



MELDON

LAW TALK

NEWSLETTER FROM THE LAW OFFICE OF JEFFREY MELDON & ASSOCIATES

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

Courtroom Quotations

Lawyer: "Can you describe the individual?"

Witness: "He was about medium height and had a beard."

Lawyer: "Was this a male or female?"

Witness: "Unless the Circus was in town, I'm going with male."

Lawyer: "Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?"

Witness: "No."

Lawyer: "Did you check for blood pressure?"

Witness: "No."

Lawyer: "Did you check for breathing?"

Witness: "No."

Lawyer: "So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?"

Witness: "No."

Lawyer: "How can you be so sure, Doctor?"

Witness: "Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar."

Lawyer: "I see, but could the patient still have been alive, nevertheless?"

November 2010 Volume III, Issue I Visit us online @ MeldonLaw.com

Emporia, Kansas—The Birthplace of Veterans' Day!

Our national holiday to honor all veterans began with an idea from a shoe store owner. Here is the story:

- With the end of World War I and the signing of the armistice, President Wilson declared the first Armistice Day in 1919, "a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace."
- **Armistice Day was originally intended to honor the veterans of the First World War.**
- After World War II and the Korean War, Alvin King, a young shoe store owner in Emporia, Kansas, began a campaign to turn Armistice Day into "**All**" Veterans' Day in 1953.
- **Due to Mr. King and the help of Emporia citizens**, the Veterans' Day Bill was signed in 1954.
- Veterans' Day honors and thanks all military personnel, who served the United States in all wars—especially living veterans.

"In war, there are no unwounded soldiers." Jose Narosky

November 11—A day for every American to salute and remember all who have served and are serving!



Jeffrey Gives Thanks For a Job Well Done!

This November Issue marks the third year of the Meldon Law Talk Newsletter! Every month, without fail, our Executive Director of Communications, **Nancy Hunter**, makes sure the Newsletter gets out on time. Nancy has continued to keep it informative, interesting, and funny (at least in my opinion). There have been many changes in the Newsletter over the past two years: color and better quality paper at a reasonable price, thanks to **Josh Alterman @ redzero.com**; **Bob Rose** inspired, Lawyer Jokes; Monthly Trivia, inspired by **Greg Wagner and Barry Sides**; Office Reminders and Safety Alerts; and our most current addition—Community Spotlight.

I also personally thank: **Lisa Wiggins**, for assisting Nancy and organizing the process; **Cody Galloway**, for her outstanding final editing talent; **Logan Copeland**, Attorney Tom Copeland's son, for heading up the team that puts the final touches on it: stamp, label, sealer, and gets it to the post office; and **everyone else in and out of the Office** that works hard to make sure the Newsletter gets delivered to your homes or email.

Many thanks go out as well, to the many readers who have sent notes of thanks and made suggestions on topics they would like to know more about. **We are dedicated** to continually improving our Newsletter and keeping our readers up to date on important safety issues, education, and what is going on in our community.

Thank you again to everyone who had been part of this amazing effort! Sincerely, 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 I can be of assistance.**

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

Community Spotlight: *Lake City—Alligators and Lace Don't Mix!*

Here are some interesting tidbits and facts about Lake City:

- In February, 1864, **the only major Civil War battle in Florida** occurred in the middle of the Osceola National Forest, just outside of Lake City. A reenactment of the battle has been held every year since 1976—The **Battle of Olustee**, where the Union lost 1,861 soldiers and the Confederates lost 946.
- **Lake City was first named, “Alpata Telpohka,” meaning, Alligator Town**—not for the reptile but for a young warrior named, Alligator. The name was changed to Lake City in 1859 reportedly because the new mayors' young wife **refused to hang her lace curtains in a town called, Alligator.**
- By the early 20th century, Lake City was an important railroad junction.
- Forestry (turpentine, lumber, and pulpwood) was the mainstay of the local economy in the 1950's. Now, local agricultural products include: tobacco, corn, peanuts, cotton, melons, and pulpwood.
- In 1958, the **Columbia Amateur Radio Society** was formed—this group, still in existence today, enjoys the ability to communicate all over the world.
- Southern Business and Development Magazine ranked **Lake City/Columbia County #8 Best Small Market over the last 10 years.**
- According to 2009 Florida Traffic Crash Statistics, Columbia County, as a small population county (35,000-100,000), ranks **#1 in crash-related fatalities** and **#2 in total crashes** (behind Monroe County).
- Lake City is seat to Columbia County, which includes Fort White, Columbia City, Watertown, etc.
- Lake City is 10.6 square miles, and water covers .5 square miles of it—**4.69% of Lake City is water.**

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:**

Sept. 16—**Brigitte La Puma** from Fort White for Volleyball—**“When Brigitte is not hitting the court, she is hitting the books.”**

Sept. 24—**Tim Jernigan** from Columbia High for Football—**“Tim has sacked the competition and the school work.”**

Oct. 1—**Katie Beckham** from Williston High for Volleyball—**“Katie's help to the team goes beyond the record.”**

Oct. 7—**Gigi Meyer** from Buchholz High for Volleyball—**“Gigi works hard on and off the court!”**

Safety Reminder: Daylight Saving Time Ends—**Be Aware!**

Daylight Saving Time, which began last March, will come to an end on November 7 @ 2:00 A.M.

The idea of “saving” time is a misnomer—no time is actually saved, it is just shifted. Therefore, when it ends, we will not be losing any time. **However, there are 2 things to be aware of** as we turn our clocks back and get an extra hour of sleep:



1. Pedestrians are **3 times more likely to be hit and killed by cars** in the early evening hours during the weeks following the shift back to Standard Time than in the month before— **6 P.M.** is the most dangerous time for walkers.
2. **90% of houses have smoke detectors.** But, only 20% of them are working. **As we change our clocks, change smoke detector batteries too.**

Wondering what you should do after an accident or injury?



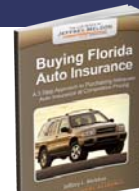
Consumer Protection Accident Guide Book



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 your family?**

Be safe, be educated, be adequately insured, and be prepared!



Insurance Guide



1-800-373-8000

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

The Office Blog: *When rubber does not meet the road—hydroplaning.*

Motorists should prepare for hydroplaning at any time when wet conditions strike.

Besides keeping your tires in good condition, here are 5 ways to avoid losing control when rubber does not meet the pavement:

- 1. Slow down.** In a heavy downpour, experts recommend slowing to 30mph. Remember, a speed limit is just that—the maximum driving speed for optimum driving conditions. *The likelihood of hydroplaning increases at higher speeds.*
- 2. No immediate braking.** To slow your car, take your foot off the accelerator, instead of slamming on the brakes. *After regaining traction with the road, slowly brake to reduce speed.*
- 3. Steer straight.** Maneuver in a calm, predictable manner without turning or veering. *If your tires “lock up,” wait until your tires regain contact with the road before maneuvering.*
- 4. Follow the “tracks.”** If possible and allowing adequate time for breaking, drive in the “tracks” left by the vehicle ahead of you. *The car ahead wicks water from the roadway.*
- 5. Avoid pooled water.** Expect that water is pooled in the shoulder, pot holes, grooves, and other low lying areas. Pooled, deep water decreases tire contact with the road. *If you must steer through pooled water, reduce speed before hitting the puddle.*

Meldon & Friends’ “Trivial Pursuit” for November

Q: Which president signed the bill changing Armistice Day to Veteran's Day in 1954?

Q: The term, _____, refers to an agreement on both sides of warring parties to a cessation of hostilities while a peace treaty is worked out. This often requires a _____, first.

Q: Many do not know the difference between Veterans’ Day and Memorial Day—do you? The difference is Veterans’ Day mainly salutes our _____ soldiers and veterans, whereas Memorial Day honors and remembers our _____ soldiers.

Q: Cornucopia is the most common symbol of a harvest festival. It is also known as the _____.

Q: The traditional cornucopia was a curved _____’s horn, filled to the brim with fruits and grains.

Q: For more than 2 centuries, the day Thanksgiving was celebrated varied in the colonies and states. In 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, President _____ proclaimed a National Day of Thanksgiving in November.

Q: A modern staple at most every Thanksgiving table is pumpkin pie. However, it is unlikely that this was part of the first feast as the supply of _____ had long been diminished.

Answers: Eisenhower, armistice, truce, living, fallen, horn of plenty, goat, Lincoln, flour,



A Common Situation—2 Morals of the Story

In a recent case, the at-fault driver/owner in a crash had a limited amount of Bodily Injury (BI) Liability Insurance Coverage (\$25,000).

This is a common situation, considering nearly 75% of drivers have little or no BI insurance. Unfortunately, our client, who was seriously injured in the accident, had \$100,000 of outstanding medical bills and liens for medical treatment. In addition, he did not carry Uninsured Motorist Coverage Insurance Benefits that would have protected him.

This is how we helped our client out: First, we negotiated a reduction in the liens with the hospital and Blue Cross. Then, we negotiated reductions in the other outstanding medical bills not paid for by our client’s PIP Insurance.

Result: Our client paid all his liens and bills and still had a little money left over to help him through his hard times.

We frequently see seriously injured people with small amounts of insurance, leaving the client owing huge medical bills with no one to pay them. **There are 2 lessons to be learned from this common scenario:**

1. Protect yourself and your family—**purchase adequate Uninsured Motorist Insurance.**
2. **If you need a lawyer to assist you in a serious injury case,** find one that has experience negotiating medical bills.

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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May Your Thanksgiving be Plentiful!

MELDON LAW TALK NEWSLETTER

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Look Inside This Issue

- Do you know what to do if you hydroplane?
- Community Spotlight: Lake City
- Time change and two safety alerts.
- Jeffrey gives thanks for a job well done.
- We salute our Veterans!

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Ask Jeffrey: *Riding in the bed of a truck...illegal or not?*

Q: I was told by two Highway Patrol that it is only illegal for anyone under 6 to ride in the bed of a truck. Is this correct? I am confused because in your Newsletter you had said under 18.

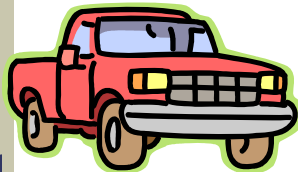
A: This is an excellent question—glad that you asked for clarification. Florida Statutes state: "It is unlawful for any operator of a pickup truck or flatbed truck to permit a minor child who has not attained 18 years of age to ride upon limited access facilities of the state within the open body of the of a pickup truck or flatbed truck unless the minor is restrained within the open body in the back of a truck that has been modified to include secure seating and safety restraints to prevent the passenger from being thrown, falling, or jumping from the truck. This paragraph (b) does not apply in a medical emergency if the child is accompanied within the truck by an adult." (F.S. 316.2015)

It is illegal for anyone under 18 to ride in the back of a pickup, with two exceptions. Those under 18 may only ride in the cargo area if:

1. The bed of the truck has been adapted with proper safety restraints.
2. In a medical emergency when accompanied by an adult.

More information:

- Not only is it illegal for minors to ride in the back of a truck, it's **incredibly dangerous**, especially for kids, who may be ejected while navigating small bumps and turns. Plus, a driver may be charged with **vehicular homicide**, in the event of a death.
 - While it is not illegal for adults to ride unrestrained in the cargo area, it is not safe—**Truck beds are for cargo, not people!**
 - It is **never legal** for anyone to ride on the edge, tailgate, or fender of the bed.
 - **Remember, minors, under 18, must be buckled up at all times—it is the law!**



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 of this forum!



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