



JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2020

DeLoach Hofstra + Cavinis, PA NAVIGATOR

When you need help, showing you and your family the way.

Injury Law + Estate Planning + Elder Law + Real Estate & Association Law + Litigation + Probate



Growing Our Commitment!

"What's made us a success are the people we've had. Starting with Peter Hofstra, who has been just a wonderful partner. Paul Cavinis came along, and he's been a wonderful partner. My son Rep is doing a wonderful job. And then I want to thank my wife for supporting me during these years." —DENNIS R. DELOACH, JR.

It was an unusually cold, gray morning.

If you didn't know better you might have thought you were up North and not in Florida. But when the speeches were finished, photographs taken, and the hot coffee was gone, a warm glow of anticipation rose on the corner of Seminole Boulevard and 86th Avenue. With golden shovels in hand, DeLoach, Hofstra & Cavinis, P.A. and Seminole Title Company celebrated the start of construction for their new building with a traditional groundbreaking ceremony to thank everyone who helped make the project possible.



"This is really growing our commitment to the community, our clients, and our staff. We hope to have a home here that lasts forever. We want this to be a stronger foundation for all of us here." —D. "REP" DELOACH III

Together with staff, family and friends, the celebration was joined by a Pinellas County Commissioner, the Mayor of Seminole, City Councilors, the City Manager, Chamber of Commerce staff, and representatives from First Home Bank.

Serving as Master of Ceremonies, Dr. Jim Olliver saluted both firms for promoting "the core values which have made our community so special."

The new building is designed to meet the growing needs of our clients, staff and the community with more offices, conference rooms and a larger meeting room for seminars and events. It will be hurricane resistant with a back-up generator to protect files, equipment and provide a refuge for staff in the event they personally lose power during a storm.

Our current offices will remain open during construction. Staff will park off-site to ensure ample parking for clients and guests. Our free estate planning and long-term care seminars are temporarily relocated to the Lurie Civic Building on the SPC Seminole Campus.

In the end, a building is nothing without people. Attorney Paul Cavinis said it best when acknowledging the firm's founder, Dennis DeLoach. "He has guided this law firm with a steady hand, with clear leadership and he has provided us with many good opportunities, which brings us to this very day. Without that, none of us would be here celebrating this brand new building"

"As the former Seminole SPC campus provost, president of the chamber and now a city councilor and most importantly a long-time client of the firm, I've watched as DeLoach, Hofstra & Cavinis and Seminole Title Company promoted the core values which have made our community so special." —DR. JIM OLLIVER

With smiles, laughter and the simultaneous motion of nine golden shovels breaking earth, a new chapter begins as we *Grow Our Commitment* to you! To view a video of the Groundbreaking, visit dhclaw.com.

The original Whittle house that burned to the ground in 1924

The Sweet Fruit of Two Family Businesses

As the City of Seminole celebrates its 50th Anniversary (1970–2020), it's only natural to reflect on the pioneers who helped shape the community, including those who lived or worked where both DeLoach, Hofstra & Cavonis, P.A. and Seminole Title Company are now breaking ground to construct their new building.

With dreams of owning an orange grove, Claude Wilson Whittle moved to Hillsborough County (now Pinellas) from Leesville/Batesburg, South Carolina in 1902. He married Perry Detta Cobb, whose father, William Marshall Cobb, was among the first homesteaders in the area. Claude began working in citrus groves and saved enough money to purchase land on what is now 86th Avenue and Seminole Boulevard west to where 113th Street is today. After clearing pine trees and palmettos with a rig pulled by a horse, he planted his citrus grove and made his living selling its fruit. Whittle sold the grove in 1960, retaining the family

home (known as the Whittle House) until he and his wife died in the late 1970s.

According to a family website "When he (Claude) wasn't fishing, he ran his roadside fruit stand and sold some of his oranges to the tourists that came to town. It is said that his wife made him close it down because he would occasionally take credit instead of cash."

Claude and Detta Cobb operated the fruit stand beside the house on a narrow, two-lane road destined to become the six-lane thoroughfare now known as Seminole Boulevard.

In 1959, Claude reflected in a local newspaper, "It looked strange then, sand roads winding through the woods... St. Petersburg had board sidewalks. You used buggies or a wagon to go places; a team of mules couldn't pull more than 25 crates of oranges on those roads. You'd go to St. Petersburg, spend the night and come back the same day. There were maybe a dozen families in this area then...O'Quinn, McMullen, Campbell, Cobb..."

In 1970 our own pioneer entered the story: Dennis R. DeLoach Jr. His passion for the community led him to help form the City of Seminole on November 15, 1970, and serve

as its first co-city attorney. Six years later, Dennis opened his law firm at 8486 Seminole Boulevard. After 17 years of growing, he relocated the firm one block north to our current location at 8640 Seminole Boulevard. The vacant building once housed D'Andrea Electric, a drug store, travel agency and medical center. That same year, in 1993, Dennis and partner Peter Hofstra founded Seminole Title Company.

The law firm will be celebrating 45 years by the time we move into our new building, having provided many employees a reliable livelihood and steady work environment for decades.

A sign hanging from his fruit stand named Claude Whittle the "Old Reliable Fruit Man." In that tradition, Dennis R. DeLoach Jr. must certainly be Seminole's "Old Reliable Legal Man." We are honored to continue the tradition of a family-owned business on this land, and to continue to serve Seminole and the surrounding communities.

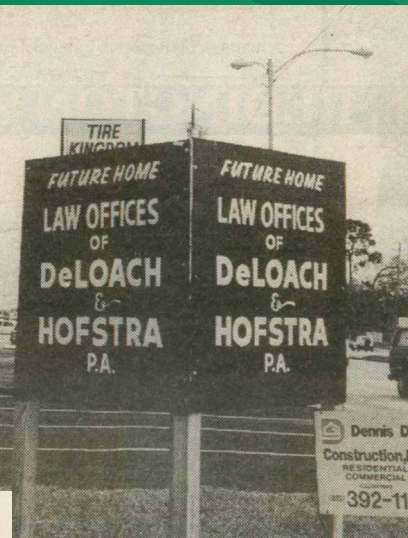
Special thanks to the Seminole Historical Society and to Claude Whittle's grandson, long-time friend of the firm and community leader, Dr. Claude McMullen, for historical information.



Claude McMullen's grandparents' house, built c. 1925 to replace the original house which was destroyed in a fire



Fruit stand in front of the Whittle House



Giving Back in 2019, Looking Forward to 2020

As we reflect on 2019, we are so honored to have partnered with and supported the missions of these meaningful community organizations:

- ▶ City of Seminole Recreation Department
- ▶ Greater Largo Library Foundation
- ▶ Greater Seminole Area Chamber of Commerce
- ▶ Historic Kenwood Neighborhood Association
- ▶ HUG (Help Us Gather)
- ▶ Kiwanis Breakfast Club of Seminole
- ▶ Largo High School
- ▶ LiFT Academy
- ▶ Madeira Beach Youth Baseball and Softball
- ▶ Muscular Dystrophy Association of Tampa Bay
- ▶ Oak Ridge Wesleyan Church
- ▶ Pinellas County Chiropractic Society



- ▶ Pinellas Education Foundation
- ▶ Pinellas Guardian ad Litem
- ▶ Pinellas Park/Gateway Chamber of Commerce
- ▶ Pinellas Seminole Women's Club
- ▶ Seminole Historical Society
- ▶ SPCA Tampa Bay
- ▶ St. Petersburg Bar Young Lawyers Section
- ▶ St. Petersburg College Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions
- ▶ Teamsters Local Union No. 79

Wishing you and yours all the best in 2020 and beyond!

 **Proven RESULTS**



CHRISTINE R. O'NEIL
Estate Planning and Elder Law Attorney

Read What Our Clients Say

My mother and I recently met with Christine O'Neil. She helped us with a will, power of attorney, medical directive, etc. She made the whole process so easy, and we walked out of the meeting so relieved that everything was taken care of. She was professional, friendly, and prompt. She was efficient, and took care of everything in one meeting. We can't say enough about her. She is excellent, and we highly recommend her!

Nena
Estate Planning Client

STAFF Spotlight

Becky deMacarty

Becky deMacarty, a retired trust officer from the banking industry, recently joined the firm to work part-time. "Becky is an amazing addition to our estate planning department," explained Rep DeLoach. "Her assistance with bill paying and trust administrations is invaluable. We hope she never fully retires!" Please meet Becky:



What is your hometown?

Mansfield, Missouri—a town of about 1,500 in the Ozarks about 40 miles east of Springfield. My family has lived there for generations. When I hear the word "hometown" my mind immediately goes to my grandfather's house in town or my paternal grandfather's farm just outside of town.

Where is your favorite destination in the world? Why?

I'd love to go to Scotland and Ireland. Both my husband and I have roots there and, of course, Scotland is the home of golf!

What is your favorite movie? Why?

A League of Their Own. It's about a women's baseball team during World War II with great life lessons, a great cast and, of course, Tom Hanks. "There's no crying in baseball" is one of his great lines.

What do you like to do to relax?

I love to read, cook, bake and watch baseball and golf (but I enjoy football too).

What is something people would be surprised to learn about you?

I love to ride motorcycles.

What values are important to you?

Honesty, loyalty, compassion and empathy.



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PROUDLY A **PET-FRIENDLY OFFICE**

SAVE *the* DATE

29th Annual SPCA Tampa Bay Pet Walk

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2020

Albert Whitted Park

480 Bayshore Drive SE, St. Petersburg

For event details or
to join our walking
team, the "Legal
Beagles," contact
Simone DeLoach
at 727-308-5441
or visit thelegalbeagles.com.



To update your address preferences, add friends or family to our mailing list, or to be removed,
please call Simone DeLoach at 727-308-5441 or email her at simone@dhclaw.com.

PAWS *for the* LAWS



Legal Legacy

Aspiring to follow in their father's footsteps, attorney Paul Cavonis' son Michael and daughter Emily both recently interned with the firm. Michael is in his first year at Stetson University College of Law and Emily is a senior at USF St. Petersburg. "I'm proud that Michael and Emily want to pursue a career in law," exclaimed Paul. "We are a very close family and I'm excited for the opportunity to work with them." What advice does Paul offer? "Never forget that we are here to help people solve problems. Be compassionate, efficient, thorough and diligent. Always remember there are no shortcuts and no substitute for hard work." To read the full story, visit dhclaw.com.



Michael, Paul and Emily



When you need help.

DeLoach Hofstra
+ Cavonis, PA
dhclaw.com

Connect With Us!



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Upcoming EVENTS

Our Favorite RECIPES

How to Protect Your Assets from the Nursing Home

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 5:30 P.M.

- ▶ Income/Asset Rules for Medicaid
- ▶ Healthcare Crisis Management
- ▶ Irrevocable Trust Planning
- ▶ VA Benefits

Estate Planning Essentials

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 5:30 P.M.

- ▶ Wills v. Trusts
- ▶ Probate and Probate Avoidance
- ▶ Asset Protection Strategies
- ▶ Incapacity Planning

How to Protect Your Assets from the Nursing Home

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 5:30 P.M.

(see February 18)

Estate Planning Essentials

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 5:30 P.M.

(see March 10)

Our educational seminars are free and open to the public so we welcome all friends and family. All seminars presented by attorney Rep DeLoach in a **new location**: Lurie Civic Building at St. Petersburg College Seminole Campus (9200 113th Street, Seminole). Seating is limited so please RSVP to Ashleigh Fisichella at **727-308-5441**, **ashleigh@dhclaw.com** or online at **dhclaw.com**.



Rep's Slow Cooked Vegetarian Black-Eyed Peas

This Black-Eyed Peas recipe is not just for ringing in the New Year. This healthy dish is both vegan and gluten-free. The liquid smoke offers a subtle yet effective substitute for a smoky meat flavor. (Serves 6)

- ▶ 1 ½ cup dry black-eyed peas
- ▶ 2 cloves of garlic, minced
- ▶ 1 cup purple/red onion medium dice, about one small onion
- ▶ ½ cup red bell pepper small dice, about half a medium bell
- ▶ ½ cup green bell pepper small dice, about half a medium bell
- ▶ 2 tsp Tabasco
- ▶ 1 tsp salt
- ▶ 1 tsp liquid smoke
- ▶ 1 tsp yellow mustard
- ▶ 1 bay leaf
- ▶ 5 cups vegetable broth
- ▶ ¼ cup chopped parsley for garnish

Measure, rinse and sort through the peas making sure they are free of stones and dirt. Add the garlic, onion, bell pepper, Tabasco, salt, liquid smoke, mustard, bay leaf and veggie broth to the slow cooker. Give the ingredients a stir, place the lid on the slow cooker. Cook on high for about 4–5 hours or low for about 6–7 hours. Salt to taste. *Optional*: serve with cornbread.