

Be Mindful Before You Post



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Be Mindful Before You Post

Nothing You Post Online is Truly Private

Digital, mobile, and social media have been an indispensable part of everyday life. Social media users have passed the 3.8 billion mark. The average internet user now spends 6 hours and 43 minutes online each day viewing and posting life updates/announcements and sharing personal photos and videos.

Unfortunately, one's private life may no longer be private. Anything you post, type, or comment on (publicly or in private messages) in an electronic device – phone, tablet, computer – could be considered public.

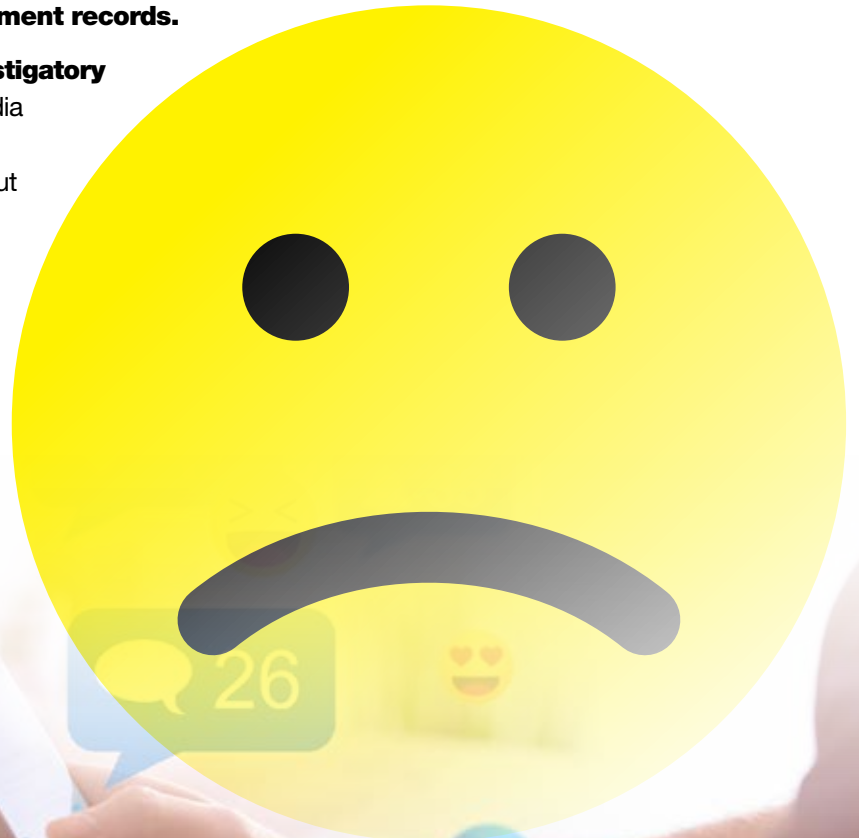
Opportunities for Evidence & Discovery

Did you know that your activity on social media, **regardless of your privacy settings, may be accessible to the other side in a lawsuit? Therefore, you need to exercise caution** when posting, tweeting, sharing, and liking information if you are involved in any kind of legal action, as **your activity may be misinterpreted** and used against you.

Despite Murry Guari's arguments to the contrary, courts sometimes admit information from social media accounts, assuming it is relevant and properly authenticated. If you are involved in a personal injury claim, **you can be sure the other side is investigating your social media activity in an attempt to create bias against you or find evidence that appears to conflict with your sworn testimony or what is contained in your medical or employment records.**

It is now standard for **attorneys or third party investigatory agencies hired by attorneys to search** social media for evidence that will help (or hinder) their case. **Many companies now** advertise their services in carrying out more "in-depth" inquiries. **Remember – nothing is truly private!**

If you are involved in a lawsuit or plan to pursue one, **talk to your attorney about your past and current social media activity, and, if possible, try to refrain from using social media that may be misinterpreted by the other side in a lawsuit.** ■



Dangers on Florida's Highways

Important Road Debris Safety Tips

Tread from a blown tire, trash bags, and cardboard boxes, not to mention any number of items, big or small that have fallen off the back of a truck.

Hitting road debris is dangerous and swerving to avoid it can be just as hazardous.

Florida is one of at least 13 states that can impose jail time if something being hauled falls onto the roadway resulting in serious bodily injury or a death.

Road debris can puncture tires, break windshields, damage undercarriages, and even cause you to lose control of your vehicle, where you slide, skid, or possibly rollover. It not only causes serious injury to drivers and passengers, but road debris can also kill.



These accidents are extremely dangerous, and many of them are preventable. Here are some important safety tips:

- **Maintain Your Vehicles** – check your tires and exhaust system
- **Secure Vehicle Loads** – properly secure and tie down all items (including furniture and ladders) and do not overload your vehicle
- **Drive Defensively** – continually scan the roadway looking for hazards and avoid speeding and tailgating
- **Report Debris** – call *FHP or local law enforcement to report any roadway debris

Scan to Connect

We have created a QR Code which makes it even easier for you to contact us and to learn about our services.

How to use -

- **Step 1:** Open your Camera App (QR Reader) from your device.
- **Step 2:** Hold your device so the QR Code appears in the view finder and you see a notification with a link.
- **Step 3:** Click on the notification to open the link associated with the QR Code.



Guest Columnist: John K. “Jack” Rice, Esq.

Engaging Changes, Growth, & Development

John Maxwell is accredited for saying, “Change is inevitable. Growth is optional.” This oft repeated quote can be applied to many settings, including our backyards and neighborhoods. South Florida is constantly changing and composed of many municipalities growing at varying rates. Although many areas of our nation have seen decreases in growth and development during the pandemic, South Florida has seen an influx in population, largely from individuals and families relocating for quality of life (and sunshine). As these individuals and families flock to South Florida, some of their employers have followed. And with interest rates near zero, it’s not surprising that development is also on the rise. As a result, many Floridians find themselves wanting a bite at the apple, while others want to know what can be done to protect their existing real estate investments and quality of life.

Fortunately, Florida’s land use and development laws allow many opportunities for individuals in both camps to participate in the real estate development process. Local Planning Agencies and Boards of Zoning Adjustment serve as release valves for developers seeking to develop structures and uses that vary from regulations and permitted uses. Land use attorneys can evaluate the likelihood of success and alternatives to relief before a project is considered by these agencies and boards. Having a land use attorney as part of a development team may not only increase the likelihood of success for an individual project, it also allows developers to prepare (and preserve) their project for opposition or should the need for an appeal or litigation arise.

Residents and landowners that are concerned about neighboring developments can also benefit from participation in the development process. Florida law affords individuals with a right to speak at most public meetings, which includes meetings of



John K. “Jack” Rice, Esq.

local Planning Agencies and Boards of Adjustment where projects seeking to vary from development regulations are considered. Land use attorneys ensure the interests of concerned residents and landowners are adequately considered at these meetings and may challenge decisions adverse to their client’s interests. Residents can also form neighborhood groups to represent their concerns at these meetings and increase levels of individual involvement and education. Citizens For Thoughtful Growth and 1000 Friends of Florida are examples of these groups at the local and state levels.

Floridians must play an active role in their communities’ planning process to create and preserve desirable communities that protect and promote their real estate investments. Playing an active role always involves engagement, and residents and property owners are well advised to consider engaging a land use attorney as they interact with the development process to ensure their interests are protected and promoted. Change is inevitable, but growth is optional. Increased engagement in the local development process helps ensure that growth occurs in a way that is desirable for all Floridians, newcomers and old timers alike.

Jack Rice is a seventh generation Floridian and member of the Florida Bar that practices primarily in the areas of land use and zoning, and real estate litigation. Mr. Rice also serves as a Director of the Palm Beach County Bar Association. ■



Firm News

The 100% Club

Murray Guari Trial Attorneys is part of the Palm Beach County Bar Association's "100% Club," which means all our attorneys are members of the Palm Beach County Bar Association.

Scott Murray, Jason Guari, and Scott Perry are all past presidents of our Young Lawyer Section and Scott Perry was recently elected to the Board of Directors. ■



Partner Scott Perry AV-Rated

Please join us in congratulating Attorney Scott Perry on his AV Preeminent Rating from Martindale-Hubbell. This is the highest peer rating given. Scott is being recognized for his high standard of professional ethics and his preeminent legal ability. ■



Meet Rauchelle Green

Rauchelle was raised in West Palm Beach and is a first-generation Jamaican-American. She attended Palm Beach State and Valencia State College where she majored in psychology and earned her Associate's in Arts Degree. Rauchelle is an office clerk who supports our attorneys and staff by running errands for our firm and assisting with projects as needed. In addition to her clerical duties, she also performs word processing tasks and data entry. She is also responsible for maintaining our COVID-19 safety procedures throughout the office. ■

Thank You For Your Confidence And Trust In Us

We at Murray Guari are thankful and humbled by the **positive feedback from our clients**. We remain strong on our focus – helping our clients when they need it most. **Here is a recent review provided by our client:**

"While no one hopes to find themselves in need of a personal injury attorney, Jason and his courteous, well-trained team took care of every detail for me so I could focus on healing. Their compassionate attention to detail and customer service surpassed every expectation I had. I would recommend him and his staff without hesitation to anyone that finds themselves in a situation that requires a personal injury lawyer." ~B

Recognitions

Our attorneys have been recognized on the local and national levels for their achievements in law, as well as their community leadership and other activities.



**Murray Guari –
Hablamos Español**



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Murray Guari Trial Attorneys PL

How Can We Help?

At Murray Guari Trial Attorneys PL, we **represent victims** throughout Florida who have suffered serious personal injuries due to the negligence of others. At our firm, you will find a team that is **truly concerned about your well-being and getting justice for you.** We are proud that our clients come to us based on a personal recommendation from past clients and from other attorneys in the community who respect our reputation and the quality of our work. We would be honored to put our experience, skill and integrity to work for you. ■



Keith Hedrick, Scott Murray, Jason Guari, and Scott Perry

Personal Injury | Wrongful Death | Auto Accidents | Premises Liability | Product Liability

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