



# MELDON

# LAW TALK

NEWSLETTER FROM THE LAW OFFICE OF JEFFREY MELDON & ASSOCIATES

September 2012 Volume IV, Issue VIII

MeldonLaw.com

## Jokes—Bizarre Arrests (Inspired by the SKY's Bob Rose)

**Beaver, PA**—on July 5, 2012, a county jail inmate wearing an orange-and-white striped uniform was arrested when he tried to hail a taxi in front of the hospital where he was receiving treatment. The cab driver refused to pick him up.

**Albuquerque, NM**—on July 10, 2012, police arrested a would-be burglar who was halted in his tracks due to getting tangled up in the window blinds.

**Van Buren, AR**—on July 5, 2012, a woman accused of leaving the scene of a traffic crash told the police she did it because she did not want her ice cream to melt.

**Glendora, CA**—on July 16, 2012, an undercover cop arrested a doctor after prescribing pain pills based on a X-ray. The problem was that the X-ray of the police officer's German shepherd clearly showed the dog's tail.

**Denver, CO**—on March 22, 2012, a woman was arrested after she successfully faked getting out of jury duty months before. When the woman told a radio show months later about how she went to court disheveled to appear mentally ill, the judge was listening.

**Southington, CT**—on March 27, 2012, a 46-year-old man was arrested after he accidentally dialed 911 from his cell phone while stealing about 700 pounds of scrap metals from a local merchant.

## September—National Grandparents' Day

National Grandparents' Day is September 9 and has a threefold purpose:

- ⇒ To honor grandparents;
- ⇒ To give grandparents an opportunity to show love for their children's children;
- ⇒ To help children become aware of the strength, information, and guidance older people can offer.

The founder of Grandparents' Day, a West Virginia housewife, mother of 15, grandmother of 40, and great-grandmother of eight, Mrs. Marian McQuade, began a campaign in 1970 to set aside a day for grandparents. In 1973, the first Grandparents' Day was proclaimed in West Virginia. In 1978, President Carter signed the bill proclaiming the first Sunday after Labor Day, National Grandparents' Day.

Along with Grandparents, we should remember the elderly who are "shut-in," unable to be with their families, or have no families. Statistics show that as many as sixty percent of

## Office Spotlight—Meet Lisa Allen



"I am a Paralegal/Legal Assistant in the Litigation Department. I have over twenty-six years of Paralegal and Legal Assisting experience and am enjoying the satisfying challenges of working as a relatively new member (*nearly two years*) of The Team at Jeffrey Meldon & Associates.

My profession is constantly changing and demanding, but staying on top of new laws, standards, regulations, and deadlines is satisfying for me and successful for our clients.

My past and current positions have included working with attorneys and injured clients to expeditiously prepare their cases for mediation and trial, coordinating complex scheduling, reviewing and organizing records, discovery, and investigative materials, together with complying with court and discovery deadlines.

I was born in Miami, Florida, and moved to Ocala when I was ten years old. I attended high school and college in Ocala and moved to Gainesville when I married in 1988. My husband and I have two teenage boys who attend middle school and high school locally. In our spare time, we enjoy getting together with friends, vacationing at the beach, and watching Gator sports." *Lisa Allen*

The Meldon Law Firm serves 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. **We are available for you 24/7.**

**Consultations are always free, welcomed, and just a call away. 800 373 8000**

\* If you have a legal situation that my Law Firm does not handle, I will gladly refer you to a trusted attorney who does.

\* To all who referred friends and family or have gone out of their way to send notes of appreciation, I thank you! **Jeffrey Meldon**



*The Law Office of Jeffrey Meldon & Associates is dedicated to public safety & education. We are always on the look-out for timely safety news and reminders to pass on to our readers.*

**“AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION IS WORTH A POUND OF CURE!”** *Ben Franklin*

### Reminder—Laws change for disabled parking permits



**On Oct 1, 2012,** The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FLHSMV) will implement a new law for renewing blue disabled parking permits.

**On July 1, 2012** the FLHSMV instituted the same new law for replacing lost or stolen blue disabled parking permits.

**New law:** Any person renewing or replacing a blue disabled parking permit must provide form HSMV 83039, Application For Disabled Person Parking Permit, completed and signed by their certifying authority (i.e. doctor) within the last 12 months. *(Previously, permit holders only had to submit certificates of disability upon first application.)*

For more information go [www.Flhsmv.gov](http://www.Flhsmv.gov). Application forms are available at your local Tax Collector’s office or website and at the Department of Motor Vehicles.

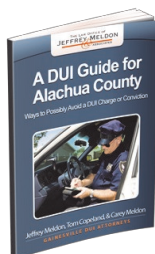
### Safety Tip: *Safe Kids USA—bi-monthly product recalls emails*

To sign up for bi-monthly child product safety recall notices, go to [www.safekids.org/our-work/recalls/2012](http://www.safekids.org/our-work/recalls/2012) For example, Safe Kids recently sent out notices about the recall of Safety 1st toilet and cabinet locks due to lock failure.



### Safety Reminder: *Gator Game Days 101: Open Container Law*

Fall Saturdays in Gainesville mean sweating in the Swamp, Gator parties, and tailgating. Gator game days are here again — time to review the open container law for Football Saturdays and every day of the week in Gainesville.



Carrying an open alcohol container or an alcoholic drink of any kind on the sidewalks, streets, or public parking lots in Gainesville is against the law. This applies to both locals and visitors alike—ignorance of the law is no excuse.

**Pass the information along to local family, and friends, and those who may be visiting from out of town. If caught by a police officer with an open container of any kind in their possession, even if they are only holding it for a friend, on the street, sidewalk, or a public parking lot they can either be issued a Notice to Appear before a local judge or taken to jail.**

**There is one exception to this law. It is legal to drink at your tailgating spot on the UF campus as long as you don’t step outside the parking lot with drink or bottle in hand.**

**How to avoid being arrested:** If you choose to drink, do it at a local establishment, hotel room, or at home before and after the game. If you are attending a Gator party at a friend’s house or apartment, make sure to stay within the property’s boundaries at all times.

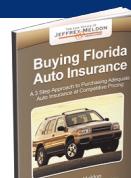
**Remember 3 things:** 1. Do not drink and drive. 2. It is illegal to have an open container on the streets of Gainesville. 3. Goooo... Gators!

### Protect yourself and your family before and after an accident!

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!

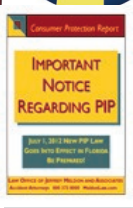


**FREE Accident Kit with Camera**



Insurance Guide

**1-800-373-8000**



Consumer Protection Accident Guide Book

Give us a call, available 24/7—Consultations and Case Evaluations are **FREE**.

## ***Jeffrey's Insurance Reminder—Uninsured Motorist Coverage & Stack it up!***

Uninsured or Underinsured Motorist Coverage (UM/UIM) is the insurance coverage that protects you if you are seriously injured in an auto accident that was not your fault and the person that was at-fault has no insurance or not enough insurance to compensate you for your injuries.

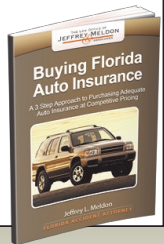
This is an extremely important coverage to have on your insurance policy in Florida for two reasons.

1. Statistics are that one out of four drivers on the road in Florida has no insurance at all and is driving illegally.
2. Florida does not require Bodily Injury Liability (BI) insurance as most states do. BI coverage is the insurance that would pay for the injuries you cause as a result of an accident in which you were at-fault. Since BI is not required in Florida, most people either do not have it or do not have an adequate amount of coverage.

It is estimated that 75% of drivers on the road in Florida are either uninsured or under-insured. The only way to protect yourself and your family is with UM/UIM. I recommend a minimum of at \$100,000/\$300,000 in UM/UIM coverage.

A good way to get more UM/UIM coverage is to “stack it up.” If you own two or more vehicles on the same insurance policy and you have BI insurance, you are eligible for stacked coverage which multiplies your UM/UIM coverage for a low price.

For more information, request or review my insurance recommendations in my Insurance Guide Book. 



## ***September “Trivial Pursuit”—Native American Day Sept 28***

**Q:** The Battle of the Little Bighorn is known as the Battle of the Greasy Grass to Native Americans. It is also known as \_\_\_\_\_. This famous battle occurred in the \_\_\_\_\_ Territory along the \_\_\_\_\_ River.

**Q:** Tisquantum better known as \_\_\_\_\_ was the native who assisted the Pilgrims in Plymouth, taught them to plant corn, and was integral to their survival.

**Q:** \_\_\_\_\_, daughter of Chief Powhatan, was notable for helping the colonists at Jamestown. She was said to have saved the life of Englishman \_\_\_\_\_. After being captured by the English, she chose the name \_\_\_\_\_, married tobacco planter \_\_\_\_\_ in 1613 in the first mixed marriage, and then moved to London where she died of TB at the age of 22.

**Q:** \_\_\_\_\_ is known for acting as an interpreter and guide for Lewis and Clark's Western Expedition in 1806.

**Q:** \_\_\_\_\_ a prominent Native American leader of the Apache who staged the last great Native American uprising and many raids on Mexico. In 1886 he surrendered and became a prisoner of war. In his old age he became a celebrity at fairs.

*Answers: Custard's Last Stand, Montana, Little Bighorn, Squanto, Pocahontas, John Smith, Rebecca, John Rolfe, Sacajawea, Geronimo*

## ***Case Study—The Good, Bad, and Ugly—UM Coverage and Stack it up!***

Recently we had a case that showed the importance of Uninsured Motorist Coverage (UM) and having “stacked” UM coverage.

Our client was hit and seriously injured by a careless driver who had no insurance. The injuries she sustained from the accident required surgery and rehabilitation which left her with a growing pile of medical bills and expenses. Here is the short story of it:

**The Good,** our client did have UM coverage, which pays for injuries caused by an at-fault uninsured driver.

**The Bad,** our client had only \$100,000 of UM coverage which did not adequately compensate her for her medical bills and expenses.

**The Ugly,** our client owned three cars on the same insurance policy. For a very small premium, she could have obtained stacked coverage on her three vehicles. If she had done so, there would have been \$300,000 available, which would have covered her bills.

**Moral of the Story:** It is very important to have adequate UM coverage and obtain stacked coverage if you own more than one vehicle.

**Note:** This publication is intended to *educate* the general public. **It is not intended to be legal advice.** *Every case is unique.*

WORKING FOR  
**JUSTICE**  
SINCE 1971

THE LAW OFFICE OF  
**JEFFREY MELDON**  
ASSOCIATES

TOLL FREE  
1-800-373-8000

703 NORTH MAIN STREET SUITE A  
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32601

FALL BEGINS SEPT. 22

**MELDON LAW TALK NEWSLETTER**



**LOOK INSIDE FOR A FREE GIFT & OPEN CONTAINER LAW 101**

Phone: (352) 373-8000  
Toll Free: (800) 373-8000  
Fax: (352) 373-8400  
Email:  
jmeldon@meldonlaw.com  
On the web:  
**MeldonLaw.com**

Check out **Law Talk Live** 10:30 Saturday morning on The SKY/97.3 FM.  
Call in with your question. We want to hear from you! What are *you* wondering about?  
*The longest, continuous running legal affairs program in the southeast United States. (877) 975-9825*

## Look Inside— Jar Opener Gift For YOU!

Enclosed you will find a small gift of appreciation from all of us at the Law Office of Jeffrey Meldon and Associates to you. **We hope you enjoy it!**

This Magic Grip jar opener can be used for many things such as:

- ◆ Gripping hand tools;
- ◆ Protecting table tops;
- ◆ Removing clothing lint;
- ◆ Helping in carrying heavy objects;
- ◆ And of course—opening jars and bottles.



  
We appreciate your referrals of family and friends. *Show them you care enough to help.*

TO SUBSCRIBE, UNSUBSCRIBE, OR  
REQUEST PAST ISSUES:  
(800) 373-8000 or  
MeldonLaw.com

**MeldonLaw.com**

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, or settlements for their clients. Less than 1% of U.S. lawyers are members!



LIFE MEMBER  
**MILLION DOLLAR ADVOCATES FORUM**  
The Top Trial Lawyers In America™