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# CONGRATULATIONS TO MARK MARTELLA!

In 2008, attorney Mark Martella was part of the Charlotte County Chamber's Leadership Charlotte Class of 2008. As part of the program, the class spends a day visiting community nonprofits. That is when he was introduced to The Charlotte County Homeless Coalition. He was so moved by its programs and their impact on the community that he casually mentioned to one of his classmates that if there was ever an opening on the board, he would be interested in joining. Coincidentally, a board seat just happened to open up a week later, and Mark has been involved with the Homeless Coalition ever since then. Mark served on the board for 10 years, served two years as president, and is currently an emeritus member of the board.

With that being said, Mark and The Charlotte County Homeless Coalition had a HUGE win by paying off their mortgage!

What does one do when they pay off a mortgage? Host a mortgage burning party, of course!

For more lawyer stories and DLG news and updates, be sure to follow us on social media!



Picture above from the Charlotte Sun

## THE GRASS OVER THERE ISN'T GREENER, I PROMISE! *Why I'm Proud to Be an American*

Almost exactly 30 years ago, in 1993, I was standing on the White Cliffs of Dover in southeast England. I'd made the trip with a couple of buddies who were in my same law school summer in London. On a free weekend, we took the train all the way from the city out to see the cliffs.

The view was incredible, but that's not why this memory sticks with me. I'll never forget it because while we were standing there looking out over the water, one of the other guys turned to me and said, "You're from the states, right?"

"Yes, I am!" I told him. "I'm from New Jersey originally, but I was living in Florida until I went to law school in New Orleans, Louisiana."

"Wow!" he said in his British accent. "I'm from here in England, but I just love the United States. It's the most beautiful country I've ever visited. You have mountains and beaches, swamps and deserts, big cities and small towns. I've traveled all over the country from North Dakota to Texas, California to New York — and even though I've been all over the world, America is the most exciting, gorgeous place I've ever been. Everything you could ever want is right there."

I already loved my country back then in my early 20s. But I'll never forget the feeling of pride that swelled up in my chest that day. This guy had traveled across the globe and not only did he not hate Americans, but after touring our nation, he thought I came from the most beautiful country in the world!

Since then, I've had several more experiences like this in other countries. Once in Italy, my wife and I ducked into a little hole-in-the-wall pizzeria. The owner lit up when he realized we were American! He spent the whole meal practicing his English with us and fed us like stuffed pigs. Then, he wouldn't let me pay! "No charge for Americans here," he said. Of course, I still left money on the table before we walked out.

These days, patriotic songs like "The Star-Spangled Banner" have rocked me to my core and brought me right back to those moments. I'm thinking about them this month because it's almost the Fourth of July, and I think on the Fourth, we should all try to remember what being an American is really about.

Sure, sometimes our country isn't perfect. Right now, we're all dealing with higher food prices, higher gas prices, and higher prices on pretty much everything! While we

do have a lot to complain about right now, we do have a lot to be grateful for when it comes to where we live.

Do me a favor: When you look at the American flag at this Fourth of July barbecue, take a leaf out of my British friend's book and think about how wonderful our country is.

Yes, times may get tough and we may have to tighten our belts on occasion, but when you think about it, it's such a privilege to live in the United States. We've had a lot of problems in our roughly 250-year history as a nation. But those problems have brought us together and, as we've solved them, made us stronger. The grass isn't greener on the other side of the world no matter what you hear on the news. You have everything you need right here.

I keep those memories from Dover and Italy close because I never want to take this country for granted. This Fourth of July, you can find me wearing my favorite American flag shirt in front of the barbecue grill. I'll be surrounded by friends and family, thinking, "Damn, I'm lucky to be an American!"

*-Carmen Dellutri*

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# BOATING ACCIDENT?

## HERE ARE SOME RULES TO KNOW

Did you know that Florida has 2,000 marinas, 1,700 miles of rivers, more than 3 million acres of lakes and 8,000 miles of coastline? Florida is a boater's paradise.

Unfortunately, Florida is also well-known for boating accidents. For good reason too! *We live in Florida* — enough said there, right?

Many of our own attorneys are native Floridians who grew up boating and navigating our state's waterways. And, sadly, because they have seen so many people in their own communities hurt and sometimes killed by careless boat operators, they are now dedicated legal advocates for those suffering personal injuries by negligent boaters.

### Boating Rules You Should Know About

Boaters have a number of obligations on the water. Much like on land, there are certain "rules of the water" that must be followed when passing or crossing paths with another vessel.

#### These rules of the water include:

- *Maintaining a safe speed* — Except where speed is restricted by regulation or the waterway is marked by a "no wake" or "slow speed" zone, you must judge "safe speed" for yourself, taking into account visibility, vessel traffic, your boat's ability to maneuver, and the weather conditions.
- *Avoiding a collision* — Easy, right? Not always, especially when there are boat operators out there not playing by the same set of rules as everyone else. Inexperience is not an excuse.
- *NO DRINKING* — A day out on the lake goes hand in hand with drinking, right? Think again. While boating and drinking seems pretty common, it's neither a good idea nor is it legal. Not only could you seriously injure yourself or someone else, you could



also be arrested for boating while intoxicated and face serious penalties, including fines or even jail time.

There are also numerous other safety tips, especially if you are boating with children or tubing on the water. Check out our blogs on boating to learn more about how you can stay safe and protect others.

## Spotlight on Lori's DLG Passion Project

Lori was born and raised in Indiana and just recently decided to take the leap of faith with her husband and move to beautiful Southwest Florida. Lori said, "My husband and I love spending time at the beach and finding new restaurants, and we look forward to our children and grandchildren visiting us here!"

Obviously passionate about our beautiful state, Lori has chosen a Florida-based organization called Save the Manatee Club for her Dellutri Law Group Passion Project. It was founded in 1981 by singer/songwriter Jimmy Buffett and former U.S. Sen. Bob Graham.

As a new Florida resident, Lori loves our natural environment and unique wildlife. As Florida's official state marine mammal, the manatee population has been steadily declining. Currently, they are listed as "threatened" by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the FWC.



Their mission is to protect the manatees and their aquatic habitat for future generations. To learn more about Save the Manatees Club, please visit [SaveTheManatee.org](http://SaveTheManatee.org).

## South Trail Tire & Auto Repair

### SERVING SWFL SINCE 1984

If you have lived in SWFL for a while, then there is a good chance you know the name South Trail Tire & Auto Repair. Since 1984, John Zdrovitz (or Jay Z as most of us call him) and his team have provided motorists in SWFL with comprehensive auto repair services.

This year is a big deal for Jay Z! It not only marks the shop being open for 38 years, but it's also his 15th anniversary of owning it. Congratulations, John!

If you are looking for a reputable tire and auto repair shop, South Trail is definitely the place for you. Not only are they responsive, helpful, and reasonable, but they are funny, too! Just check out their new ad below. You can call his shop to schedule an appointment at 239-433-4241 or visit his website at [SouthTrailTire.com](http://SouthTrailTire.com).



## Mouthwatering Southern BBQ

Inspired by [JustAPinch.com](http://JustAPinch.com)

Summer isn't complete without some Southern BBQ!

#### INGREDIENTS

- 3 lbs boneless pork loin roast, trimmed
- 18 oz barbecue sauce
- 1 cup water
- 2 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 tbsp hot pepper sauce
- 1 tbsp pepper
- 10 hamburger buns, split
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- Deli coleslaw (optional)

#### DIRECTIONS

1. In a 4-quart slow cooker, add the roast and 1 cup of water.
2. Cover and cook the roast on high for 7 hours or until tender.
3. Once tender, shred the meat.
4. Return the shredded meat to the slow cooker. Stir in salt, pepper, brown sugar, barbecue sauce, Worcestershire, and hot pepper sauce.
5. Cover and cook on the lowest setting for an hour.
6. When finished, serve barbecue on buns with coleslaw (optional).

## Testimonial

### Our Clients Say It Best

*"Just want to say THANK YOU to Carmen Dellutri and his team of top-notch lawyers and support staff. They handled our case in a very professional and understanding manner. They treated us like family. I especially want to thank attorney David Lampley, Miss Ronnie, and their team for all their help and understanding. We would HIGHLY recommend this law firm for all your legal needs!"*

—C.B.

## A Huge Thank-You to Our Referral Partners!

Last month we had ...

- 45 referrals from friends, family, or previous clients
- 29 returning clients for a new matter
- 11 referrals from other attorneys
- 7 referrals from other professionals in town
- **We sent out 112 referrals to our trusted referral partners**

## What's the Good News?

*"But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."*

ISAIAH 40:31