

# Legal Advisor

Leon County's Source for Legal Information

Issue 09

Fall 2017 Edition

## Message from Herb

### This issue:

From the  
County  
Attorney 1

From the  
Editor's Desk:  
The Importance  
of Jury Duty 2-3

What's Good?  
Our thoughts  
on food,  
movies, or  
other good  
things in  
Tallahassee. 4

Contact Us 5

We welcome you back to another edition of the Leon County Attorney's Office's "Legal Advisor." This Fall 2017 edition brings you both legal issues as well as some new content that we hope to develop over the coming months. The section on "What's Good?" will provide looks at new and old restaurants, first run movies, suggestions on old classic movies, and other events that we believe would be of interest to our readership.

As to the County Attorney' Office, all of us are very much looking forward to the fall both with football season on the horizon and with the hopefully cooler temperatures. Based on a number of events that have occurred "this year" so far, it should be noted that our office, along with the Leon County family, is very much appreciative of the stable, hardworking and friendly family that we have developed here in the County. As I have traveled the State and the Country during my term as President and Immediate Past President of the International Municipal Lawyers Association, it is pretty clear that Leon County is a model for other local governments throughout the Nation. Not only do

these other local governments model many of their legal activities and administrative activities after Leon County, we are much admired for that friendliness and stability factor that other governments have just not been able to find. It is because of the type of employees that we have working for Leon County, including especially the Leon County Attorney's Office, that we are able to achieve these results. Thanks to all of you for your hard work, and if you have any suggestions on further content for our "Legal Advisor." please do not hesitate to contact me or LaShawn Riggins at [LegalAdvisor@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto:LegalAdvisor@leoncountyfl.gov).

~Herbert W.A. Thiele

## From the Editor's Desk

### The Importance of Jury Duty



It's easy to forget how important the jury system really is to our country. Trial by jury, a right guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution, requires the fair and impartial decision-making of ordinary citizens. It is a sentiment echoed by former U. S. Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist. "The right to trial by jury in civil cases at common law is fundamental to our history and jurisprudence. A right so fundamental and sacred to the citizens should be jealously guarded." However, for most of us, a jury summons is an undesirable inconvenience. After all who has time for jury duty? I mean seriously, we are busy people with jobs, families, and most of us have a "to do" list that is longer than a child's holiday wish list. So instead of gleefully arriving at the courthouse ready to perform our civic duty we search for ways to get out of jury duty. Here's the million dollar question. How do we turn the consternation of jury duty into a form of enjoyment where citizens have a desire to serve?

I believe it begins with understanding why jury service is the bedrock of our court system. As Founding Father John Adams once wrote: "Representative government and trial by jury are the heart and lungs of liberty. Without them we have no other fortification against being ridden like horses, fleeced like sheep, worked like cattle, and fed and clothed like swine and hounds."

The right to trial by jury helped spark the American Revolution, it was quickly adopted at the Constitutional Convention, and is the only right that appears in both the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, [Amendments VI and VII](#). Alexander Hamilton wrote, "The friends and adversaries of the plan of the Convention, if they agree in nothing else, concur at least in the value they set upon trial by jury; of if there is any difference between them it consists in this: the former regard it as a valuable safeguard to liberty; the latter represent it as the very palladium of free government."

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Important reasons to serve on a jury:

- ◇ Jury trials are an indispensable part of our justice system.
- ◇ Juries have the power to hold stakeholders accountable.
- ◇ Jurors help promote equality in the court room.
- ◇ Jurors have the opportunity to participate and have a direct impact on the process.
- ◇ Jurors gain insight into the justice system because they see first hand what happens in the courtroom. Therefore, they can correct misconceptions that friends, family and their community may have about our justice system.
- ◇ Juries provide the voice of common sense and the perspective of the citizen to our developing body of law.

Jury service, while not perfect is essential and worthwhile work. In the U.S., the responsibility to protect individual rights and promote the common good ultimately rests with its citizens, not the government. When citizens participate in thoughtful and responsible ways, the welfare of our constitutional democracy is ensured.

So, the next time you receive a jury summons, before you allow your mind to tell you how much of an inconvenience it may be, think about the contribution you will be making to our democratic system of government, think about the huge difference you will be making in resolving a

controversy. I think you will come to realize that the time you spend sitting in that juror box is a small price to pay for the privileges and protections of our government.



We would not have the rights we have today without someone's sacrifice. With those rights, come responsibilities. It is our duty and obligation to our fellow citizens to perform this service with the spirit and commitment intended by the framers of our Constitution; our system depends on the quality of jurors and their willingness to serve, so be part of the system and make a difference. As Thomas Jefferson once stated, "I consider trial by jury as the only anchor yet imagined by man by which a government can be held to the principles of its constitution."

# What's Good?



Siam Sushi in Lake Ella Shopping Plaza

After living in Japan for three years, I had grown quite fond of authentic Japanese cuisine. My absolute favorite dish is this amazing creation called Yakisoba! Yakisoba is a Japanese dish of fried noodles, vegetables, and meat, served with a thick, sweetish sauce.

I would eat Yakisoba at least three times a week at this restaurant in Okinawa called the Royal, right outside Kadena AFB. I was quite sad when I returned to the United States and discovered it was nearly impossible according to my taste buds to find good authentic Japanese food. Let alone my now favorite dish, Yakisoba. Until now...

Yes, it is true! After way more than 10 years (as not to give away my age) of searching and trying Yakisoba dishes all over including but not limited to: Atlanta, Chicago, Jacksonville, Orlando, San Antonio, Seattle and Tampa my search

finally came to an end in Tallahassee, FL at a restaurant named Siam Sushi in the Lake Ella shopping plaza. <https://www.facebook.com/SiamSushi2017/?rf=274980682604575>

When I saw it listed on their menu, I started to not even bother trying it. After all, this is a Thai restaurant I said to myself. It's going to be bad and you're going to be disappointed again my mind was telling me. However, my quest to find once again the magnificent taste and flavor of the dish overrode my gut feeling and I'm overjoyed that it did! The dish was



Yakisoba! Comes vegetarian or you can add your protein.

ABSOLUTELY AMAZING!!! Again, according to my taste buds. I had found it! Could I be dreaming? So I took another bite. Yes! I exclaimed and yes, out loud. I was so happy I had the bartender go get the manager and the chef so I could tell them about my journey and how at last it was complete. We laughed, we talked, the staff is great there as well. Siam Sushi, my new Royal.

By: LaShawn Riggins

**Legal  
Issues?**

**Areas of Interest?**

**Questions?**

**We Want to Hear From You!**

**Suggestions?**

**Comments?**

**Want Us to Visit You?**

**Call or email us today.  
We are here to help!**

**LEON COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

Leon County Courthouse  
301 S. Monroe Street, Suite 202  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
Phone: 850-606-2500  
Fax: 850-606-2501



Please direct all questions, comments, and submission requests to  
LaShawn Riggins at: [LegalAdvisor@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto:LegalAdvisor@leoncountyfl.gov)