



MELDON LAW TALK

NEWSLETTER FROM THE LAW OFFICE OF JEFFREY MELDON & ASSOCIATES

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Thanksgiving Jokes:

Q: If Pilgrims were alive today, what would they be most famous for?
A: Their age!

Q: Why did they let the turkey join the band?
A: Because he had the drumsticks.

Q: Which side of the turkey has the most feathers?
A: The outside.

Q: Why did the police arrest the turkey?
A: Because they suspected it of fowl play.

Q: Why can't you take a turkey to church?
A: They use fowl language.

Q: What happened when the turkey got into a fight?
A: He got the stuffing knocked out of him!

Q: What kind of music did the Pilgrims like?
A: Plymouth Rock.

Q: What did the turkey say before it was roasted?
A: Boy! I am stuffed!

Q: Who is not hungry at Thanksgiving?
A: The turkey because he's already stuffed.

Q: What are the feathers on a turkey's wings called?
A: Turkey feathers.



A Month For Being Thankful!

November brings Veterans Day, November 11, and Thanksgiving Day, November 28. Both are important days to be grateful and to stop, count our blessings, and give thanks.

Veterans Day, a day to thank and honor living and fallen soldiers who serve or have served in the military. Originally called Armistice Day, Veterans Day is always on November 11 to commemorate the end of WW I, which occurred on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918. It was and is a day to promote peace and goodwill, and to honor our soldiers.

Thanksgiving's first pilgrim proclamation in 1621 was based on the Harvest Festival read, "All ye Pilgrims with your wives and little ones gather at the Meeting House, and render thanksgiving to God for all his blessings."

The actual first Thanksgiving took place 56 years earlier in St. Augustine, Florida on September 8, 1565. This Thanksgiving celebrated the safe landing of 800 Spanish settlers with a Mass followed by a meal shared with the Native Americans.

We Give Thanks To You!

In the spirit of Thanksgiving: All of us at the Law Office of Jeffrey Meldon & Associates wish you a bountiful and safe holiday and we thank you for your support and trust throughout the years.

May your blessings be many!



Serving the "Heart of Florida" and the entire state for accidents, personal injury, wrongful death, medical malpractice, dog bites, slip and falls, as well as DUI and criminal representation for Alachua County since 1971.

- Consultations are always free, welcomed, and just a call away. 800 373 8000 or 352 373 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 along to our readers.

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



Texting + Driving = Illegal in Florida

Reminder: As of October 1, it is illegal to text while driving. This means that not only will texting while driving be a dangerous activity, it will also be an illegal activity in the state of Florida.

Texting behind the wheel makes a driver 23 times more likely to be involved in an accident. The goal of this new law is to make our roadways safer. **Please help us spread the word** to your family, friends, and community's that texting while driving is unsafe and illegal. **For more information** about the ban on texting law, please see the following articles on our website, MeldonLaw.com :

**Florida Passes Ban on Texting While Driving Law—What you need to know
Will Florida’s Ban on Texting While Driving Law Save or Cost Lives?**

Jeffrey Meldon/TV20 Scholar-Athletes-of-the-Week Winners!

The Jeffrey Meldon/TV 20 Scholar Athlete Program is celebrating its 17th year! Every week during the school year, a deserving high school senior is awarded the title, a \$100 scholarship, and a plaque. The award is announced on TV 20’s Thursday evening sports news at 6:00 p.m. 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. This is one of Jeffrey’s favorite community services.

Congratulations to our most recent winners!

- Sept. 12—**Tray Presley** from Newberry for football—**Troy has taken full advantage** of his senior year on the field and in the classroom.
- Sept. 19—**Reid Carlton** from Trinity Catholic for football—**Reid follows** a long line of Celtic quarterbacks who have gone on to play in college.
- Sept. 26—**Austin Ritchey** from Bell for football—**Austin wants to play football** in college then go into law and law enforcement.
- Oct. 3—**Wesley Olmsted** from Eastside for swimming—**Wesley’s records in the pool and in the classroom have earned him scholarship offers** from Harvard, Stanford, and Michigan.

Our attorneys know DUI cases from both sides of the courtroom “table”

Carey Meldon & Jeffrey Meldon with the DUI Gladiator



In September, attorneys Jeffrey and Carey Meldon attended the 20th annual Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers’ presentation of “Blood, Breath, and Tears,” a two day intensive comprehensive DUI seminar.

This seminar focuses on recent changes in law pertaining to DUI and the latest in DUI defense strategies. The seminar also gives our attorneys an advantage when representing an accident victim injured by a drunk driver. In other words, they are up-to-date on the science of presenting a DUI case from both sides!

If you have been arrested for DUI or have been injured by a drunk driver, give us a call. Private consultations are free! 800 373 8000 or 352 373 8000

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 each year.

How can you protect yourself and family?

Be safe, educated, adequately insured, and prepared!

Note: All offers are FREE and without any obligation!



Consumer Protection Guides

Give us a call. Available 24/7
Consultations and Case Evaluations are **FREE!**

DO NOT TEXT AND DRIVE!

Traveling for Turkey?

"Over the river and through the woods to Grandmother's house we go..."

BUCKLE UP AMERICA

Every Trip. Every Time.

What would be the best gift you could give Grandmother? **To arrive alive!**

Thanksgiving holiday weekend is one of the busiest travel times of the year. Wearing a seat belt is the single most effective way to save your life and the lives of your loved ones while on the road.

We at the Law Office of Jeffrey Meldon & Associates wish you a safe holiday and remind you to please:



**BUCKLING UP COULD
SAVE YOUR GIBLETS.**

**Buckle Up!
Every Trip,
Every Time!**

Congratulations, Jeffrey!

Jeffrey Meldon was honored to be one of three long-time Gainesville residents chosen to speak at the Matheson Museum's "20th Century Gainesville Through the Decades" exhibit's opening night.



Jeffrey came to Gainesville in 1970 from Cleveland, Ohio and began practicing law. Jeffrey loved Gainesville and its people at first sight. He wasted no time getting involved in the community. Jeffrey was one of the founders of Great Southern Music Hall, which opened March 29, 1974 with the Earl Scruggs Review.

From these pictures, it is easy to tell that having an opportunity to talk about Gainesville and its history is one of Jeffrey's favorite things!



Photos by Megan Connelly

November "Trivial Pursuit"—Do you know your Thanksgiving facts ?

Q: It wasn't until 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, that President _____ proclaimed Thanksgiving to be held each November.

Q: A modern staple at most Thanksgiving tables is pumpkin pie. However, it is unlikely that this was part of the pilgrims' feast, as the supply of _____ had long been diminished.

Q: Cranberry sauce, potatoes (white or sweet), and wild turkey were on the menu for the pilgrims' feast in 1621. True/ False

Q: Post 1621, "Thanksgiving" became a regional holiday solemnly celebrated by fasting and quiet reflection. True/False

Q: In the early 1800's the Godey's Lady's Book transformed and commercialized "Thanksgiving" by publishing recipes. T/F

Answers: Abraham Lincoln, wheat, False (the Native Americans contributed five deer to the feast), True, True,

Case of the month—Make sure your attorney knows the "system"!

Recently, a woman came to us for help after having been seriously injured in a car accident. Our client's doctors had recommended surgery for a torn rotator cuff tendon in her shoulder.

The at-fault party had \$50,000 in bodily injury liability insurance and paid that limit after the surgical recommendation. Our client also had \$50,000 of underinsured motorist coverage on her insurance policy. We made a claim against our client's insurance company for the full amount of the underinsured motorist coverage. Her insurance company only offered \$10,000 to settle the case. We then filed a Civil Remedy Notice with the Florida Department of Insurance, outlining the unfair handling of her claim. By law, the insurance company had 60 days to pay or settle the claim or it could be held liable to pay even more than the \$50,000 policy limit. The insurance company paid the \$50,000 policy limit on the 59th day.

Moral: Make sure your accident attorney knows how the insurance system works to make certain that insurance companies do the right thing.

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

MELDON LAW TALK NEWSLETTER

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The Law Office of Jeffrey Meldon & Associates now has an Ocala office for consultations.

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Deer in the Headlights?

It is that time again in North Florida—peak season for deer-car collisions. Here is what you need to know:



- 1. Why did the deer cross the road?** Most likely to follow a cute doe he spied on the other side of the road because:
 - Fall is mating season.
 - Males are focused on mating.
 - Bucks have a one track mind this time of year—mating.
 - Normal peak times of deer movement are near dusk and dawn.
- 2. How to avoid a collision with a deer?**
 - Slow down and be on the lookout for deer in the fall, especially at dusk and dawn. Also, obey “Deer Crossing” signs—they are not just for show.
 - Deer travel in small herds. If you see one, don't let your guard down. There are most likely more nearby.
- 3. To swerve or not to swerve?** Most human injuries from animal collisions do not result from the car hitting the deer, but, by the crash that follows due to swerving to avoid hitting the animal causing losing control of the vehicle. If you have time to look and see if changing lanes is safe then do so. If there is not enough time, it is better to hit the deer, according to the experts.
- 4. Will my insurance cover the damage to my car?** Only if you have collision insurance.

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