DeLoach Hofstra + Cavonis, PA

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

All About

Family

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

#### Sean had just finished working out at the gym and was driving his beloved Stella to the dog park.

Stella is more than just a yellow Labrador. She's family.

Sean and Stella

They were sitting at the light on Tyrone Boulevard at 66th Street. The light turned green. Before Sean took his foot off the brake, they were hit hard from behind.

The impact threw Stella into the back of Sean's seat. His back already injured, Sean instinctively turned to see if Stella was alright and further injured himself.

"I was more concerned with her than anything at that point," recalled Sean.

Sean's employer referred him to DeLoach, Hofstra & Cavonis, P.A. and recommended he speak with attorney Paul Cavonis. Sean's employer was familiar with the law firm from his involvement with Seminole Rotary Club and other community groups. Sean initially spoke with Paul, and then with paralegal Monica Case. The team met with him the next day. "We went over everything," explained Sean. "Everything was quick and easy. They told me that it was going to take about a year, but within the year, it was constant contact letting me know what was going on, setting up my doctor appointments, meeting with doctors."

"Then paralegal Jennifer Pachoumis came in about five months into the case to help Monica get everything put together. The diligence that Paul, Monica and Jennifer showed was great. I couldn't have done anything without them. They were guiding me the whole time."

The sign of a great legal team is how well they keep their clients' informed. "Not only did Paul, Monica, and Jennifer call me, they'd write me emails and make sure I went over all the documents two to three times making sure everything was correct."

It wasn't just about Sean. "Not only did they



ask how I was doing, but how Stella was doing," explained Sean. "That was a really big deal. Stella is like my child because I don't have a wife or kids. That made me feel like they genuinely cared about my well-being as well as Stella's well-being."

"It's a family atmosphere there, and that's what I liked," exclaimed Sean. "I couldn't say enough about DeLoach, Hofstra & Cavonis."

Sean is right about our firm's family atmosphere. We're committed to helping every member of your family. Even beloved pets like Stella. When you need help, we're here.

To watch a video of Sean's and Stella's story, please visit dhclaw.com/testimonials.

# STAFF Spotlight

AVIGATOR

# Ashleigh Fisichella

Ashleigh is the firm's Marketing Coordinator and dedicated assistant to Director of Marketing Simone DeLoach. According to Simone, "Her professionalism and positive attitude are second to none. She is reliable, loval and committed to the clients. In our fast-paced environment, she is always ready to take on any challenge with a smile and great enthusiasm! I am fortunate to have her on the team." Please meet Ashleigh:

What is vour hometown? Pinellas Park, Florida.

#### What is your favorite book? Why?

Gone Girl. The mystery author, Gillian Flynn, did an amazing job keeping me on my toes. I just couldn't put it down. I had to know what happened next.

#### What do you like to do to relax? Hang out with my boys and watch them enjoy their childhood. They grow up way too fast!



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

I went to Tarpon Springs High School for the Veterinary Science program. I really wanted to be a veterinarian for most of my life. I had hands-on experience with many different types of animals throughout my four years of high school. With that experience, I worked at a pet store for two years.

#### Do you have any pets?

D. "Rep" DeLoach III

Yes, we have a shepherd/husky mix (Miller), a newly adopted kitten from the SPCA (Echo), and a betta fish (Astro).

#### What values are important to you?

Kindness, trustworthiness, and positivity. If everyone would show a small dose of kindness every day, the world would be a different place! A positive attitude really brings others' spirits up. You never know what someone is battling in private.

Estate Planning and Board Certified Elder Law Attorney

## **Proven** Results

Read What Our Clients Say

**B** & A Estate Planning Clients

When we moved to Florida we needed our will, trust, and other documents revised or replaced. Rep gave a free seminar on estate planning that clearly set forth the various options and their respective consequences. We put together all the financial and other information he requested and then met with him. He encouraged us to ask questions and explore alternatives. He answered all of our questions carefully and thoroughly. He was very attentive to our needs and desires and suggested an approach that we were comfortable with. His suggestions were customized to our situation and we never felt he was offering a "one size fits all" approach. We decided to involve Rep in all of our future legal work and are confident that he will always act with our best interests in mind.

## **A LEGAL 411**

# FAQs: Pinellas County Pet Laws

Whether taking a trip to the veterinarian or just out for a ride, pet owners often transport their animals in and out of cars. In an effort to protect both pet owners and their four-legged friends, Pinellas County has laws designed to ensure the safety of animals. Here are a few:

#### Is it illegal to leave my pet in the car?

When the temperature outside reaches 85 degrees Fahrenheit, the temperature

inside a car can climb to 120 degrees in just 30 minutes, so leaving pets unattended in cars on warm days, even for a short time, can cause irreversible organ damage or even death, according to the Humane Society of the United States.

In Pinellas County, an animal cannot be confined or remain unattended in a vehicle in conditions that would endanger the well-being of the animal due to lack of ventilation or water, heat, or any other condition that pain and suffering, disability, or death to the animal is expected to occur.

#### If I can't leave my pet in the car,

# In the Community Whiskers at Work

DHC and Seminole Title Company recently hosted "Whiskers at Work," a program started by SPCA Tampa Bay which brings homeless animals into your office for cuddling and stress relief! Our attorneys, staff and family members were greeted by six playful kittens, two adorable bunnies, one frisky ferret and a friendly dog who was surrendered because his family couldn't afford a much-needed medical procedure. This type of interaction helps animals with their socialization. The staff loved the experience as Public Benefits Coordinator Mary Lou Dahmer summed it up, "Thank you so much for allowing SPCA to bring their fur babies today. I fell in love many times over the course of their visit and am sitting here (at my desk) with a smile on my face just thinking about the joy this brought to all of us. What a fantastic place to work!" This was the office's kick-off event for the upcoming SPCA Pet Walk on Saturday, October 6. To join our team, the Legal Beagles, visit **theLegalBeagles.com**. Watch a heartfelt video of "Whiskers at Work" there too.



## PAUL R. CAVONIS Injury Law and Trial Attorney

#### can I restrain it outside?

No, it is unlawful for a person to tether, fasten, chain, tie, or restrain a dog or cat to any stationary object unless it is within the visual range of the owner.

#### Is there a leash law in Pinellas County?

Yes, the law states that "No dog or cat shall run at large within the county. Any person who possesses, harbors, keeps, or has control or custody of any dog or cat which is running at large shall be in violation, regardless of the knowledge, intent or culpability of the owner."

If you have any questions, please call us.



## Seminole Civic Building

A Legacy Donor Party was recently held to recognize all the donors to date for a planned Seminole Civic Building, including DeLoach, Hofstra & Cavonis, P.A. The firm made a lead gift toward this important community initiative. The building will be on the St. Petersburg College Seminole campus and will serve as a Seminole Welcome Center and a home for the Seminole Chamber of Commerce and local civic organizations. Nearly four years ago, Dr. Ed and Vivian Lurie approached the City of Seminole with a proposal to donate half a million dollars for construction of a civic building for our community. Their vision is coming to fruition and their generous gift will fund the majority of the construction. For more information, visit spc.edu/scbc. Pictured: Dr. Jim Olliver, chamber board member and former provost of SPC's Seminole campus; attorney Rep DeLoach, past chamber board member; and Roger Edelman, chamber president.



DeLoach, Hofstra & Cavonis, P.A. 8640 Seminole Boulevard Seminole, Florida 33772

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## **Special Message**

## Are You a DHC Client?



We invite all our clients, past and present, to join our new dhcVIP client appreciation program! Our growing list of

benefits are offered exclusively to our clients at no cost. See a full description and join by visiting **dhclawVIP.com**. You may also join by contacting us at **727-308-5441**, **vip@dhclaw.com**, or on your **next visit to the firm**!

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**.



# 28th Annual SPCA Tampa Bay Pet Walk

We are walking to help raise much-needed funds for the rescue, rehab, and re-home of the 8,000+ animals who become homeless in our community each year. Please consider joining our team, the **"Legal Beagles"** and walk with our staff and families in the 28th Annual SPCA Tampa Bay Pet Walk on Saturday, October 6, 2018 at Vinoy Park. All team members will receive a free DHC/STC "Legal Beagles" t-shirt and pet bandana! To learn more, donate



or to join our team, visit **theLegalBeagles.com** or contact 2018 Legal Beagle Captain Simone DeLoach at **727-308-5441**. The Legal Beagles were named in honor of firm founder Dennis R. DeLoach Jr.'s "Bonnie Beagle" (1991–2001). Over the years, the team has participated in many SPCA Pet Walks under the leadership of long-time probate paralegal Judy Matthews along with estate planning paralegal Tammy Dina.



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# Upcoming Events

#### How to Qualify for Medicaid Wednesday, September 26, 5:30 p.m.

- Income/Asset Rules for Medicaid
- Common Myths for Protecting Your Assets
- Healthcare Crisis Management
- Irrevocable Trust Planning
- ► VA Benefits

#### **Estate Planning Essentials**

#### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 5:30 P.M.

- Wills v. Trusts
- Probate and Probate Avoidance
- Medicaid and Asset Protection Strategies
- Incapacity Planning: Durable Powers of Attorney and Advance Directives

#### How to Qualify for Medicaid

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 5:30 P.M.

(see September 26)

#### **Estate Planning Essentials**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 5:30 P.M.** (see October 9)

Our educational seminars are free and open to the public so we welcome all friends and family. All seminars are presented by attorney Rep DeLoach in the DeLoach, Hofstra & Cavonis, P.A. Law Library. Seating is limited so please RSVP to Ashleigh Fisichella at **727-308-5441**, **ashleigh@dhclaw.com** or online at **dhclaw.com**.

## 👖 Our Favorite Recipes



# Chris' Pasta with Vodka Sauce

Need to host a dinner party this fall and don't have time to create an extravagant meal but still need to impress your guests? Please try this delicious and easy vodka sauce recipe. We were impressed! Chris is a long-time friend and son of an elder law client. (serves 6)

- 1 lb pasta such as penne or ziti
- ▶ 1 ½ stick butter
- 1 tbsp crushed red pepper flakes
- 3/4 cup vodka
- > 24 oz jar of marinara (any will do)
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 cup shredded parmesan cheese
- salt to taste

Bring a large pot of water to a boil. Add the pasta and salt to taste. Cook according to package directions or to the desired degree of doneness. Meanwhile, melt the butter in a saucepan large enough to hold the pasta when it is cooked and drained. Add the pepper flakes and vodka, and bring to a boil. Let simmer two minutes. Add the jar of marinara, stirring occasionally on low to medium heat (about 20 minutes). Add the heavy cream. Cook ten more minutes, stirring often. Add salt to taste. When the pasta is cooked, drain it. Add it to the sauce. With the heat on low, add the cheese and mix thoroughly. Serve immediately.