

SULLIVAN & HEPLER

Attorneys at Law

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1644 BLANDING BLVD, JACKSONVILLE, FL 32210
904-384-8808

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SULLIVANANDHEPLER.COM

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY • WORKERS' COMPENSATION • CRIMINAL DEFENSE •
CAR ACCIDENTS • BANKRUPTCY • FORECLOSURE DEFENSE

HERE WE GROW IN 2012!

**WE HAVE A NEW ATTORNEY AND NEW PRACTICE AREAS!
WE NOW PRACTICE IN THE AREAS OF BANKRUPTCY AND FORECLOSURE DEFENSE**

We are thrilled to announce the addition of attorney Cindy Denker to the firm. Cindy will be handling the majority of our workers' compensation claims and will also practice in the areas of bankruptcy and mortgage foreclosure defense.

Cindy brings a wealth of experience to the firm. She is a former Vice President and Senior Litigation counsel at Fidelity National Financial. In addition she has over ten years' experience representing injured workers throughout the State of Florida. Cindy's arrival has created a friendly rivalry within the office since she completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Nebraska. Being a Mizzou Tiger, Ruth Ann was a little wary about letting a Cornhusker into the building. Just wait till football season!



PHOTOS FROM OUR 2011 CHRISTMAS LUNCH



Mike & Joan



Liz & Ruth Ann



Mike, Melissa & Cindy



Becky & Liz

WELCOME AND THANK YOU!

We welcome all of our new clients who joined us this past month. Also, thank you to all our friends and past clients who have referred folks who needed our services. It's a huge compliment to us! Sullivan & Hepler is proud to represent working people and their families in the areas of Social Security disability, workers' compensation, personal injury, criminal defense, mortgage foreclosure defense and bankruptcy.

INVASION OF THE OUT OF TOWN ATTORNEYS

We are seeing a growing phenomenon of non-Jacksonville attorneys soliciting business in our area. This is especially true in our Social Security disability practice.

These large, out-of-town (and in most instances out-of-state) law firms are hiring internet companies that trick unwary Google searchers into believing that they are applying for disability benefits by supplying their personal information. Once these firms make contact with the potential clients, they have to explain that filling out the internet form was not the same thing as applying for benefits with the Social Security Administration.

How do I know this? Because we hired one such internet company before we discovered the unethical tactics they were using. Once it became apparent to us that prospective clients were being misled, we cut ties with the company immediately.

Other out-of-state firms are simply flooding the television airwaves with commercials. I was getting my hair cut last week, and even though I was in the barber shop only about 20 minutes, I saw three commercials for out-of-state lawyers, two for Social Security disability and one for personal injury.

Why do I think it's a bad idea to hire an out-of-town law firm? First of all, from what many of our clients have told us, most of these firms make it impossible for a client to talk to an attorney about their case. When the clients call, nobody will talk to them, and nobody returns their messages. They don't meet the attorney who is going to handle their case until five minutes before the hearing. When I'm in the waiting room at the hearing office in Jacksonville, I often see attorneys calling out the names of their clients because they've never met them in person before and don't know what they look like.

Secondly, a lawyer who doesn't practice in Jacksonville on a regular basis isn't familiar with the judges who hear cases here. Judges are people like everyone else, and each one has quirks and preferences. We know the personality of each local judge, so we can prepare our clients for what to expect in any particular hearing.

If you're reading this newsletter, and you need legal help of any kind, please call us. If we can't help you, we'll refer you to another lawyer in the Jacksonville area—someone we know and trust to represent you fairly and competently. *Mike*

NEWS FROM AROUND THE FIRM

- Mike was asked by Law Review CLE to deliver another lecture for a continuing legal education course called Basics of Social Security Disability Law in Sarasota on January 18th.
- Dessie joined us in October as a new Social Security case manager.
- Once again, Ruth Ann has been busy in the office and on the campaign trail. You can get more information about her candidacy for County Court Judge 2012 on her website, www.heplerforjudge.com, or on her Facebook page, Ruth Ann Hepler for County Court Judge 2012.

SPOTLIGHT ON SMALL BUSINESS: AFFORDABLE FRAMING



Nancy and Greg Reninger run Affordable Framing in Orange Park. Their main business is beautiful custom framing, but they also sell fine art, sports collectibles and military memorabilia.

They do a super job helping with material selection, and their work is always completed on time. They do most all of the Jacksonville Jaguars framing. The business was started in 1973 by Greg's dad, and they have been in their current location since 1993. They recently hosted an exposition by five local artists.

We highly recommend these folks for any of your framing needs. They are located at 868 Blanding Blvd., Orange Park, FL 32065. They can be reached at 904-276-1121.

RUTH ANN'S TALES FROM THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Happy New Year! I'm still trying to get used to telling people that the election is this year instead of "next year." The campaign is in full swing, and I'm looking forward to Election Day on August 14!



I've been busy making plans, getting out into the community to shake hands, and meeting voters everywhere I go. I love kissing babies but haven't found an opportunity yet!

Seriously though, I'm dedicated to making our community a better place to live, and I want to contribute by serving in the judiciary. It's a job that carries huge responsibility, and I've prepared myself for the challenge during the last 20+ years. I truly believe that a judge is a public servant, elected by the people and responsible to the people to be **fair, impartial, respectful, and thoughtful** in the decision-making process. It's really pretty simple, and that's why I'm calling my campaign **Common Sense Justice**.

If you haven't done it already, please check out my Facebook page and give me a "Like." You can read more about my campaign on my website, www.heplerforjudge.com, or send me a tweet @HeplerforJudge. If you have any questions, feel free to give me a call or send me an e-mail. And if you'd like to volunteer, let me know!



Political advertisement paid for by Ruth Ann Hepler for County Court Judge, Group 12.



LAWYER JOKE

An airliner was having engine trouble, and the pilot instructed the cabin crew to have the passengers take their seats and get prepared for an emergency landing.

A few minutes later, the pilot asked the flight attendants if everyone was buckled in and ready.

"All set back here, Captain," came the reply. "Except the lawyers are still going around passing out business cards."

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Coat a 9 x 13 inch baking dish with cooking spray.
2. In a large bowl, beat cake and pudding mixes, the eggs and oil at low speed with an electric beater until blended. Gradually add the cola. Increase beater speed to medium, and beat 2 minutes; pour batter into prepared baking dish.
3. Bake 30 to 35 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool in pan on a wire rack for 10 minutes.
4. In a large saucepan, combine butter, cocoa, and cola; cook over medium heat until butter melts, stirring constantly. Do not allow to boil. Remove from heat; stir in confectioners' sugar and vanilla then the pecans.
5. Spread warm frosting over top of warm cake; cool completely on a wire rack.

1 (16-ounce) package confectioners' sugar, sifted
 3 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa

1/2 cup (1 stick) butter
 1/2 cup cola

For the Icing:

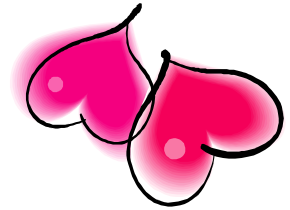
1/2 cup vegetable oil
 1 1/4 cup of cola
 4 eggs

1 (18.25-ounce) package devil's food cake mix
 1 (4-serving) package chocolate instant pudding mix

For the Cake:

Valentine's Day is right around the corner and what says love more than chocolate cake?

FOR THE LOVE OF CHOCOLATE COLA CAKE



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Working hard for the hard working since 1995

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Here comes... *The Scoop!*