



DeLoach Hofstra+Cavonis, 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



Dave meeting with Michael and Paul

Guiding Hand, Compassionate Heart

Estate litigation is like a labyrinth

where legal intricacies intertwine with strong emotions. Faced with probate discrepancies after his parents' passing, Dave found his guiding light by reaching out to our firm.

Dave sensed something was awry with his parents' probate attorney. The lack of transparency and professionalism made the situation worse. Hope only emerged when he turned to DeLoach, Hofstra & Cavonis, P.A. for advice and assistance.

With the steady guidance and unwavering support of board certified civil trial attorney Paul Cavonis, together with

his son, estate litigation attorney Michael Cavonis, Dave found solace when the firm took charge of the estate litigation.

"Paul Cavonis kept me sane," declared Dave. "He guided me through so I wouldn't waste a lot of time and money. He assured me to trust the process and we'll get it done. He knows how the legal world works, so he stays calm, keeps everybody calm, and he kept everything running smoothly."

"No matter how many hurdles we encounter, we're confident our firm's robust resources will ensure a case progresses smoothly," explained Paul. "Prompt response, clarity of communication, and personalized attention is the ethos of our firm's client-centric approach."

"We approach each step with the understanding that our clients are dealing with loss, grief, and difficult decisions," added Michael. "We do not forget the human aspect of estate administration and that is what sets our firm apart."

Reflecting on his journey, Dave emphasized the personal significance of our firm's comprehensive services. Every facet of Dave's legal needs found a home under our roof, from a past auto accident case to his estate litigation. He also bought and sold a house through Seminole Title Company. The convenience of having a trusted ally for myriad legal matters underscores our firm's commitment to being a one-stop solution for our clients' needs.

With relief, Dave said, "It took some time, but it's done and over, and everything went smoothly to the end. Paul Cavonis definitely knows his stuff and had the full resources to handle my case."

Dave's story serves as a poignant reminder of the transformative power of exceptional customer service. Through dark and frustrating times, a guiding hand and a compassionate heart can lead to resolution, closure, and, ultimately, peace. No matter what the circumstance, do not hesitate to contact us when you need help.



Paul, Dave, and Michael



STAFF Spotlight

Landri Schmidt

According to probate and estate litigation attorney Michael Cavonis, “Landri is a valued member of our probate and estate administration team, and she plays a vital role many may find difficult. She is often the first person from our office that a grieving family member speaks with, and she handles each with compassion and care that makes our team proud.”



Landri and Michael

What is your favorite book?

Other than the Bible, my favorite book has to be the *Harry Potter* series! There is just so much nostalgia and comfort connected to those books, and watching the movies over and over again, it never gets old!

What is your favorite movie?

My favorite movie is 100% *The Parent Trap* with Lindsay Lohan! I have watched it countless times and could probably quote it word for word. The hare-brained schemes, crazy antics, and all the love make it such a feel-good movie.

What do you like to do to relax?

I love to cook and experiment in the

kitchen! I have recently attempted to make my own pickles and homemade vanilla extract. Next is homemade butter!

What values are important to you?

Compassion, love, and selflessness are values that are most important to me. I believe my purpose in this life is to love the Lord with all my heart and love others as myself. That in and of itself encompasses all the values I care so much about. If we all thought a little less about ourselves, and a little more about those around us, could you imagine how different the world would be? When it's my time to go, all my money, accomplishments, and belongings will fade. I want my life to be marked by how I cared for and loved other people. That's all that matters.

What is your hometown?

Arlington, TX.




MICHAEL D. CAVONIS
Probate and Estate Litigation Attorney

Read What Our Clients Say

Kathleen
Realtor®

I recently had the privilege of working with a new probate and estate litigation attorney, and I must say that his exceptional legal expertise and dedication impressed me. However, I expected no less, as Michael is backed by the many years of experience of his father, along with the rest of the skilled attorneys and remarkable staff at DeLoach, Hofstra & Cavonis, P.A. I appreciated his responsiveness. He promptly answered my emails regarding questions and concerns I had about selling a condo in a 55+ community. He helped me understand legal terms and spoke to me in a way that made the transaction flawless from start to finish. Many emotions happen during an estate sale. Family members are still sad about the passing of a loved one, and they really need someone they can trust and lean on. I highly recommend Michael to anyone in need of professional legal assistance in probate, estate litigation or trust and will administration. I know he will continue to achieve great success in his career and provide wonderful service to his clients.



FAQs: Estate Litigation in Florida

What is estate litigation?

Estate litigation involves legal disputes regarding the distribution of assets, validity of wills, trust administration, and inheritance matters after someone's death.

What are common reasons for estate litigation?

Common reasons include disputes over

the validity of a will, allegations of undue influence or incapacity, claims of breach of fiduciary duty by executors or trustees, and disagreements among beneficiaries.

How long does estate litigation take in Florida?

The duration varies depending on the complexity of the case and any contested issues. It can range from several months to several years.

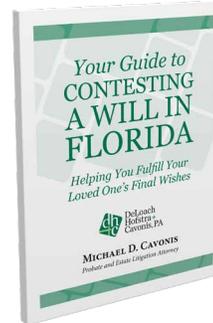
Do I need a lawyer for estate litigation?

Yes, having an experienced estate litigation attorney is crucial to navigating the legal

complexities and protecting your rights.

Can I contest a will in Florida?

Yes, Florida law allows interested parties to contest a will based on grounds such as fraud, duress, undue influence, or lack of testamentary capacity.



For more personalized guidance on estate litigation matters in Florida, contact our office. I offer consultations and may be able to take your case on a contingency basis. You can also download a free copy of my eBook, *Your Guide to Contesting a Will in Florida*, at dhclaw.com/FreeLegalResources.



Paul's cars



HelpForTheHurt Motorsports (HFTHM) Pit Crew



Tammy, Michelle, and Rep

Judy and Michael

In the COMMUNITY

20th Annual Festivals of Speed

We had a “revving good time” at the 20th Annual Festivals of Speed presented by Porsche Clearwater. This luxury car show, held January 21st in beautiful Vinoy Park, also supported St. Petersburg’s own Friends of Strays Animal Shelter. This year we welcomed Claire Grace, daughter of attorney Michael Cavonis, to the “HFTHM Pit Crew!” Thanks to everyone who came by our booth to say hello, check out the cars, and enter to win great prizes. Attorney (and proud grandfather) Paul Cavonis shared his crowd-pleasing 2019 Ford GT (Gulf Heritage Edition) and 2006 Ford GT. Our Hot Wheels car giveaways are always a big hit with car enthusiasts of all ages. Zoom over to HelpForTheHurtMotorsports.com for event photos, upcoming events, free driver safety information, and much more.



Michael's daughter Claire



Proud Grandma “Mimi” Julie Cavonis with Simone DeLoach

Chili Showdown: A Rootin’ Tootin’ Good Time!

Saddle up, folks! Another wild ride at our country-western-themed chili cook-off has left us hollerin’ for more! A hearty “thank ya” to our chili-slingin’ cowpokes: Alexa, Ashleigh, Gloria, Michelle, Rep, and Tammy, who served up some finger-lickin’ vittles. Now, let’s tip our hats to the estate planning champions:

- ▶ 1st Place: Tammy’s Smokey Beef, Bacon & Chipotle Chili
- ▶ 2nd Place: Michelle’s Slow-Cooked Sirloin Beef Chili
- ▶ 3rd Place: Rep’s White Bean Chili (vegetarian)

And hats off to Mariana’s cornbread and Pam’s strawberry cake for their honorable mentions! Since 2017, our office has made this chili cook-off a rootin’ tootin’ President’s Day tradition. Don’t forget to check out our chili cook-off playlist on Spotify. Giddy up!



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 PROUDLY A **PET-FRIENDLY OFFICE**

Special MESSAGE

We Are Here to Help

If you have a legal issue outside of our practice areas, don't hesitate to reach out to us. We have a network of reliable attorneys who specialize in other areas of the law, and we can connect you with them to get you the help you need. If you have any questions, please contact Simone DeLoach at 727-308-5441 or simone@dhclaw.com to learn more.

Cover masthead photo: The Florida Panther embodies Florida's continuous wildlife conservation endeavors, underlining the crucial need to protect habitats for endangered species, with mothers typically birthing cubs between March and July.

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.

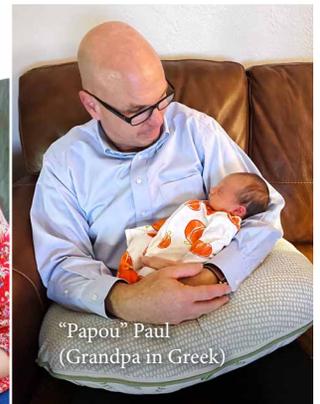
PAWS for the LAWS



Congratulations to Michael and Maggie!



Michael, Maggie, and Claire



"Papou" Paul
(Grandpa in Greek)

We are delighted to announce the arrival of the newest member of attorney Michael Cavonis and his wife Maggie's family! Claire Grace Cavonis made her debut on Sunday, October 15, 2023, weighing a healthy 7 pounds 10 ounces. Both parents are ecstatic and feel immensely blessed. Let's extend our heartfelt congratulations to Michael, Maggie, and the entire Cavonis family. Here's to a lifetime of love, laughter, and cherished moments with their darling Claire.



When you need help.

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+ Cavonis, PA
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Upcoming EVENTS

NEW! Join attorney Rep DeLoach to learn about long-term care and how to qualify for Medicaid, and attorney Michelle Lianzo to understand the essentials of estate planning in our free online webinars. You can also watch pre-recorded seminars on estate and pet planning.

FREE LIVE WEBINARS



Your Guide to Florida Long-Term Care Medicaid (LIVE)

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 5–6 P.M.
(ZOOM)

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

Estate Planning Essentials (LIVE)

TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 5–6 P.M.
(ZOOM)

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

Estate and Pet Planning

- ▶ *Pet Planning and Pet Trusts*
- ▶ *Incapacity Planning, including who to name to help you*
- ▶ *Wills, Trusts and Probate*
- ▶ *Charitable Planning*

Please visit dhclaw.com/seminars to register. Questions? Please contact Ashleigh Fisichella at 727-308-5441 or ashleigh@dhclaw.com.



Our Favorite RECIPES



Landri's Mexican Corn Casserole

A tremendous thank you to Landri for sharing her Mexican Corn Casserole recipe with the office. This is a great recipe to take to any get-together! According to Landri, it's "super yummy and easy to make—only four ingredients!" (serves 4–5 people)

- ▶ 3 cans of Mexican or fiesta corn (drained)
- ▶ 8 oz cream cheese
- ▶ ½ cup butter
- ▶ 1 small can of diced green chilis (drained)

Preheat your oven to 350°F (175°C). In a large pot on the stove set to medium heat, add the butter until fully melted. Once the butter melts, add cream cheese to the pot and stir until the mixture is smooth. Pour the drained cans of corn and green chilis directly into the pot and combine. Stir until the corn is evenly coated. Transfer the mixture to a 9 x 13" baking/casserole dish, spreading it out evenly. Bake in the preheated oven for 25–30 minutes, or until the casserole is bubbly and lightly golden on top. Once done, remove the casserole from the oven and let it cool for a few minutes before serving. Serve warm as a side dish with your favorite Mexican-inspired main course, such as tacos, or as a party dish.