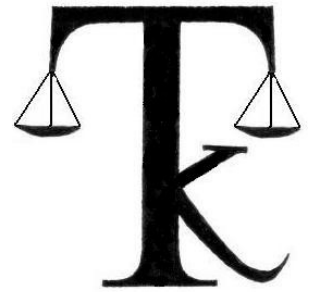


LEGALLY SPEAKING



January 2011



As we enter 2011, our firm is excited about the services we can offer our clients, including sending out our quarterly newsletter, *Legally Speaking*.

IT'S A NEW YEAR!

First, let us wish you a **Happy New Year!** While our current political and economic climates have many feeling down, we remain excited as we begin this new year. We will continue to help clients in our many practice areas, and anticipate welcoming a new lawyer to our team later in the year in order to continue to expand the services our firm can provide. (Stay tuned for that news.)

Read further in *Legally Speaking* to see all of the exciting changes in firm including the newest member of our Personal Injury team, Nicole (page 2) and our new office location (page 3). As always, we remain committed to providing the highest level of legal representation as we enter 2011. We are making technology upgrades to help us better serve our clients, and we continue to stay up-to-date on

changes in the law that affect our clients and their cases.

As this is written, the Florida Legislature is meeting in anticipation of this year's session. We expect a push by various lobby groups attempting to diminish the rights of Florida citizens, including in the area of **Automobile Insurance Law** and **Insurance Company Bad Faith**. Our firm will continue to emphasize maintaining laws which protect Florida's citizens, and we will keep our clients updated on changes affecting them.

As this legislative session begins, please keep an eye open to bills being pushed through, and check our website for updates and information on how proposed bills may affect you. Of course, do not hesitate to contact our office to discuss any changes or pro-

CURRENT PRACTICE AREAS

- * Automobile Accidents
- * Slip, Trip and Falls
- * Dog Bites
- * Wrongful Death
- * Divorce, Custody & Support
- * Foreclosures
- * Landlord / Tenant
- * Corporate / Commercial
- * Estate Planning
- * Serious Litigation

posed changes to the law. It is important for all citizens to be informed of the laws being proposed, and understand the real effect these laws will have on them.

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TAYLOR OBTAINS BOARD CERTIFICATION

The firm is pleased to announce that Mr. Taylor has become Board Certified in Civil Trial Law. Board certification recognizes an attorney's special knowledge, skills and proficiency in a given area of law, as well as their professionalism and ethics in practice. Certification is awarded by

the Florida Bar, and is their highest level of evaluation of attorneys' competency and experience. There are over 90,000 lawyers in Florida and only 1,071 are board certified in Civil Trial law. **Mr. Taylor is the only Board Certified Civil Trial lawyer in Citrus County.**



NEW YEAR BRINGS NEW LAWS

As is typically the case, the Florida Legislature was busy changing laws last year. These changes can significantly impact our clients' cases, so our firm makes a special effort to closely follow changes, even before they become law. Some of the most significant changes in the law were passed in the area of **Family Law** cases.

One area receiving changes was **Child Support**. The changes will affect all pending and future cases, including those which already have child support orders in place.

Child support calculations have historically been adjusted based on several factors, including the number of overnight visits the child(ren) had with each parent. Prior to the recent changes in law, at least 40% overnights were required before adjusting child support. As a result, we saw many parents fighting to attain the magic 40% number, without really considering the best interests of their children. The new law (eff. Jan.1, 2011) lowered this minimum to 20%, which amounts to 73 overnight visits during a year. Accordingly, most custody arrangements will meet this

quota, allowing child support to be calculated according to the number of visits. The purpose behind this law change was to encourage parents to focus on what's best for the children and not take custody positions solely to influence or reduce child support.

Also in the area of child support, the legislature addressed issues related to **modification of existing child support orders**. Many existing child support orders require one fixed amount of child support, even though that amount may cover more than one child. Often, once the oldest child covered under the existing order reaches 18, the parents don't know how to adjust the child support for the remaining children. To address this problem, the new law requires that child support orders show the amount of child support at the various times as each child turns 18. Now, child support orders entered after January 1, 2011 must include how child support will fluctuate as each child reaches the age of majority.

We know that many people have existing child support orders that do not show



how child support should be adjusted when each child reaches 18. While many simply divide the full amount by the number of children, this approach actually denies the remaining minor children support they are entitled to receive.

Our firm regularly reviews existing Final Judgments, particularly those related to **Child Custody** and **Child Support**, in order to determine whether there is a legal basis to modify the terms of the order. Many times, the issue is related to a child's *"aging out."* For changes to Child Custody agreements or orders, the law requires a substantial change in circumstances since the Final Judgment, as well as a determination that the requested change is in the best interests of the children. To learn more about these changes, and how they may affect you, see our website or call our office.

MEET NICOLE



Nicole McParlin joined the firm in October. Nicole helps clients with personal injury cases.

The firm is excited to have **Nicole McParlin** join us in our Personal Injury department. Nicole joined the firm in October and has been working with Mr. Taylor and Jeanne on cases involving personal injury and death. Nicole is originally from Plymouth, Massachusetts, but has lived in Citrus County for the last 5 years.

Nicole attended Citrus High School, and graduated from Withlacoochee Technical

Institute's Medical Administrative Specialist program. This training prepared Nicole to step into her position assisting on cases involving injured clients. In her spare time, Nicole likes watching scary movies, reading, and watching football (especially her favorite team the New England Patriots). Nicole is a proud new aunt to her niece, Lily. Lily is the daughter of Nicole's sister, Lindsey, and her husband, Matt, who is currently serving in the United States Army.

EGG ON YOUR FACE(BOOK)

Social media is now being used by almost everyone, including your neighbors, friends, children, grandparents and even co-workers. Some lawyers have even jumped aboard. Social media websites such as MySpace, Facebook, and Twitter have turned what was initially designed to be a means to communicate with friends and family into a public window into your life. Many people fail to recognize the consequences before placing private information about themselves, including their thoughts, feelings, location, pictures and daily activities, on the Internet.

We should all be familiar with the story

of the individual who shares on Facebook his upcoming trip to a distant location, only to find his house robbed while he was gone.



Social media is now being used as a tool in the business world and even litigation. Employers will check a job applicant's social media pages as part of their background check. Sometimes this reveals information concerning the applicant's prior employment, friends and social habits. Sometimes, with undesired results.

In litigation, sometimes parties unwittingly post issues involved in their case, including discussions with their lawyer, case strategy and even their thoughts on a ruling from the judge. The information on these social media sites can be devastating to a case, and it is becoming routine practice for lawyers to subpoena information from these social media sites.

We recognize that social media is here to stay (at least for now). Understanding this, we regularly recommend to our clients to refrain from posting anything related to their case; especially discussions with their lawyers. Be careful and smart.

STOP HUNGER NOW

Do you ever say "I'm starving?" You know, it's 1 o'clock and you haven't had lunch yet? When we stop and think about our statement, we have to laugh. We don't know what it truly means to be starving; really starving. There are, however, those in the world who haven't eaten in days, and that last meal was only a handful of rice.

Our firm is excited to once again join with the Rotary Club of Crystal River in its

international project to feed the hungry known as **Stop Hunger Now**. We have once again joined the effort as a *1000 Meal Sponsor* to help provide nutritious meals to children in impoverished countries. Mr. Taylor has been selected to chair this community wide event; set to take place **Saturday, February 26, 2011**. The event involves an assembly-line effort of hundreds of volunteers who add the ingredients to create a package of nutritious and filling

food which is sent to schools in developing countries around the world, with the hope that children will come to school to get a meal. In last year's effort, we packaged over 50,000 meals, and this year our goal is to double it. Every donation allows more meals to be provided for these children in need. For every 25¢ donated, another meal is packaged. To volunteer your time or make a tax-deductible donation, please contact our office.



The firm's second office in Historic Downtown Dunnellon.

12017 S. Williams Street,
Dunnellon, FL

FIRM TO OPEN SECOND OFFICE

As we move into the new year, our firm continues to grow and expand. Over the years, we've represented clients from all over the state, and even the country, but have found that a great number of our clients come to us from the Citrus Springs area in Citrus County and Dunnellon. In an effort to better serve the client needs in this area, we will be opening a second office on Highway 41 in Dunnellon. We are still in the process of remodeling the building, but hope to have it open for business in the

coming months. We are excited about having the opportunity to make legal services more readily available to those in Northern Citrus and Marion counties. The new office is located at 12017 S. Williams Street (U.S. 41), in **Historic Downtown Dunnellon**.

Of course we will continue to provide our full range of services at our Crystal River office. Watch as the new office takes shape, and stop in when it's completed.

Meeting All Your Legal Needs

Current Resident and/or

We're On The Web
www.KeithTaylorLaw.com

PROTECT YOUR SELF FROM DANGEROUS / DEFECTIVE PRODUCTS

Many people are familiar with the exploding Ford Pintos of the 1970s. If you're not, think of sticking Toyota accelerators. As long as people design and make products, they will have defects. Some of these defects can be dangerous and even deadly.

When product defects are discovered, it is important that the manufacturer reach the people who own and use the product, in order to warn them about the dangers. According to a recent Consumer Reports® article, many consumers never receive notice that the product they are using has been recalled. The Consumer Product Safety Commission's latest annual figures showed that over 124.7 million products were recalled. The recalls

included 428 products. There were 26 known and reported deaths and 632 injuries associated with the recalled products.

According to a survey by the Consumer Reports National Research Center, fewer than a quarter of those surveyed had researched a product they purchased to see whether it had been recalled. In addition to checking before buying, consumers can better protect themselves by submitting manufacturers' product registration cards (or online). Most people do not register their purchase because they don't want to receive all of the other marketing material they expect will follow sending the manufacturer their information. You should note, how-

ever, that you need only provide the minimum contact information, the brand, and model number of your product. You are not required to complete all the other marketing questions provided on many product registration cards.

You can also use the Internet to register, research and sign-up for alerts. You can find information about food, drugs, cosmetics, vehicles and a wide range of recalls at www.recalls.gov. Safety alerts can be provided by going to www.ClickCheckandProtect.org. A new federal safety database is scheduled to become available in March

at www.saferproducts.gov. For free information on how to replace, repair, or get a refund for recalled items, visit www.ConsumerReports.org/safety.

Links to all these consumer safety websites and additional safety information are available on our firm's website:

www.KeithTaylorLaw.com

