

Jeffrey Meldon

# MELDON

# LAW TALK

NEWSLETTER BY THE LAW OFFICE OF JEFFREY MELDON & ASSOCIATES

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

**Two attorneys** went into a diner and ordered two drinks. Then they produced sandwiches from their briefcases and started to eat. Their waiter became quite concerned and marched over and told them, "You can't eat your own sandwiches in here!" The attorneys looked at each other, shrugged their shoulders, and then exchanged sandwiches.

**Attorney to witness:** "What was the first thing your husband said to you when he woke up that morning?"

**Witness:** "Where am I Cathy?" **Attorney:** "And why did that upset you?"

**Witness:** "Because my name is Susan."

A wealthy man sat in his attorney's office. "Do you want the bad news first or the terrible news?" the lawyer asked. "Give me the bad news first." "Your wife found a picture worth a half-million dollars." "That's the bad news?" the man asked incredulously. "I can't wait to hear the terrible news." "It's of you and your mistress."

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## Welcome To Our January Newsletter! *Happy 2010!*

**Happy New Year!** Did you know that the celebration of the new year is the oldest of all holidays? **It is true.** New Years was first observed in Babylon about 4,000 years ago. Originally, the holiday was celebrated at the beginning of Spring, in late March, when planting new crops. The Romans changed it to January 1st in 153 BC to coincide with the calendar's new year. The early Catholic church condemned the festivities, calling it paganism. However, they soon gave way, and in some denominations they celebrate the Feast of Christ's Circumcision on Jan. 1st. New Years has only been celebrated as a holiday in Western nations for about 400 years. ► **Using a baby to signify the new year began in Greece in 600 BC** as part of the celebration of the god of wine, Dionysus. In this festival, a baby was paraded in a basket to symbolize the rebirth of Dionysus. Early Egyptians also used a baby as a symbol of rebirth.

► **All of us at the Law Office of Jeffrey Meldon and Associates, wish all of you and yours our very best of wishes for the new year— 2010!**



## Office News: *We helped turn Rehab into Wii-hab.*

The Law Office of Jeffrey Meldon & Associates is proud to announce that in Dec. we donated a complete Wii system with games, cart, and 32" TV to Shands Pediatric Rehabilitation Program at Magnolia Parke in recognition of their contributions to the community. ► **Shands Rehab Center at Magnolia Parke** is a 21,000 sq.ft. outpatient rehabilitation facility. **The center offers** Occupational, Physical, Massage, and Speech Therapy services for patients of all ages. ► **Wiis help injured** children and adults make rehabilitation more fun and less of a task by keeping their interest and excitement, while they build muscle strength and coordination. ► **We thank all that helped make this happen:** Patty Helsel, Heather Gavan, Lisa Wiggins, Manny Machin, Kim Fuller, Loudes Mengelkoch, TV 20, and all of the dedicated and courageous clients and staff at Shands Rehab. ► **To find out how you can make a donation to this worthy cause, please call Patty Helsel, Manager of Shands Rehab at Magnolia Parke @ (352) 265-5204. Call today!**

## A Note From Jeffrey: *Thank You All For Being There!*

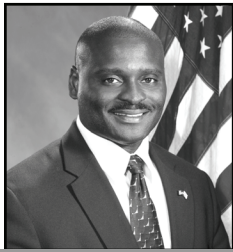
This is an important time of year to reflect on the many blessings in our lives. **I am so fortunate to be surrounded by an incredibly talented and hard working team that is dedicated to helping others.** I know that our clients rely on me to help them through difficult times, and I often get more than my fair share of credit from the wonderful people we represent. **The truth is, most of the credit belongs to everyone else in the office. I am also grateful for everyone who has chosen our law office to fight for them and their families—**this is an awesome responsibility that I take very seriously. In 2009, my son, Carey, choose to leave the State Attorney's office and come to work with me. It was also the year that my daughter, Jessica, graduated from law school, passed the Florida Bar exam, and got a job at a top immigration law firm in Miami. **Needless to say, I am a very proud dad.** Additionally, my fiancée, Nancy Hunter, and I had an exciting year working together on all kinds of projects at the office— **I am a lucky man! So, to everyone in my life, thank you for being there. I wish you a Happy New Year and nothing but the best in the upcoming year, 2010.**

*Sincerely and with Gratitude, Jeffrey Meldon*

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**Officer, Jeff McAdams**

"If you have a traffic related question or concern, please feel free to contact the Law Office of Jeffrey Meldon and leave a message for me. ► In closing, I would ask that you and your family have a safe and very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!" *Jeff McAdams*

### Ask a Cop: What about being accused of a "hit and run"?

**Question:** If I'm involved in a car accident, can I move my car from the scene of the accident without being accused of a hit and run? **Answer:** This is a really good question for several reasons because it really depends on the type of crash you are involved in. ► **In accordance with Florida law**, if you are involved with a crash involving property damage only, you must immediately stop your vehicle in a safe location as to not obstruct traffic. **Next, you must** provide the other party your name and address. **If requested** by the other party, you must also show them your driver's license. **If the vehicle** you crashed into is unattended, the law requires you to leave your name, address, and vehicle registration information on the other car or in a conspicuous place where the driver will easily locate it when he returns to his car. **In this case, think like a cop and leave a note under the front windshield wiper blade.** ► **The law also** requires you to notify the local police department as soon as possible after the crash. Your failure to do so could result in you being charged with a 2<sup>nd</sup> degree misdemeanor. **If the crash involves** or likely to cause injuries or death your responsibilities increase significantly. After you immediately, but safety stop your car, **you must provide immediate aid** to the injured and then you must notify the police. ► **If you leave the scene** of a crash with injuries you will be charged with a third degree felony, even if in your opinion the crash was not your fault you must stay on scene and allow the police officer to make that determination. **The same thing applies** if someone dies—you must wait for law enforcement. ► **Failure to do so** will result in you being charged with a second degree felony.

*Jeff McAdams has been a local law enforcement officer for the past 17 years. He is also President of Gator Lodge 67, Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), which represents over 350 local law enforcement officers. Prior to moving to Gainesville, Officer McAdams served 10 years in the United States Air Force.*

### The Scholar-Athletes of the Week; North Central Florida's Best and Brightest!

**November:**

11/19— Jattera Bonds from P.K. Younge for Basketball

11/26—Cameron Sweat from Columbia High for Football

**December:**

12/3—Chuckie Looney from North Marion High for Football

12/10—Lauren Hyden from Buchholz for Soccer

Congratulations Scholar-Athletes of the Week!

### Jeffrey Meldon/WCJB TV 20's Scholar-Athlete Update... Congratulations Students!

The Jeffrey Meldon/WCJB TV 20 Scholar-Athlete program has been in existence since 1997. Every week during the school year a deserving high school senior is awarded the title of "Scholar-Athlete Of The Week" and receives a \$100 scholarship and a plaque. The award is announced on TV 20's Thursday evening sports news @6:00 and includes a video clip of the student and their achievements. In the column to the left are the latest winners.

### Meldon & Friends' "Trivial Pursuit" for January

- Q:** Thomas Crapper's Day is Jan 27th. Thomas was a plumber. Did he invent the toilet?
- Q:** The name of Thomas Crapper's biography is, "Flushed With Pride"? True or False?
- Q:** Betsy Ross, born 1/1/1752, was a flag maker. It is said, she made our Stars and Stripes Flag that emerged in the early 1790's. In this flag the stars are arranged in a \_\_\_\_\_.
- Q:** Louis Braille, born 1/4/1809 in Paris, became blind at the age of 3 while playing with one of his father's leather working tools, an \_\_\_\_\_, which was the same tool he used to make the original books for the blind that are said to be based on the \_\_\_\_\_ code.
- Q:** The 2010 Super Bowl will not be played in January, rather, on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.



**Answers: No True Circle Awl Morse Feb 7, 2010 Dolphin's Stadium Miami**

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



**Accident Kit with Camera**

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:

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 with Camera** in your glove compartment! ► To request your complimentary Guide Book, (including Mr. Meldon's insurance tips and recommendations), and Accident Kit with Camera, call (800) 373-8000 or visit [MedonLaw.com](http://MedonLaw.com).



**Consumer Protection Accident Guide Book**

**You will be prepared if you have your Accident Kit with Camera and your Consumer Protection Accident Guide Book! Order yours today! It's Free!**

## The Office Blogs: *Your vehicle does not need to look like this to be dangerously overloaded*

It may surprise you how easily you can put yourself and others at risk by overloading your vehicle, even when the vehicle does not appear to be overloaded and you are within your auto's seating capacity. The new year is a perfect time to take notice of this danger and to find out what your vehicle's maximum load capacity is.

**For example:** A Honda Accord has a seating capacity of 5 and a load capacity of 850 pounds. Load capacity includes: driver, passengers, pets, and all cargo. If all 5 people weighed 150 pounds each, that would leave 100 pounds for any luggage or other personal items (20 lbs. each) before overloading the vehicle.

**An overloaded vehicle poses many dangers. *Overloaded vehicles:***

- **Are less stable, more difficult to steer, and take longer to stop**—increasing the risk of roll-overs, rear-enders, and other serious accidents.
- **Cause tires to overheat, leading to blowouts and severe crashes**, especially if the tire is under inflated.
- **Cause brakes to overheat, are unable to accelerate quickly, and may invalidate your insurance policy.**

Exceeding permissible weight ratings can result in vehicle damage, accidents, and personal injury. **Check your vehicle's maximum load capacity today to find out how much it can safely hold.** Most vehicles post the maximum load capacity limit in one of the front door jambs. If it is not listed there, look in your vehicle's manual.

**For more information**, check out these two videos on YouTube: "[Staying Safe If You Overload Your Car](#)" and "[Too Fat For Your Car?](#)"



### Law Talk 101: *PIP—Educate yourself and know your rights.*

**What is PIP?** PIP is Personal Injury Protection (PIP). Under Florida law, \$10,000 worth of PIP insurance coverage is required for every vehicle owner. PIP benefits are paid by your own insurance company, if you are in an accident, regardless of who was at fault. In other words, Florida is a "no-fault" State. This includes loss sustained as a result of bodily injury, sickness, disease, or death arising out of the ownership, maintenance, or use of a vehicle.

**What does PIP pay?** PIP pays 80% of medical bills and 60% of lost wages, up to \$10,000 per person, for any accident or injury that involves a vehicle, even if you are on a bicycle or on foot and are injured by a vehicle. This includes expenses for necessary medical, surgical, X-ray, dental, and all recognized rehab services. PIP also pays a \$5,000 death benefit per person.

**Who is covered under your PIP?** You, the insured, are covered by PIP while driving your vehicle or when a passenger in another's vehicle. You are also covered while outside a motor vehicle and injured by a motor vehicle. Children and relatives who live with you may be covered while they drive your car, are passengers in your or another's car, or are pedestrians if struck and injured by a motor vehicle. Others who drive your insured motor vehicle or are injured while a passenger, may be covered by your PIP, even if this occurs outside of Florida and you/they are in your insured vehicle, as long as you are in the U.S. its territories, possessions, or Canada.

**What are the exclusion/exceptions of PIP?** The insurer may exclude PIP benefits for injury to any person operating the vehicle without the owners express or implied consent, or if the driver caused or contributed to the injury intentionally or while committing a felony.

**Beware:** \$10,000 of PIP can be used up in the ER. If you are hit by an un or under insured driver (which we estimate 75% of drivers are), you will need UM coverage. If an accident is your fault, Bodily Injury Liability is recommended as well.

### Heads-Up—Case of the Month: *You are not just limited to Workers' Comp!*

**Our client, a corrections officer, was seriously injured** in a motor vehicle accident while on the job when the van he was riding in rolled over after being hit by a driver running a red light. **Here is the story:**

- **Because he was injured on the job**, he went through the Workers' Compensation system for his medical care. Despite continual shoulder pain, the Workers' Comp. doctor said he was fine and that he required no more treatment or surgery, essentially cutting off his medical treatment.
- **We advised him** that he was entitled to seek PIP benefits, even though the motor vehicle accident occurred on the job.
- **The doctor paid for by PIP** recommended surgery for his shoulder. He received the required treatment, which PIP helped pay for.
- **If he had stayed in the Workers' Comp system** and not utilized his PIP, there would have been no medical treatment provided for his shoulder surgery nor any further necessary treatment. He was also able to receive a settlement from the at-fault driver.
- **End of story**—Our client is much better because of his shoulder surgery and treatment that he obtained via his PIP insurance.

**Moral of the story**—You are not limited just to Workers' Comp. If a motor vehicle accident occurs while on the job, you can also collect your PIP and other benefits. You have a right under PIP to go outside the Workers' Compensation system.

**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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Call in with your question. We want to hear from you! What are *you* concerned about?  
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**Look Inside  
This Issue**

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- ▲ "Ask a Cop." What about being accused of a hit and run?
- ▲ Jeffrey thanks all for being there and sends his gratitude.
- ▲ Are you overloading your vehicle?

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**Ask Jeffrey:** *I am planning a long road trip, what should I know about drowsy driving?*

**A:** This is a very important question because drowsy driving (not being fully awake) is as dangerous as driving drunk. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported driving drowsy to be the cause of 100,000 crashes each year.

► Here is the typical scenario of a drowsy driving accident:

- The crash occurs late at night/early morning or mid-afternoon, especially between midnight and 6 a.m. and 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.
- It is a serious accident where a single vehicle leaves the roadway, often on high speed roads, and there is no attempt, on the driver's part, to avoid the crash.
- The driver is alone in the vehicle and is a young male age 16 to 29.

► Here are the best things to do to prevent this from happening to you:

1. **Drive when alert and rested**, after getting a good night's sleep.
2. **Avoid alcohol**. Especially when tired—it is a dangerous mix for driving.
3. **Avoid driving between** midnight and 6 a.m., and beware of the afternoon slump between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.
4. **If you get drowsy and heavy headed**, pull over and take a power nap for 20 minutes or switch drivers.
5. **Take breaks** every hour or two and stretch your legs.
6. **Avoid driving long hours in one day, especially if alone**—give yourself plenty of time for your trip!

"If you are very sleepy and rely on caffeine to allow you to continue driving, you are likely to experience "microsleeps," in which you doze off for four or five seconds, which doesn't sound like long, but is still plenty of time to drive off of the road or over the center lane and crash."

*AAA Foundation  
For Traffic Safety*

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