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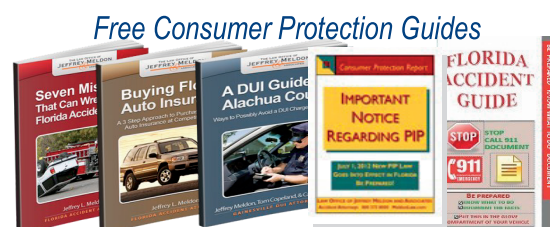
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April 2018 Issue

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Contact us at (800) 373-8000 or visit us online at www.MeldonLaw.com



"Jeffrey on the Air"

Law Talk LIVE airs on Saturdays!

Tune in and listen LIVE every Saturday morning to Law Talk LIVE at 10:30 A.M. with your hosts Jeffrey and Carey Meldon on WSKY 97.3 FM News Talk Radio.

Entering its 16th consecutive year on air, Law Talk LIVE serves as the longest running Legal and Public Affairs radio program in the Southeast United States. The Meldon Law team brings you the latest discussions on legal topics and issues that you care about. For more info and program listings, please visit www.thesky973.com.



This month's "Trivial Pursuit" >>>

Questions:

1. What city is associated with Alcatraz?
2. What name is given to the area of the sky that is obscured by the Milky Way?
3. Facebook was first limited to students at what university?
4. What was the first artificial flavoring?
5. Who is Stevland Hardaway Morris better known as?
6. The US Army's elite 101st Airborne Division is known as the "Screaming" what?
7. Who won a Nobel Prize for discovering energy quanta?
8. Who wrote the novel "War & Peace"?
9. What album earned Paul Simon a Grammy Award in 1987?
10. Who shot President James Garfield?



Answers: 1. San Francisco 2. The Zone of Avoidance 3. Harvard 4. Vanilla Essence 5. Stevie Wonder 6. Eagles 7. Max Planck 8. Leo Tolstoy 9. Graceland 10. Charles J. Guitteau

MELDON LAW TALK

A Monthly Newsletter Publication from Meldon Law

April
2018

Attorneys

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Ian M. Pickens

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MELDONLAW
You Matter Most



Wrongful Death

Personal Injury

Criminal Defense



Quotes of the Month

"Sweet April showers do bring May flowers."

-Thomas Tusser

"There's no night without stars."

-Andre Norton

"Nature always wears the colors of the spirit."

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Words are but the signs of ideas."

-Samuel Johnson

What is AIPAC?

AIPAC stands for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. It is a lobbying group that advocates pro-Israel policies to the Congress and Executive Branch of the United States. My daughter Jessica who is also an attorney, was the Deputy Political Director of the Florida branch of AIPAC for 5 years. During that time I started attending the National AIPAC Conference in Washington DC on a regular basis. From March 4-6 I went to my 7th consecutive AIPAC conference where over 18,000 other people joined me in supporting Israel. AIPAC has members from all sides of the political spectrum. The bond between the United States and Israel cannot be dependent upon which party is currently in power. It is a grass roots organization where members within each congressional district around the country form relationships with their local congressperson and help to communicate directly with them on issues and legislation critical to the support and continued existence of the state of Israel. AIPAC has a diverse membership including many people who are not Jewish. In fact, AIPAC regularly has over 2,000 non-Jewish student leaders attend the annual conference. The University of Florida regularly sends over 50 students to the conference from Chabad and Gators for Israel. All races and religions are represented at the conference. The democracies of the United States and Israel have much in common, and Israel is a critical ally for the United States both politically and economically. Since 2012 I have been the head of AIPAC for the 3rd Congressional District of Florida which includes most of Alachua and some of Marion counties. I have become good friends with our local Congressman Ted Yoho.



From Left to Right: Jeffrey Meldon, United States Congressman Ted Yoho, and AIPAC Member Mitch Shadowitz

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Thank You For Your Referral:

Sarah Monroe is one of our favorite clients. She recently referred a case to the Meldon Law team, knowing that it would be handled with the utmost professionalism. As a thank you for thinking of us when making this referral, we will be making a donation to a charity of her choice.

-The Meldon Law Team



Article Continued..

Since Ted took office in 2013, he has shown me some of the "inside" areas around the Capital and the United States House of Representatives. I got to have lunch in the congressional cafeteria (very modest) and hang out at the Republican watering hole after the work day was over. Most importantly to me, Ted is very knowledgeable regarding the politics of the Middle East and has been a staunch supporter of Israel. And, of course, the AIPAC conference presents a great opportunity to renew old friendships with people from all over the country.



From Left to Right: (#1) Fresh Market CEO, Larry Appel and his wife Carin, US Congressman Ron De Santis, and Jeffrey Meldon. (#2) Rabbi Berl Goldman, Kim Robbins, David Robbins, and Jeffrey Meldon. (#3) Jeffrey Meldon, Rabbi Berl Goldman, and US Senator from Florida, Bill Nelson.

This month's topic of interest: April 2018

Each month our staff takes a number of calls from people within the North Central Florida Community. We use our clients' comments to come up with ideas for the topics of interest.

Here's a topic worth discussing.

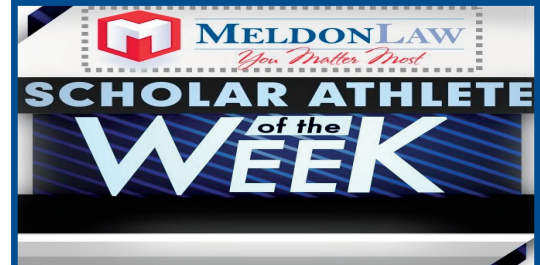
Bitcoin Mania Strikes The World



Over 400 years ago Turkish traders introduced the brightly colored Tulip flower to the Dutch and all the Germanic people wanted to get their hands on this "rare" commodity. The spark of Tulip mania or as the Dutch refer to as, "tulpenmanie," is very similar to today's Bitcoin rage: they're novel, a limited supply, and potential for great wealth. During this era, the tulips contracted a "virus" called mosaic which didn't kill or damage the tulip population per-se; but acted as a catalyst transforming their petals into flame-like colors. The color patterns varied which increased the rarity of an already unique flower. In turn, the tulips which were already selling at a premium began to rise according to the mosaic virus' alterations and soon, everyone began to grow and deal in tulip bulbs in hopes to acquire great wealth. In essence, they were speculating on the tulip market which was believed to have no limits. The market-moving, bulb-buyers began to fill up inventories for the growing season which further depleted supply and increased the scarcity and demand. Soon, prices were rising so fast that people were trading their land, life savings, and anything else they could liquidate to get their hands on more tulip bulbs. Their dreams were not unwarranted as the originally overpriced tulips enjoyed a twenty-fold increase in value...in one month!... Sound familiar?

Bitcoin is a modern-day phenomenon championing to be, "the first decentralized peer-to-peer payment network that is powered by its users with no central authority or middlemen." Whether it is the public's distrust of the banking industry after what occurred in 2008 or the United States' government's reckless spending habits, many believe and are hoping that digital cryptocurrency remedies these systemic, ever-lingering problems. Just like the Dutch in the 1500's, speculators are buying up Bitcoin to strike it rich; and like the Dutch, the numbers support their belief. Let this statistic marinate for a bit: If you were to make a \$1,000 investment in Bitcoin in July 2010, that \$1,000 would be worth more than \$258 million in January 2018! In 2017 alone, Bitcoin has enjoyed gains exceeding 1,600%. For federal income tax purposes, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) treats bitcoins as property and advises taxpayers that "general tax principles applicable to property transactions apply to transactions using virtual currency." (IRS Notice 2014-21) In the criminal sector, Bitcoin is more akin to a currency which the government may prosecute an individual for using cryptocurrency for money laundering. By way of example, in *United States v. Ulbricht*, 31 F. Supp. 3d 540 (S.D.N.Y. 2014), the "dark-web" owner of "Silk Road" whereby people from all over the world used the website as a channel or exchange to purchase illegal drugs online. Ulbricht was indicted for among other things, a money laundering conspiracy pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1956 stating in part, "Whoever, knowing that the property involved in a financial transaction represents the proceeds of some form of unlawful activity, conducts or attempts to conduct such a financial transaction which in fact involves the proceeds of specified unlawful activity." A necessary component of such a claim is the existence of a financial transaction. The *Ulbricht* Court interpreted the terms "financial transaction" and "monetary instrument" finding that "one can money launder using Bitcoin." Moreover, the court stated: Bitcoins can be either used directly to pay for certain things or can act as a medium of exchange and be converted into a currency which can pay for things. Indeed, the only value for Bitcoin lies in its ability to pay for things--it is digital and has no earthly form; it cannot be put on a shelf and looked at or collected in a nice display case. Its form is digital --bits and bytes that together constitute something of value. And they may be bought and sold using legal tender. Sellers using Silk Road are not alleged to have given their narcotics and malicious software away for free-- they are alleged to have sold them. The money laundering statute is broad enough to encompass use of Bitcoins in financial transactions. Any other reading would--in light of Bitcoins' sole raison d'etre--be nonsensical."

Whether you are a skeptic or champion of Bitcoin, it is irrefutable that given the amount of government backed currency invested or traded for these "imaginary coins," both civil and criminal legal issues will arise across various legal fields from fraudulent transfers in divorce and bankruptcy to criminal cases of money laundering. With blockchain based cryptocurrency reaching a 800 billion market-cap in 2018, some investors have 'struck oil.' Whether Bitcoin is the next bubble to burst like "tulip mania," .com, or the housing crisis is to be determined; however, what is certain is that new legal issues are on the horizon in both the Civil and Criminal Courts.



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 22, 2017: Cayla Mandrell is a senior point guard for the Gainesville High School Girls Basketball Team. She has proven leadership while being the team's captain and maintaining an impressive 3.8 GPA. She has decided to attend Santa Fe College where she may continue her basketball career.

November 29, 2017: Rilyn Crouch is a three-sport star, and a star in the classroom. While playing for the Santa Fe High School Soccer Team, Rilyn has accomplished keeping an astonishing 4.5 GPA. He has demonstrated excellence as a soccer defender and is hoping to take his team to a district title.

December 6, 2017: Eve Lambka is an impressive member of the Buchholz High School Soccer Team. She is a National Merit Scholar with a GPA of 4.85 and a member of the Future Business Leaders of America. She has displayed dedication to her sport, having helped her team win back to back district titles.

January 1, 2018: Jasmine Spencer is a senior guard on the P.K. Younge Girls Basketball Team. She has demonstrated an impressive GPA of 3.4 and is both exceptional on and off the court. She is still deciding which college to attend, but knows that she wants to study pharmaceuticals.

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. Call in or email nominations to Elgin Rucker at (352) 416-0646 or erucker@wcjb.com

Community Events

The Gainesville Orchestra Presents the Annual POPS Concert

Friday, April 27, 2018, 7:30PM-9:30PM
@The Santa Fe Fine Arts Hall, Gainesville, FL
Join us for a night filled with lots of fun, excitement and thrills. The exclusive final concert of the season, conducted by Evans Haile.



The 39th Annual 5th Ave Arts Festival

Saturday, April 21-22, 2018, 10AM-8PM
@ NW 5th Ave and 6th Street, Gainesville, FL
This historic Festival has grown from its roots and now hosts more than 20,000 people each year. The event features three days of performance and visual arts. Local businesses and organizations are invited to set up booths on Saturday and Sunday to provide information about opportunities for both youth and adults in the community.



Belinda's Mac & Cheese - Creamy and crunchy!

Ingredients:

- 1 16oz box of Elbow Noodles
- 3 8oz bags of shredded sharp & mild cheese
- 2 8oz packs of cream cheese
- 2 Eggs

Directions:

1. Bring water to a boil, add noodles and let boil for 8 mins. Drain water when done.
2. Mix both packs of cream cheese into noodles while still hot.
3. Mix in eggs and 1 bag of cheese.
4. In a separate pan, take one bag of cheese and layer the bottom of the pan. On top of the bottom layer of cheese, place the noodles. Over the layer of noodles, spread the final bag of cheese as a top layer.
5. Bake on 350 until the top layer of cheese is golden brown (watch carefully, this may only take several minutes).
6. When cheese is crunchy and golden on top, let cool and enjoy!



Belinda has been working at Meldon Law for 2 years as our communications specialist. We are lucky to have her!