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PERSONAL INJURY | WORKERS' COMPENSATION | SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY



GEORGE T. EIDSON JR.

Attorney loved storytelling, craft of law

As some of you know, I lost my father George on January 29, 2014. He was 87 years old. My father was my best friend and a great lawyer who built Akerman, Senterfitt, and Eidson from four lawyers to over six hundred. Dad was such a hard worker that he was at the office on Friday, January 24 – only five days before he passed away. We both agreed it would be better if I practiced law alone, but he tried many cases with me. I have attached his obituary from the Orlando paper because it does a great job of describing his life and achievements. Thank you for all the nice notes and prayers.

Frank

Amid the flickering glow of a campfire or beneath the confessional light of a courtroom, George T. Eidson Jr. held the power to captivate his audience, and he never squandered a chance to use it.

Whether he was rapping about Florida before the “pseudo castles of rodent land” brought “thousands of polyester-clad pilgrims” – as he wrote in the 1990s – or riveting a jury with closing arguments, “Big G” was larger than life to most everyone who ever had a chance to hear him, friends and family said.

Eidson Jr., an Orlando lawyer by training but a storyteller in his own right, died recently of congestive heart failure. He was 87.

“I’m trying to condense the highlights, but his whole life was a highlight reel,” said his son, Frank Eidson. “My dad was all of our heroes,” referring to himself and his two siblings, Sue Ann and William Eidson.

A Southerner from birth, the woods-loving, bass-fishing, son of an insurance salesman arrived in May 1926 and moved from Albany, GA to Orlando seven years later. While George Sr. built his business, George Jr. became a bona fide “Florida Cracker” he recalled affectionately in his writings.



Big G at high school graduation of his grandson, George T. Eidson III.

GEORGE T. EIDSON JR.

Continued...

Fishing was holy and hunting a creed in those days. Eidson was nourished as a young man by the tales of his South Carolina grandfathers, inflaming a lifelong love of Civil War history and General Robert E. Lee.

After high school, Eidson spent a year at military college and enlisted in the U.S. Navy to serve aboard a destroyer in the Pacific. He used the GI Bill to attend the University of Virginia, the school his hero, Thomas Jefferson, founded, and went to law school at the University of Florida.

Upon returning to Orlando in 1953, Eidson became the fifth member of the firm known as Akerman LLP. His love of the law and brilliance in civil litigation elevated Eidson to a partner, representing clients as influential as the Walt Disney Co. and the Deseret Ranches.

He helped expand the firm throughout the state, and it grew into one of the largest practices in the country with more than 600 lawyers. Eidson relished training lawyers in the craft he worked diligently to perfect.

"George had a way of capturing complicated points and explaining them to a jury in a story or an analogy," said retired lawyer Thomas Cardwell, who was hired by Eidson in 1956. "He had the directness of an Atticus Finch, but never tried to persuade you of something that wasn't the case."

Eidson put a case together much like a playwright would fashion a play, he said.

U.S. District Court Judge Patricia Fawsett worked closely with Eidson after she was hired by the firm in 1973 – a time when judges still marveled at the sight of a female attorney in court.

"George just did not follow the lines that had been drawn," about women in the workplace, Fawsett said. "He gave me free rein and



Last photo of me and my dad.

was a tremendous supporter, giving me all kinds of opportunities to try complex cases and even argue before the Supreme Court of Florida."

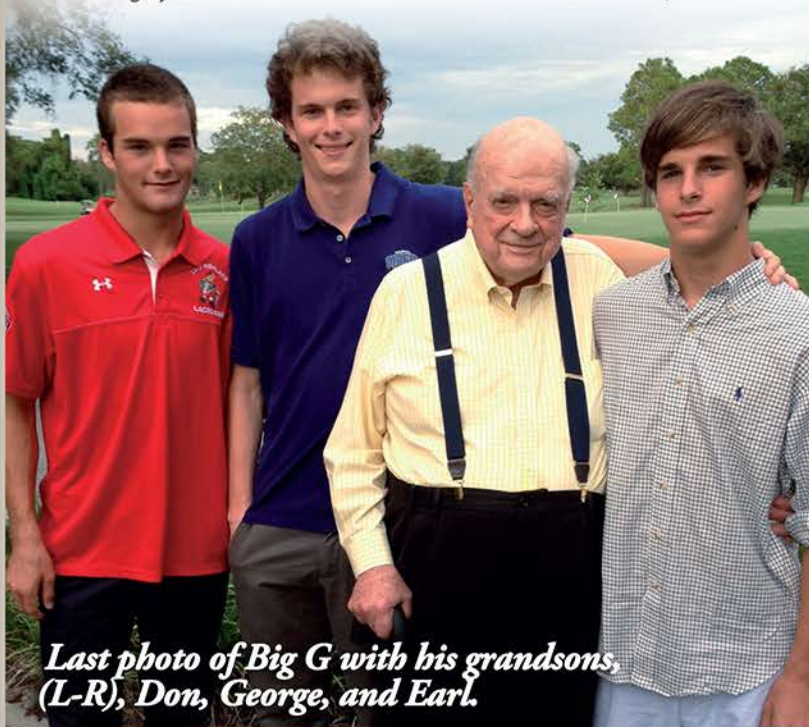
Eidson was the quintessential conversationalist, who enjoyed lunching at the University Club downtown, weaving yarns to entertain his friends. They describe him as a Renaissance man who was as comfortable tramping in the woods as he was donning a tuxedo for a night at the opera or talking politics.

"I sat there once and heard him answer almost every question on 'Jeopardy,'" said former Orlando Police Chief Tom Hurlburt. Eidson, he said, was "one of the most interesting people you could meet."

Eidson had many loves, but his greatest was his family. As numerous as his stories were, friends said the story of how he influenced young lawyers and professionals will live on the longest.

By: Arelis R. Hernandez.

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Last photo of Big G with his grandsons, (L-R), Don, George, and Earl.

In remembrance of my Father, we would like to raise money for a charity that was dear to his heart – and we'd like your help. All you have to do is "like" our Facebook page. Search for "Frank M. Eidson, P.A. - Attorney at Law" and click "like". For every "like" we receive between now and May 2, 2014, our firm will donate \$1 to the Wounded Warrior Outdoors organization. To find out how **Wounded Warrior Outdoors** helps our Nation's veterans, check out their Web site at www.woundedwarrioroutdoors.com.





One third of fatal accidents caused by aggressive driving

This article provided by The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Are you an aggressive driver? Do you:

- Express Frustration. Taking out your frustrations on your fellow motorists can lead to violence or a crash.
- Fail to Pay Attention when Driving. Reading, eating, drinking or talking on the phone, can be a major cause of roadway crashes.
- Tailgate. This is a major cause of crashes that can result in serious deaths or injuries.
- Make Frequent Lane Changes. If you whip in and out of lanes to advance ahead, you can be a danger to other motorists.
- Run Red Lights. Do not enter an intersection on a yellow light. Remember flashing red lights should be treated as a stop sign.
- Speed. Going faster than the posted speed limit, being a "road racer" and going too fast for conditions are some examples of speeding.

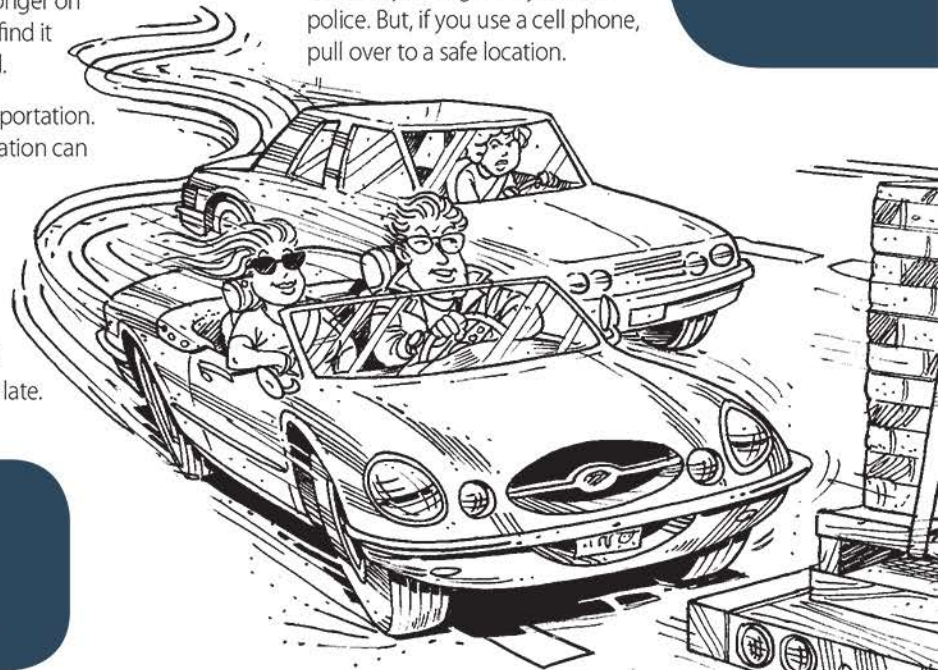
Life in the fast lane Plan ahead. Allow yourself extra time.

- Concentrate. Don't allow yourself to become distracted by talking on your cellular phone, eating, drinking or putting on makeup.
- Relax. Tune the radio to your favorite relaxing music. Music can calm your nerves and help you to enjoy your time in the car.
- Drive the posted speed limit. Fewer crashes occur when vehicles are travelling at or about the same speed.
- Identify alternate routes. Try mapping out an alternate route. Even if it looks longer on paper, you may find it is less congested.
- Use public transportation. Public transportation can give you some much-needed relief from life behind the wheel.
- Just be late. If all else fails, just be late.

When confronted with aggressive drivers ...

- Get out of the way. First and foremost make every attempt to get out of their way.
- Put your pride aside. Do not challenge them by speeding up or attempting to hold-your-own in your travel lane.
- Avoid eye contact. Eye contact can sometimes enrage an aggressive driver.
- Gestures. Ignore gestures and refuse to return them.
- Report serious aggressive driving. You or a passenger may call the police. But, if you use a cell phone, pull over to a safe location.

Aggressive driving is a serious problem on our roadways. To help you stay safe on your daily commute, The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has provided the following information.



Have you or a loved one been injured in an accident? Call our office today to set up a free consultation. A qualified attorney can help to make sure your rights are protected.



Free Apps

Do you have a smart phone? Download our auto accident and workers compensation app! It makes it easy to gather all the information you need and it sends that info directly to our office so we're ready to help right away.

The Florida Workers' Compensation and Florida Car Accident Emergency apps can provide assistance if you've been involved in an accident.

Some of the app features include:

- Quick call emergency numbers
- Capture and record accident information
- Find our office location
- Record your proof of insurance
- Track and record injury-related expenses

Florida Car Accident Emergency Kit

ANDROID



APPLE



Florida Workers Compensation Guide

ANDROID



APPLE



Please note—use of this application does not constitute an attorney-client relationship.



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The greatest professional compliment we can receive is when one of our clients refers a friend, family member, or neighbor to our firm. Thank you to everyone who has done so. We appreciate your confidence in us.

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The information included in this newsletter is not intended as a substitute for professional legal advice. For your specific situation, please call the appropriate legal professional.

Think twice before posting

Millions of Americans are using Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, Pinterest, and all the other social networking sites and that use is now affecting the outcomes of lawsuits all over the country.

In one recent case, a woman in Georgia was awarded only about ten percent of the damages she was seeking because the defense used her social networking posts against her. The woman was the victim in an auto accident and suffered a concussion and other severe injuries, and was left with a scar on her forehead. She sued for damages, including pain and suffering due to the decrease in her quality of life. Her case was solid and it looked like she would receive a large award. Unfortunately, a social media post about her having "an epic weekend" and another that said "I'm starting to love my scar" were used to convince the jury that her quality of life wasn't as bad as it was being made out to be. Another post with a picture of the woman using her injured hand raised doubts over her claims of being unable to work.

Don't let this happen to you. If you are involved in a lawsuit, the best thing to do is to suspend your social network accounts. Even if you're not posting anything currently, there may be things from your past that can be construed as negative by a skilled attorney. If you've checked all your past posts and decide to leave your account active, set your privacy settings to the most restrictive and be very careful about what you post. Even your information that is not publicly-viewable can be used in court. So can things your friends post.

Social networking can be a great thing, but be careful what you post when involved in a court case.

