippi State University on a scholarship next fall.

**March 13, 2014: Alex Wilkins** from Newberry H.S. for Baseball— Alex stars in centerfield for the Panthers and also serves as the pitcher, with a .484 batting average, 15 runs scored this season, and a .600 arm base percentage. Alex holds a 4.0 GPA in the classroom and hopes to attend his dream school at Stetson University.

**March. 20, 2014: Ashton Adkins** from Bradford H.S. for Softball— Ashton is a three year starter for the Tornados and serves as a pitcher. Ashton holds a 4.05 weighted GPA and will attend Indian River State College in the fall.

**March. 27, 2014: Kayli Kvistad** from Columbia H.S. for Softball— Kayli has hit 41 career home runs, including 9 this year to lead the top ranked Tigers to their quest of winning a second state championship. Kayli holds a 3.96 GPA and will play softball at the University of Florida next year.

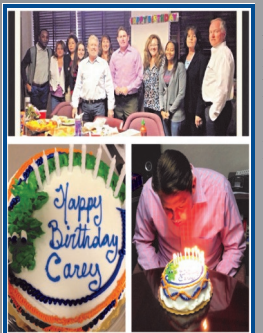
**April 3, 2014: Madison O'Leary** from Oak Hall H.S. for Lacrosse— The daughter of UF lacrosse coach Amanda O'Leary, Madison has served as captain for four years on the Oak Hall Eagles lacrosse team. Madison holds 4.72 GPA in the class room and will attend Stanford University in the fall.

## photo happenings...



Attorneys Jeffrey and Carey Meldon took part in the Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association's annual Golf tournament benefiting the Guardian ad Litem Program for the 8th Circuit, held on March 28, 2014.

Attorney Jeffrey Meldon cheers on the Florida Gators Men's Basketball team during the Final Four in Dallas, TX in April.



Attorney Carey Meldon celebrated his birthday with the office staff on March 31, 2014. Staff members enjoyed an array of Cuban cuisine during an office lunch held in Carey's honor.

# Office Highlights

Meldon Law attorneys treat legal staff to a homemade breakfast to celebrate Administrative Professionals Day 2014.

The Meldon Law legal staff came into the office to find quite the surprise on Administrative Professionals Day, which was recognized on Wednesday, April 23, 2014.

Staff members were given a vase of fresh cut flowers to place on each of their desks and treated to a morning southern breakfast buffet of fresh fruit, quiche, sausage, grits, home fries, and biscuits.

During World War II, there was an increased need for skilled administrative personnel, particularly in the United States. The first National Secretaries Week was organized in 1952 in conjunction with the United States Department of Commerce and various office supply and equipment manufacturers.

The Wednesday of that week became known as National Secretaries Day. As the organization gained international recognition, the events became known as Professional Secretaries Week® and Professional Secretaries Day®. In 2000, the International Association of Administrative Professionals announced that names of the week and the day were changed to Administrative Professionals Week and Administrative Professionals Day to keep pace with changing job titles and expanding responsibilities of the modern administrative workforce.



## Ask the Attorneys...

**Q: After an accident, should I move my car off the road or leave it at the scene while waiting for the police to arrive ?**

**A:** This is a common question that many people aren't sure about, Here's what you need to know about moving your vehicle after an accident in order to be safe.

1. First, if you are involved in a crash, you **must** immediately and safely stop your vehicle and check to see if anyone is injured.
2. If someone is injured, call 911 to get help immediately.
3. If there are no injuries or only minor ones, you **must** move the vehicle from the roadway only if you can do it safely and quickly.

For more information on this topic, please call to request our free book *7 Mistakes* today!

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



## May's "Trivial Pursuit" >>>

### Questions:

1. What President made Mother's Day an official national holiday in the United States?
2. What is the traditional Mother's Day flower in the United States?
3. On average, how many diaper changes will a mother perform by a baby's second birthday?
4. Who is credited with founding Mother's Day?
5. The woman credited with having the most children gave birth to how many?
6. According to the Bible, who is the Mother of all the Living?

Answers: 1. Woodrow Wilson, 2. White Carnation, 3. 7,300, 4. Anna Jarvis, 5. 69, 6. Eve

