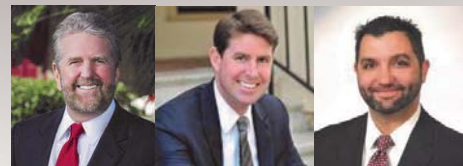


## Attorneys

Jeffrey L. Meldon  
Carey W. Meldon  
Dan Weisman



**MELDONLAW**  
*You Matter Most*



## Wrongful Death



### Lawyer Jokes

There are two kinds of lawyers: those who know the law and those who know the judge.

A minister and a lawyer arrived at the pearly gates. Saint Peter greeted both of them and gave them their room assignments.

“Pastor, here are the keys to one of our nicest efficiency units. And for you, sir, here are the keys to our nicest penthouse suite.”

“This is unfair!” cried the minister.

“Listen,” said Saint Peter, “ministers are a dime a dozen up here, but this is the first lawyer we’ve ever seen!”

### • **Holiday Jokes**

Q: Where do snowmen keep their money?

A: In a snow bank!

Q: What nationality is Santa Clause?

A: North Polish

Q: What do you get when you cross a snowman and a dog?

A: Frostbite

Two men were kayaking in Alaska during a winter storm. To keep from freezing, they lit a small fire on the kayak. Unfortunately, the craft caught fire and sank, proving once and for all that you can’t have your kayak and heat it too.



## Personal Injury



**O**n December 1st, 2015 Meldon Law was proud to welcome Dan Weisman as the newest addition to our family. Dan has been practicing law in the Tampa area but he and his wife Olivia have had a longtime desire to return to Gainesville to raise their family. They have two sons, Henry, age 4, and Emmett, age 2, along with a gigantic hound dog (Leonidas).

Dan was born in Gainesville and first met Carey Meldon in grade school. In 1996 Carey and Dan teamed up to deliver Gainesville High School the State High School Tennis Championship. Dan attended the University of Florida and helped bring the Delta Upsilon fraternity back to campus, and was a member of the Florida Blue Key.

After graduating from the University of Florida, Dan volunteered for the Army and joined the Infantry. He completed some of the most rigorous training courses including Ranger School, Officer Candidate School, Airborne School, and Jumpmaster School. In 2003 Dan had the honor of leading soldiers from the 101st Airborne into Iraq. Dan reached the rank of

Captain in the Army.

Following Dan’s service in the Army he attended law school at the University of Florida with the goal to continue his public service as a prosecutor. Upon graduation he was hired as an Assistant Statewide Prosecutor for the Florida Attorney General. Dan prosecuted fraud and embezzlement cases, and drug trafficking organizations, as well as violent street gangs. The Florida Gang Investigators’ Association named Dan the Gang Prosecutor of the Year in 2011. Dan won convictions in all of the cases he prosecuted.



## Thank You For Your Referral: *Michael Schafer of Louisville, KY*



Michael Schafer

Attorney Mike Schafer from Louisville Kentucky got a call from a truck driver from Kentucky who was seriously injured in a Florida accident. He immediately thought to refer that client to Jeffrey Meldon whom Mike had known for years. The Meldon Law team was able to get an exceptional result for the truck driver and his family. Thank you, Mike Schafer, for your referral!

- *The Meldon Law Team*

# Community Spotlight...

## Marion Therapeutic Riding Association– Located in Ocala at 6850 SE 41st CT

Serving the heart of Florida since 1985, Marion Therapeutic Riding Association (MTRA) is a PATH Premier Accredited therapeutic horseback riding organization for individuals of all ages challenged by physical, mental or emotional disabilities. There is magic in horses that has been proven to be strong medicine.

Persons with disabilities benefit physically and emotionally from therapeutic riding activities. Horseback activities encourage



stretching and strengthening of underused or underdeveloped muscles, improve posture and coordination, help develop gross and fine motor skills, increase the riders' awareness of their body and improve their range of motion. Riders who participate in the program increase their self-esteem and self-confidence, learning problem solving skills and increase their ability to focus.

The program income provides only 10-15% of the funding needed annually to keep services in place to cover the very high costs of feeding and maintaining horses, maintaining the facility, overhead costs such as insurance, staff and certified PATH instructors. The MTRA relies heavily on the generosity of the community and its businesses and corporations through donations, grants and other funding.

During the 2014-15 Program Year, MTRA served an average of 52 riders per month at



the Greenway facility and an average of 23 riders per month at Hillcrest. The total number of riding hours for the year at Greenway was 1753 and at Hillcrest was 517. At Greenway over 50% of the riders pay a reduced rate and 100% of the riders at Hillcrest pay no fees. For the Program Year we utilized 179 volunteers who clocked in 13,977.50 hours, which equals a \$315,124.98 in-kind donation.



**Q: What is your favorite part about working for Meldon Law?**

**A: The opportunity to meet so many different amazing people and develop long-lasting friendships.**

**Q: What is your favorite memory from Meldon Law?**

**A: After twenty years, it's difficult to pick out a "favorite" memory. I would have to say that some of my favorites would involve the activities we have had as a group outside of the office which have included our families, traveling and celebrating special events.**

Carolyn Watson has been with Meldon Law for 20 years. The years just seem to fly by, don't they? We asked Carolyn about some of her memories of Meldon Law and how things have changed.

**Q: What was Meldon Law like when you first started working here? How have things changed?**

**A: We were a smaller practice twenty years ago and have grown so much over the years. We have continued to gain knowledge and experience and form new relationships professionally and within our community. It has been a never ending growing experience.**

**Q: Do you have a funny story about Jeffrey?**

**A: I took a yoga class with Jeffrey years back. Not everyone can say that they have seen their boss stand on his head and snore through meditation so loudly that you could hardly hear the instructor.**



Meldon Law investigator Manny Machin attended his son's wedding in India. Manny Machin, Jr., married Rada Puri in Lucknow, India on November 26th, 2015, in a traditional Indian ceremony.

Rada's father is one of the top cancer researchers in the United States at the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. Dr. Puri was born and raised in India and wanted his family to share in the joy of seeing his daughter Rada marry Manny Machin, Jr. Congratulations to Manny and Marta Machin, Dr. Raj and Mara Puri, as well as the bride and groom.

Both Manny Machin, Jr., and Rada Machin will be graduating from law school in Washington D.C. in the Spring.



# This month's topic of interest: December 2015

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.

## Driving While Distracted

We've all done it. Checked a text. Changed the song playing through our phone. Tried to figure out where the heck Google Maps was trying to take you. In today's world, it is almost too easy to tell who is a distracted driver. Look to your left and right while at a stop light. More likely than not, you will see **at least one driver** on their phone. Probably more. When the light turns green, you can bet that car that doesn't start moving is too busy scrolling through Facebook. Soon, drivers that are paying more attention to their phones than to the road could be facing **harsher penalties**.

According to a recent article in the Gainesville Sun, State Rep. Keith Perry, R-Gainesville, has filed a bill for the upcoming legislative session that would make texting while driving a **primary offense**, which would allow law enforcement officers to pull over drivers and issue a citation **just for texting while driving**. The most recent law from 2013 dictates that the infraction is only a secondary offense and a law enforcement officer has to pull over a driver for another violation in order to issue a citation for texting.

In the same article, Alachua County Sheriff's Office spokesman Sgt. Brandon Kutner said that very few citations have been written under the current prohibition because, **under current state law, drivers are allowed to look at their cellphones while driving for non-texting related reasons**. Unless there is a crash with injury, law enforcement officers are **not allowed** to subpoena cellphone records to prove the person was texting.

Kutner said the ability to pull over drivers and talk with them about the dangers of texting can cut down on distracted driving.

Perry expects an "uphill battle" in Tallahassee. But he said it took **14 years to get a law passed that increased the age where children have to be restrained in a car seat** from 3 to 4, and now, under 5.

A recent article in AAA Living magazine examined studies by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety that researched how distracted driving affected different age groups.

Teens: 86% of drivers 16 to 18 support bans on texting while driving. However, teens have the highest crash rate of any group in the U.S. In a study that examined video of 1,700 crashes involving teen drivers, **6 in 10 teen drivers were distracted seconds before the crash**. The drivers were usually checking their phones.

Adults: 66% of adult drivers don't believe there a problem with drivers using a hands-free phone, and 40% of drivers ages 40-59 have read a text message or an email while driving within the last 30 days. **Studies have shown drivers remain distracted for up to 24 seconds after using a hands-free device**.

Seniors: Nearly 100% of senior drivers disapprove of texting or emailing while driving, but 52% of of drivers ages 65-69 reported talking on their phone while operating a vehicle. Despite this statistic, recent studies have found that **older drivers were usually the safest** because older drivers wear their seat belts more often and are less likely to speed.

The National Safety Council says **texting contributes to 100,000 vehicle crashes annually**, and other studies show that there were over 3,000 deaths from texting-related crashes in 2013. After California banned not only texting but all handheld cellphone use while driving, the Tampa Bay Times reported in 2014 that crashes declined by 41 percent.

**DWD (driving while distracted) is a serious risk, and one you should avoid at all costs.**



Welcoming Back our Meldon Law / WCJB  
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 are chosen as **The Scholar Athletes 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!

**November 19th, 2015: Freddie Swain** from **North Marion H.S.** for Football. Swain has an impressive 3.8 GPA, has 16 career T.D's, and is a future Gator. He is headed to UF in January on a scholarship to play Football.

**November 11th, 2015: Ashlyn Perry** from **Lafayette H.S.** for Volleyball. Perry is a Senior setter for the Hornets. She is a role model on and off the field with a 3.9 GPA. She will be attending Chipola College on a softball scholarship.

**November 4th, 2015: Laquavious Paul** from **Columbia H.S.** for Football. Paul is a Senior linebacker for Columbia. His 3.4 GPA proves he is as dedicated in the classroom as he is on the field. He plans on becoming an R.N.

To nominate someone for Scholar Athlete of the week, make sure he or she has at least a 3.0 GPA, is a major contributor in his or her sport, and a high school senior. Please send your nominations to Brandan McCalla via email at **BMcCalla@divcom.com**, or you can call Brandan at (352) 416-0646.



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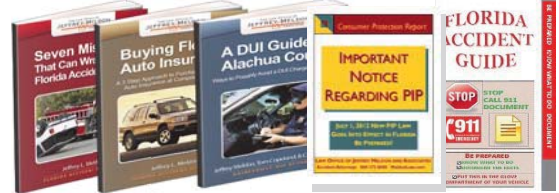


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## Meldon Law at Gator Growl



### The Meldon Law Family relaxed at the Swamp Restaurant to watch the Homecoming Parade

### This month's "Trivial Pursuit" >>>

#### Questions:

1. Where does the term Yuletide come from?
2. What was the first artificial tree made out of?
3. What are candy canes meant to represent?
4. When was "Jingle Bells" composed?
5. An ancient legend says animals can speak to humans on which day in December?
6. How many gifts are there total in the "12 Days of Christmas"?
7. Which state was the first to recognize Christmas?
8. Hanukkah comes from the Hebrew word meaning\_\_\_\_\_.
9. How long should menorah candles burn after sunset?
10. How many symbols must people gather for Kwanzaa?



**Answers:** 1. The Norse tradition of burning a log to bring in the Winter Solstice 2. Dyed goose feathers 3. Shepherd's cane 4. 1857 5. Christmas Eve 6. 364 7. Alabama 8. To dedicate 9. At least half an hour 10. 7