

Jeffrey Meldon

# MELDON

# LAW TALK

NEWSLETTER BY THE LAW OFFICE OF JEFFREY MELDON & ASSOCIATES

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

**Why God  
Created Lawyers....**

**Satan was complaining  
bitterly to God:**

"You made the world so that it was not fair, and you make it so that most people would have to struggle every day, fight against their innate wishes and desires, and deal with all sorts of losses, grief, disasters, and catastrophes. **Yet, people worship and adore you and blame me.**

People fight, get arrested, and cheat each other, and I get blamed, even when it is not my fault. Sure, I'm evil, but give me a break. **Can't you do something to make them stop blaming me?"**

**And so... God created lawyers.**

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## Welcome to our October Newsletter! *Go....Workers!*

**Happy October! Here is some Halloween Info:** ► **2,000 years ago the Celtics believed** that on the eve of Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> (their New Years and end of harvest), the line between the living and the dead became blurred. On this eve, they believed the dead returned to earth, caused mischief and sickness, and damaged the crops. The Celts placed a skeleton on their windowsill and dressed up in masks and costumes to mimic and placate evil spirits. This pagan festival, called Samhain ("sah-win"), also included bonfires that attracted insects and bats to the area. ► **When the Romans** conquered the Celts in 43 AD, they adapted many of their festivals, incorporating them into their own religious celebrations; in this case, All Saints Day. ► **America adopted the holiday making it their own** with the help of the melting pot of immigrants. By 1900, it was no longer a religious holiday in America but rather a communal celebration that included "guising," which dates back to the middle ages when the poor went out and asked for food or money. ► **In the 1920's and 1930's, Halloween pranks** became a big problem. Gangs and even the KKK used the day as an excuse for vandalism and physical violence. ► **The term, "Trick or Treat" was first noted in 1934**, in a Portland, Oregon, newspaper article about the violence and the need for police vigilance on Halloween eve. ► **"Trick or Treating," as we know it today**, with children dressed in costume, did not come about until the mid 1940's.

Wishing you all an October full of treats and few tricks!



## Office and Editor's News: *Celebrations and Thanks!*



Cooper Galloway

The Law Office of Jeffrey Meldon is celebrating the 12th issue of this Newsletter, **Meldon Law Talk**, marking the end of its first year. As Editor, I would like to thank my hard working assistants for getting the issues in the mail every month. Thank you, as well, to PIP Printing for their quality work, and to all that have helped in many ways. **Please feel free to contact me**, Nancy Hunter, on-line @ [nancyhk@earthlink.net](mailto:nancyhk@earthlink.net) if you have any suggestions or comments on how to improve this Newsletter or how to serve your needs better. ► **The Office is also celebrating** the birth of Nancy's (Jeffrey's fiancée) grandson, Cooper Galloway, who came into this world, kicking and screaming, with the help of the talented Midwifery Group, doctors, and nurses at North Florida Women's Center, in the wee hours of Sept 4th, weighing in at 8 lbs. 15 oz. Cooper and his Mom, (Nancy's daughter), Cody Galloway, are thriving with the help of Benton Pediatrics and the rest of "Team Cooper." Stay tuned for more info on Cooper.

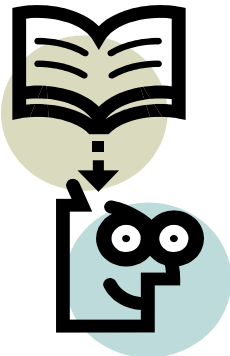
## Welcome and Thank You! *A note from Jeffrey:*

My Staff, Associates, and I would like to **welcome our new clients** that joined the Meldon Law Family this past month and to 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 and personal injury.

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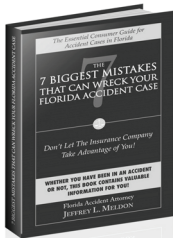
"We are committed to educating people about the need to protect themselves and their families before and after an accident"  
 Jeffrey Meldon

**The Columbus Controversy:**

Even though Christopher Columbus was not the first to discover the Americas, this country still celebrates him. Yet, the following controversies cast doubt on whether Columbus Day should be a day for celebration.

Columbus and his Team of explorers did not treat the native inhabitants well in 3 main areas:

1. The use of slavery and violence.
2. The forced conversion of natives to Christianity.
3. The introduction of a host of new diseases that wiped out populations.



**Consumer Protection Accident Guide Book**

**Recent Office Communications: *Thanks, Walter!***

Here is a recent office communications we received and wanted to pass on to our readers:

► "Jeffrey, Thank you for your recent shipment of the accident kit. I read the book from cover to cover and was quite impressed with the content. **For a number of years I was an accident investigator, and I can attest to the necessity of all the items included in the kit.** It was so well put together that I placed it in my wife's car and had her read the book. She was involved in two (2) rear-end collisions a number of years ago and failed to follow some of the primary rules you have laid out. **Hopefully she will never have to utilize your services** or be involved in another accident, but just in case I had her start reading. So if it is not too much trouble, could you send me another kit so I can keep it in my car? **Your card is in my wallet and your magnet is on our refrigerator! Thanks for the information and gift.**"

*Walter R., La Cross, Fl.*

► **Response from Jeffrey:** " Thank you for the very nice comments regarding our book and accident kit. I am sending another gift box to you. I would like to use some of your comments in our Newsletter and website if that is ok with you. **We are committed to educating people about the need to protect themselves and their families before and after an accident. Please let me know if we have your permission to use part or all of your comments.** Thanks, Jeffrey Meldon"

► **Response from Walter:** "Feel free to use my message in your Newsletter. I just bought a travel trailer and a new truck to tow it with (my old truck was not strong enough) and will be picking them up on Saturday. Tomorrow I have an appointment with my insurance agent to adjust my coverage on the new truck and trailer and will be using your guide to accomplish both. I plan on faxing my policy to your office on Monday for your input. **Thanks again for everything.**"

**Meldon & Friends' "Trivial Pursuit" for October**

- Q: " \_\_\_\_\_ sailed the ocean blue in 1492" and discovered America.  
 Q: What is the name of the Icelandic explorer who is said to have come to America 500 years before Columbus, landing in what is now Newfoundland?  
 Q: Noah Webster's birthday is on Oct. 16th, he is credited for compiling \_\_\_\_\_, which set the standard for all succeeding works of its kind to follow.  
 Q: Oct. is Fire Prevention Month. What is one of the most common causes of home fires?

**Answers: Christopher Columbus Leif Erickson The American Dictionary Bad wiring/ext. cords**

*Special thanks to Barry Sides and Greg Wagner for their inspirations on this section of our Newsletter.*

**Are you prepared & adequately insured, in case of an accident ?**



**Accident Kit**

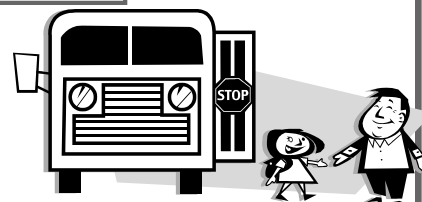
**Most people think it will never happen to them. However, statistics show that one in five drivers will be involved in a traffic accident this year.** How can you protect yourself? Always buckle-up yourself and all your passengers properly; don't drive under the influence; don't drive distracted; and make sure your vehicle is properly maintained. **However, sometimes accidents still occur.** We recommend you being prepared by:

1. **Make sure your insurance policy is adequate**
  2. **Know what to do** in the event of an accident
  3. **Be ready to document the facts** with your accident kit ready in your glove compartment!
- To request your **complimentary Guide Book**, (which includes Mr. Meldon's insurance tips and recommendations) and **Glove Compartment Accident Kit**, call **1 800 373 8000** or visit **MeldonLaw.com**.

**You will be prepared if you have your Accident Kit and your Consumer Protection Accident Guide Book! Order yours today! Its Free!**

## The Office Blogs: *School Bus Rules — Made Easy*

The new school year is well underway, which means school buses are back on the road. Do you remember what to do when you see a school bus with its lights flashing? Here are School Bus Rules Made Simple:



**1. You must always stop for a school bus with its lights flashing except:**

▶ If you are on a divided highway traveling in the opposite direction of the bus **and** there is at least 5 feet of unpaved space, a raised median, or a physical barrier (concrete abutment) separating the roadway on which you are traveling from the roadway on which the bus has stopped.

**2. All other times you must stop when you see a school bus that has its lights blinking and stop signs showing,** regardless of whether you are behind a bus, facing a bus, or driving in the opposite direction.

**Additional note:** Please pay attention to the road at all times with both eyes on the road and both hands on the wheel, especially around school buses and in active school zones. Texas recently passed a law making it illegal to use a cell phone in school zones. Even though it is legal in Florida does not mean that it is safe nor that we can't put our cell phones down voluntarily.

## Law Talk 101: *Whiplash — Just What Is It?*

**Whiplash, also called cervical strain or sprain,** is a common musculoskeletal injury caused by the stretching and tearing of muscles, tendons, and ligaments in the neck during trauma. Generally, pain associated with whiplash is not caused by an injury to spinal disks but rather by over-extension of soft tissues. **Motor vehicle accidents are the #1 cause of whiplash, and whiplash is the most common injury from a motor vehicle accident. Symptoms of whiplash can linger for months and can occur at speeds as low as 5 to 8 mph.**

**▶ A typical whiplash injury in a car accident happens like this:**

- Upon impact, an occupant's trunk and shoulders travel forward as the seat accelerates forward.
- The head remains fixed in space for a few milliseconds, and the neck elongates and flexes like a rubber band.
- Finally, the head accelerates to "catch up" with the trunk, and the neck acts like a lever, "whipping" the head forward.

**▶ What are the symptoms of whiplash?** If you think you may have a whiplash injury, consult a doctor immediately, and seek treatment. **While symptoms may not show up right away after a crash,** here are some of the typical symptoms of whiplash: neck pain, tenderness and swelling, difficulty moving the neck, tingling or numbness in hands or fingers, headache, dizziness, pain in the arms or shoulders.

*How can whiplash be prevented? We recommend that you always wear your seatbelt and adjust your headrest to the proper height to cushion any possible head trauma. While whiplash can occur regardless of whether you wear your seatbelt, proper safety belt use reduces the risk of death and other serious injury. At this time it is unknown whether air bags prevent whiplash.*

## Public Service Information of the Month: To Inform Families First (TIFF)

TIFF are the founders of the Emergency Contact Information (ECI) system. Their mission is to improve notification of loved ones by law enforcement in an emergency. *The question they pose to all of us is—In an emergency situation could law enforcement personnel contact someone for you? The answer is—They could if you are registered on ECI.* TIFF's goal is to register 3 million people by Oct; the 3 year anniversary of their ECI program, and would like all of us to help in achieving their mission. Over 2 million have signed up already, and the system has been used 250,000 times to contact loved ones in an emergency situation.

**▶ What can you do?** Register yourself, and share the info and link with others. Our readers should all have received our ECI postcard in the mail or in their "gift boxes." If you did not or would like more cards to give to friends, please let our office know, 800-373-8000, and we will gladly send you as many as you wish. ▶ The Law Office of Jeffrey Meldon and Associates, urges you to go [www.ToInformFamiliesFirst.org](http://www.ToInformFamiliesFirst.org) today, for more information and to register yourself and your loved ones!



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**Look Inside  
This Issue**

- ▲ October Trivia and a look at the origins of Halloween.
- ▲ Are you registered yet with ECI?
- ▲ School Bus Rules - Made Easy.
- ▲ Move Over Florida! - Its the Law.
- ▲ How can you prevent whiplash?

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**Ask Jeffrey:** *Is it true that I have to move over or slow down for a tow truck?*

**Q:** I heard that I have to move over or slow down for a tow-truck on the side of the road with its lights flashing. Is it true?

**A:** YES, that is correct! It is called Florida's **Move Over Law**, which was enacted in 2002, for the purpose of protecting first responders while performing their jobs.

The law includes tow-trucks, patrol cars, and any emergency vehicle stopped on the side of the road with its lights flashing.

► Here is what you need to know if you see lights flashing ahead:

- On a two-lane road, you are required to slow down 20 mph under the posted speed limit.
- If the speed limit is 20 mph, you are required to slow to 5 mph.
- On an interstate or a multiple lane road-way, you must move over a lane if safe to do so, or slow to 20 mph under speed limit.

► Violation of the Move Over Law can result in:

- Putting yourself, passengers, and emergency personnel at serious risk.
- Fines of around \$150 and points on your driver's license.



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