

Dollars for Lawyers, Coupons for Clients

"Coupons for you, Millions for me"

An editorial in USA Today showcases the outrageous behavior of personal injury lawyers. Carnival Cruise Lines recently settled a class-action lawsuit claiming the company had inflated port charges to increase its profits. These port charges usually range from \$50 to \$150. In the settlement, Carnival agreed to give vouchers worth \$25-\$55 to 4.5 million to people who sailed between 1992-1997. The only catch: the vouchers must be

used on future cruises which typically cost more than \$500 per person. The vouchers could also be redeemed for cash at 15 or 20 percent of face value. And for all their hard work, what do the lawyers think they are entitled to? \$1.37 million in cash!

Circuit Court Judge Robert Lance Andrews saw through this ridiculous request. He slashed the lawyers fees and ordered they take part of their payment in the same silly coupons they won for their clients. After all, it's really just the lawyers who can afford

those cruises anyway!

Other examples of ridiculous settlements where clients get coupons and lawyers get rich:

- A 1993 settlement over price-fixing claims against the airlines resulted in \$25 credits that required the purchase of a \$250 ticket. The

lawyer's take? More than \$16 million.

- In a case charging that auto leases are too complex to understand, the leasing company offered customers coupons good for \$100 new car discounts. The lawyer's take? Over \$600,000 in legal fees.

WANTED



WILLIAM JAMES WEBB

Race: White
Sex: Male
DOB: 2/11/82
Ht.: 6' 2"
Wt.: 170



ADRIAN TERRANCE ALEXANDER

Race: Black
Sex: Male
DOB: 1/16/78
Ht.: 5' 8"
Wt.: 170

THE SECRET WORD GAME

Hidden in the text of the Victims' Advocate this issue is the **SECRET WORD** for the month of February. The rules are simple:

1. Find the word.
2. Telephone the Justice Coalition Daily Radio Show on 1320 AM-WJGR, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
3. The first person who telephones the correct Secret Word wins a \$10.00 Gift Certificate to Sonny's Real Pit Barbeque Restaurant.
4. You can only win once in a twelve month period.

SO START SEARCHING!

Exclusions: no persons employed by the Justice Coalition, Sonny's, nor their families are eligible.

Answers

Test Your Court Knowledge from page 10

1. Chief Justice Charles Wells, Major Harding, Leander Shaw Jr, Harry Anstead, Barbara Pariente, R. Fred Lewis, Peggy Quince.
2. Executive, Judicial and Legislative
3. The legislative branch makes laws, the executive branch enforces the laws, and the judicial branch interprets the laws.
4. The Florida Constitution.
5. The two types of courts are trial courts and appellate courts.
6. The appellate courts have no jury and have more than one judge. Additionally, witnesses do not appear before appellate courts and appellate courts do not have court reporters.
7.
 1. County Courts (67 of these are trial courts)
 2. Circuit Courts (20 of these are trial courts)
 3. District Courts of Appeal (5 of these - appellate courts)
 4. Supreme Court (1 of these - appellate court)
8. There are seven. Six justices and one Chief Justice.
9. Three
10. The United States Supreme Court.
11. The robed woman is named "Lady Justice." She is blindfolded to symbolize the impartiality of the law, and she carries the scales of justice in one hand and the avenging sword in the other. The letter "F" carved into the stone behind the Goddess symbolizes Florida. The eagle has been interpreted as the power of justice ruling the world.
12. By merit selection and retention. Initially they are selected and appointed by the governor; then they must run for merit retention before the voters every six years.
13. No. They serve until they are seventy years old if they are in the first half of their term; they serve until the end of their term if they turn seventy in the second half.
14. The Library, Clerk's Office and Marshal's Office

WHERE YOU CAN FIND THE



- City Hall
- City Hall Annex
- Duval County Courthouse
- Jacksonville Public Libraries
- Police Memorial Building
- Office Depot
- The Jacksonville Landing
- Most Major Downtown Buildings
- And Jacksonville Area:
- Burger King Restaurants
- Famous Amos Restaurants
- Gate Food Posts (select locations)
- Larry's Giant Subs
- Sonny's Real Pit Bar-B-Q
- Together We Can;
- Together We Will!



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