

INSIGHTS & SOLUTIONS

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

LEGAL PERSPECTIVES

Eight Common Real Estate Mistakes

By [Michael J Posner](#)

After more than 30 years of concentrating my legal practice in real estate matters, below is a brief listing of common mistakes I repeatedly see. Read below and find out how a few quick fixes can save you time, money and headaches.

1. Deeds Without Estate Status: You want to add dad, mom or a sibling to your Florida property, so you get a Quit Claim Deed from an out-of-state lawyer, an office supply store or online, fill it out and mail it in to be

recorded. Three years later they die, and when you go to sell the property you discover that in order to clear their interest, you need to file an ancillary administration in Florida. An easy fix could have saved you \$3,000 and a few months of time. You eventually close and share the proceeds with their heirs, however this can be avoided by using the proper language on the deed. If you want the property to go to everyone's heirs, do nothing, but if you want to be sure that the property goes to the surviving grantees, simply add, "*joint tenants with full rights of survivorship, and not as tenants in common*" after the grantee's name. Upon their death, the title goes to the remaining grantee without probate. [Continue reading →](#)



How To Protect Smartphone Apps & Digital Work for Hire Projects

By [Philip H. Ward III](#)

For many years, companies have required that employees and independent contractors hired to conduct work execute agreements which include **“work for hire” provisions**. These provisions simply mean that **the work for which the employee or independent contractor has been engaged belongs to the Employer**, not the Employee. Documents and work product would include engineering drawings, manuals, websites, architectural drawings, and other works.



Software development and smartphone app designs have created new issues for companies. Recently, we negotiated a contract for a client who is developing a smart phone app. An independent contractor was hired to design and develop the app. In most cases, the independent contractor seeks to retain as much ownership as possible. On the other hand, the owner needs to know that the app is theirs and won't be copied. [Continue reading →](#)

So You Are Thinking About Getting Married?

By [Eddie Stephens](#)

Marriage is more than two people pledging love and devotion to each other; **it is the formation of a legal relationship**. Because the State of Florida has an interest in protecting and maintaining its citizens and in protecting and advancing families, upon your marriage, the state has many laws that regulate what will happen to a person's estate when the dissolution of the marriage is sought or when a spouse dies.



In other words, getting married has many consequences on the ownership of your money and possessions, the way you will raise your children, and the way you will relate to your partner. These rules are complicated and convoluted. A basic understanding of these rules is necessary for anyone contemplating this type of union. [Continue reading →](#)

WardDamon Attorneys Named “Super Lawyers” & Rising Star

Attorneys **I. Jeffrey Pheterson**, **Michael J. Posner** and **Sally Still** have been named Super Lawyers for 2016.

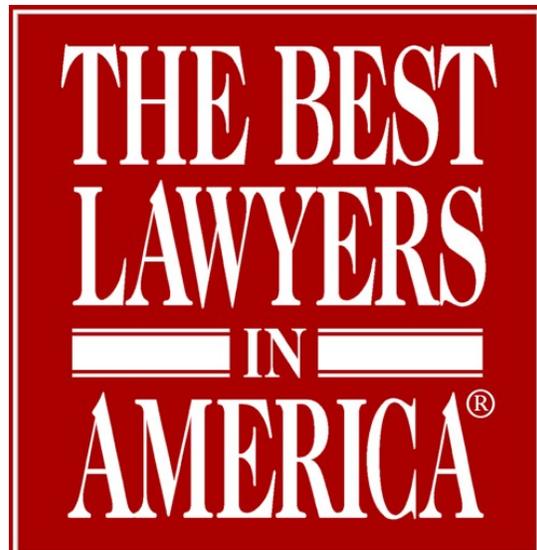
SuperLawyers also selected Ward Damon’s newest equity partner, Eddie Stephens, as a 2016 Rising Star.

[SuperLawyers](#) rates lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have obtained high degrees of peer recognition and professional achievement. The selection process includes independent research, peer nominations and peer evaluations. Only five percent of attorneys in Florida are recognized with this distinction and only 2.5 percent of attorneys are selected to Rising Stars.



Best Lawyers Recognizes Three Ward Damon Attorneys

Attorneys **Philip H. Ward, III**, **I. Jeffrey Pheterson** and **Eddie Stephens** have been selected for inclusion in the 2017 edition of the prestigious national publication, [Best Lawyers® in America](#). *Best Lawyers® in America* is the oldest and most respected peer-review publication in the legal profession. The lists of outstanding attorneys are compiled by conducting exhaustive and confidential peer-review surveys. This distinction is bestowed upon the most esteemed in the legal profession, only recognizing the top four percent of attorneys in the country.



Bleau & Stephens Appointed to LPBC Board of Governors

Two Ward Damon partners, **Denise Bleau** and **Eddie Stephens**, were appointed to the [LeadershipPalm Beach County](#) 2016-2017 Board of Governors.

LPBC is a nonprofit organization that brings together leaders from the public, private and nonprofit sectors to build and steward a vibrant, interconnected community. Congrats to Denise and Eddie and thanks for helping us build a better community! More info: <http://bit.ly/2axxOC7>



Stephens Featured in Sun Sentinel Career Spotlight

Ward Damon marital and family law attorney, **Eddie Stephens**, was recently featured in the Sun Sentinel's Career Spotlight as our newest partner.

Take a read to learn some things about Eddie you may not have known, as well as some insights and wisdom into his chosen career and area of practice.

Read here: <http://bit.ly/2cCnWdf>

CAREER SPOTLIGHT

Family law attorney sees bigger picture as stakeholder

BY CINDY KENT
Staff writer

Who: Eddie Stephens, a marital and family law attorney with Ward Damon PL since April 2013, was named an Equity Partner earlier this year in West Palm Beach. Becoming a stakeholder in the firm has expanded his role greatly, says Stephens. Not only does he continue to serve clients, but now he is part of a team of decision-makers that helps formulate policy that guides the firm and its 60-plus employees.

Resume

Experience: I have been practicing family law for my entire 18-year career. I had my own firm in the past and managed a staff of five.

Education: Stetson University College of Law, St. Petersburg (J.D., 1997); University of Miami, Miami (B.B.A. Computer Information Sys.



EDDIE STEPHENS

both spouses to have "high-powered" or professional careers. This means that it used to be much easier for the spouse who raised children to get alimony. Now it's not as clear-cut.

One of my first jobs primed me for the real world. As a summer

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