



INSIGHTS & SOLUTIONS

Welcome to the winter 2016 issue of Ward Damon's quarterly e-newsletter. Since 1987, Ward Damon has represented savvy businesses, business owners and individuals on a full spectrum of legal needs



The Ward Damon family wishes everyone a bright and merry holiday season and a prosperous 2017!

LEGAL PERSPECTIVES

How the Brad Pitt / Angelina Jolie Divorce Will Impact Family Law

By [Eddie Stephens](#)

When you spawn with another you will be tied to them forever. This gets complicated when the relationship between the parents fails.

The State of Florida protects parents and their

relationships. In fact, Florida Law provides:

It is the public policy of this state that each minor child has frequent and continuing contact with both parents after the parents separate or the marriage of the parties is dissolved and to encourage parents to share the rights and responsibilities, and joys, of childrearing.



Establishing parental responsibility over the children is a major issue in the dissolution of a marriage. [Continue reading →](#)

Renting vs. Buying 2016

By [Michael J Posner](#)

The dream of homeownership is as American as hot dogs, baseball and apple pie. At least that was the theory until the great recession that ruined home ownership for millions. With the economy mostly recovered, mortgage interest rates at all-time lows and rents rising, is it now better, once again, **to own or rent?**



Homeownership levels continue to fall with the level of ownership hitting a 50-year low last quarter. Currently only 62.9% of households are owner-occupied. Ownership levels are highest for seniors, and at an all-time low for millennials at 34.1%. **We can attribute this trend to several factors:** [Continue reading →](#)

Florida Court Affirmed for Prohibiting Father from Discussing Religious Matters with Children

By [Eddie Stephens](#)

Florida Courts have historically protected a parent's right to practice their religious beliefs with their children no matter how unconventional and regardless of the other parent's objection. In the matter of **Koch v. Koch**, 41 Fla. L. Weekly (Fla. 1st DCA 2016), **the trial court was AFFIRMED for prohibiting the father from discussing "ANY religious matters during visitation with his**

children.”

The constitutional limitation to protect a parent’s right to expose their children to their religious beliefs was clearly established in *Rogers v. Rogers*, 490 So. 2d 1017 (Fla. 1st DCA 1986) where the Appellate Court concluded: “In family law proceedings, a court may not restrict a post-dissolution parent’s religious beliefs, no matter how unconventional.”

[Continue reading →](#)



FIRM UPDATES

Ward Damon Recognized Among 2017 Best Law Firms

Ward Damon has been recognized in the 2017 edition of the U.S. News & World Report and BestLawyers™ rankings of the “Best Law Firms” in the country.

The firm earned a prestigious Tier 1 ranking for LABOR LAW MANAGEMENT and a Tier 3 ranking for both REAL ESTATE LAW and FAMILY LAW in the Metropolitan region of West Palm Beach.

Congrats to our entire team and thank you for helping make us one of the best!



Eddie Stephens Keynote Speaker for FL Assoc. of Student Councils

Ward Damon partner Eddie Stephens was the keynote speaker at the Florida Association of Student Councils district meeting at Royal Palm Beach High School this past October as part of [Leadership Palm Beach County's #LeadershipGrow](#) program.

Eddie encouraged the youth to [#DoSomethingThatMatters](#) by expanding their leadership roles and becoming involved in their communities.



Sally Still Presents Overtime Rules at Bank United Learning Center

Ward Damon attorney Sally Still recently gave a presentation to CPAs, HR professionals, and business owners at [BankUnited](#)'s Learning Center in Boca Raton. Sally, who is Florida Bar Board Certified in Employment & Labor Law, informed businesses on the changes to the Fair Labor Standards Act and new overtime rules that were to go into effect on Dec. 1, 2016.

The new rules were later put on hold by a nationwide injunction stopping the new minimum salary requirements. Stay tuned for more updates as this continues in the news.



Denise Bleau Volunteers for Haiti Relief Telethon

Ward Damon partner Denise Bleau recently volunteered some time after Hurricane Matthew to take pledges for the [CBS 12 News](#) and [The Salvation Army](#) Haiti Relief Telethon.

Volunteers were part of the phone bank taking donations that will help Haiti recover from the devastating strike of the hurricane. [#MakingADifference](#)



Ward Damon Donates Kindness Kits

Ward Damon was proud to help [The Lord's Place](#) break the cycle of homelessness in our community with Kindness Kits. Denise Bleau and AJ Johnson spearheaded a donation of personal use items like socks, toothbrushes, and razors for the homeless.

Thank to all who contributed and shared some kindness with those less fortunate during the holidays.



Eddie Stephens No-Shave November Champ

We are thrilled to announce that Eddie Stephens was the YLS No-Shave November participant that raised the most money! The fundraiser organized by the Young Lawyer's Section of the [Palm Beach County Bar Association](#) grows cancer awareness within the community while raising funds for the [Cancer Alliance of Help & Hope, Inc.](#), and the [Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, Inc.](#)

A big THANK YOU to all the Ward Damon team members who contributed!



"Proudly serving South Florida from the Treasure Coast to Miami since 1987"

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Contact us today for a consultation: 561.842.3000

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