



# MELDON

# LAW TALK

NEWSLETTER FROM THE LAW OFFICE OF JEFFREY MELDON & ASSOCIATES

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

A stingy old lawyer who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness was determined to prove wrong the saying, "You can't take it with you."

After much thought and consideration, the old ambulance-chaser finally figured out how to take at least some of his money with him when he died.

He instructed his wife to go to the bank and withdraw enough money to fill two pillow cases.

He then directed her to take the bags of money to the attic and leave them directly above his bed.

His plan: When he passed away, he would reach out and grab the bags on his way to heaven.

Several weeks after the funeral, his widow was up in the attic cleaning, and came upon the two forgotten pillow cases stuffed with cash.

"Oh, that darn fool," she exclaimed, "I knew he should have had me put the money in the basement."

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## Christopher Columbus was historically significant...

**Columbus Day, October 10, 2011, is a U.S. holiday that commemorates the landing of Christopher Columbus in the New World on October 12, 1492.** Columbus' four transatlantic voyages opened the way for European exploration, exploitation, and colonization of the Americas. Columbus did not set foot on the American mainland until his third voyage in 1498 to Venezuela.

In 1937, President Roosevelt proclaimed Columbus Day a national holiday, largely as a result of intense lobbying by the Knights of Columbus, an influential Catholic fraternal benefits organization. **Was this a good thing?**

- **Opposition to Columbus Day** dates back to the 19th century when anti-immigrant groups in the U.S. rejected the holiday because of its association with Catholicism.
- **Native Americans and other groups** have protested the celebration of an event that indirectly resulted in the colonization of the Americas and the death of millions.
- **European settlers brought a host of infectious diseases**, including small pox and influenza, that decimated indigenous populations.
- **Upon arriving in the Bahamas**, Columbus and his men forced the native peoples into slavery and imposed barbaric forms of punishment, including torture.



**Columbus and Columbus Day are controversial. However, from any perspective, one point cannot be argued—Columbus was historically significant.**

## Office Reminder: *Protect Your Family From Fire!*

**Fire Prevention Week is Oct 9-15, 2011.** The yearly event is sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association, the authority on fire, electrical, and building safety. **What to do?**



- **Install and maintain** working smoke detectors on every floor of your house and outside of every sleeping area.
- **Change your fire detector's batteries** yearly, and test them monthly.
- **Have a fire-escape plan** that includes two exits from each room.

*For more information on Family Fire Safety go to [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)*

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.

*Consultations are always free and welcome.*

- \* If you have a legal situation that my Law Firm does not handle, I will gladly refer you to a trusted attorney who can.
- \* To all who referred friends and family or have gone out of their way to send notes of appreciation, I thank you! *Jeffrey Meldon*

**ALWAYS, JUST  
A CALL AWAY!**

THE LAW OFFICE OF  
**JEFFREY MELDON**  
ASSOCIATES

**800 373 8000**



*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*

### Safety Reminder—*“Spot the Tot” to prevent tragedy.*

Can you imagine the nightmare of a family member backing over your child in an SUV in the driveway? Tragically, it happens all too often. In 70 percent of “back-over” or “front-over” accidents, a direct relative of the child is behind the wheel.

Every week, about 2 children are fatally rolled-over and another 50 are injured. Children five years and younger are at risk, with the majority of victims ranging from 12 to 23 months.

We join Safe Kids USA in advising **“Spot the Tot”** before starting the engine. If there is any chance a child may be in the vicinity of a vehicle, **walk around the car to check.** *For more information and safety tips, please visit [www.SafeKids.org](http://www.SafeKids.org)*



## Jeffrey Meldon/TV20 Scholar Athlete of the Week Returns!

It is that time of year—The Jeffrey Meldon/TV 20 Scholar Athlete Program—celebrating its 15th year!

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. The year ends with a Sports Banquet, honoring each scholar athlete, at which a male and female **“Scholar-Athlete-of-the-Year”** are selected and awarded a \$1,000 scholarship and trophy. In existence since 1997, this is one of Jeffrey’s favorite community services! **Here are the recent winners—congratulations!:**

Sept. 2—**Bryan LaCivita** from St. Francis High for Football— **“Bryan holds a 4.0 GPA and has worked just as hard during the football off-season, gaining 15 lbs. of muscle and honing his quarterback skills.”**

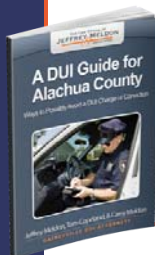
Sept. 9—**Mary Ellen Pole** from Vanguard High for Volleyball— **“Mary Ellen holds a 4.75 weighted GPA. She is also able to pump up the crowd, her teammates, and team, to victory.”** (Mary Ellen’s sister, Holly, won the same award Dec. 3, 2010.)

*\* John Brantley, the Gator’s quarterback, was awarded Scholar-Athlete-of-the-Year in 2007 \**

## Be Educated: *Caffeinated Alcoholic Beverages—Good News & Bad News!*

**Good News:** Nearly a year ago the FDA banned the marketing and selling of caffeinated alcoholic beverages, calling consumption of these toxic cocktails—a “public health concern.” Alcoholic energy drinks such as Four Loko, were nicknamed, “black-out in a can.” The problem with these **potentially lethal drinks** is the consumer often does not realize how drunk they are and may continue to drink or attempt to drive. In addition, these caffeinated energy drinks were marketed to teen and college-age drinkers, who are at risk for “binge drinking.”

**Bad News:** The mixing of similar “home-made” brews, energy drinks and alcohol, **is legal and just as dangerous!**



**Consumer Protection  
Accident Guide Book**



**Now available on audio CD!**

## Wondering what you should do after an accident or injury?

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!**



**Insurance Guide**



**1-800-373-8000**

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

### 3 Safety Tips for Sharing the Road With Trucks

**Florida ranks third for fatal truck accidents behind California and Texas.** According to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), **drivers of cars made mistakes in 70% of these accidents.** Accidents involving large trucks are generally devastating. The truck driver often walks away without a scratch, while motorists suffer severe injuries or death. **Knowing how to share the road with trucks, especially large semis, is essential for your safety. Here are three tips to keep in mind when driving near large trucks:**

- 1. Do not cut off a truck.** It takes twice as long for a truck to stop or slow down than a car. The FMCSA states that more than 60% of fatal truck accidents involve the front of the truck. If you need to get in front of a truck, make sure you can see the entire front of the truck in your rear-view mirror.
- 2. Do not tailgate.** Leave enough room between your car and the truck in front of you, in the event the truck brakes abruptly. In addition, there could be debris ahead on the road, which you will not see, if you are driving too closely. Trucks do not have the same energy absorbing bumpers as cars.
- 3. Stay away from blind spots.** Large semis are almost as wide as the lane they are driving in and many times the length of other vehicles on the road. This gives trucks huge blind spots in front of them, behind them, and on both sides. If you cannot see the truck driver's face in their side-view mirror, they cannot see you. Trucks often have to react quickly to avoid emergencies, making it vital that you are not traveling in the truck's blind spot.



### October "Trivial Pursuit" - Do you know your October facts?



- Q:** One Halloween superstition said that if you wanted to meet a \_\_\_\_\_, you had to put your clothes on inside out and walk backwards on Halloween night, and one would appear at midnight.
- Q:** Though Columbus is credited with the discovery of our country in 1492, actually, the Norse explorer, \_\_\_\_\_ came to America 500 years before, landing on what is now Newfoundland.
- Q:** The names of Columbus's 3 ships are The \_\_\_\_\_, The \_\_\_\_\_, and The \_\_\_\_\_.
- Q:** At the time of Columbus's voyages, it was generally accepted that the world was not flat, but rather, it was round. T/F
- Q:** Fire prevention week was established to commemorate the 1871 Great Chicago Fire. According to legend, this tragic fire was started by Mrs. O'Leary's \_\_\_\_\_ kicking over a lantern in the barn.

Answers: witch, Left Erickson, Nina, Pinta, Santa Maria, True, cow

### "Thank you for making a tragic event a little more bearable!"

"My husband collapsed, hitting his head on the cement floor, necessitating emergency surgery for severe bleeding in his brain. Fortunately, my husband was one of the 10% that recover from this type of brain injury. **During his recovery we became aware that the incident was a result of medical malpractice.** After numerous calls, I was advised that we had no case for malpractice because my husband was not permanently disabled. Then I spoke with the Law Office of Jeffrey Meldon.

**From the very beginning they treated us as if we were a part of their family. They consulted us and comforted us during each step.** They understood the permanent issues remaining and decided to take our case. The process took over a year. **They never gave up. We felt like someone actually cared about the tragic events we had to go through.** In the end, the physician's insurance company agreed to an out-of-court settlement.

Although nothing can give my husband back the year he spent recovering, he is alive and well, and we just celebrated our 25th anniversary. **There are no words of appreciation for the kindness, caring, support, and respect we were shown by the Team of Jeffrey Meldon and Associates.** They certainly made a very tragic event a little more bearable."

*Thank you, Marty and Terry, The Villages*

**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

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Happy   
Halloween

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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*

**Ask Jeffrey: "I was just in a car crash. What should I do?"**

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

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**Q:** Yesterday, I was T-boned by someone running a stop sign. What should I do now?

**A:** Nobody plans on getting in an accident, but when it happens it is important to know what to do and what not do.

**What to do:**

- If you are injured, even minimally, and did not go to the doctor or emergency room yesterday it is important that you **seek medical care** today or as soon as possible. It is best to go to a doctor who has experience in treating accident injuries. Follow their advice and do not miss follow-up appointments. **Note:** Sometimes, what seems like a minor injury can turn out to be serious.
- **Notify** your insurance company, if you have not already done so.

**What not to do:**

- **Do not exaggerate or minimize** the extent of your symptoms to your medical care provider.
- **Do not talk** with the other person's insurance company or sign any insurance company documents, papers, or medial authorizations without first consulting an accident lawyer.

Feel free to give me a call if you have any questions. I am dedicated to helping people get the justice they deserve and protecting them from the powerful insurance companies. Consultations are free.

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!



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