



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

Like Father, Like Son

There's a new probate and estate litigation attorney in town.

He has a familiar name too. Michael Cavonis has joined the legal team of DeLoach, Hofstra & Cavonis, P.A. to practice probate and estate litigation.

Michael earned his Juris Doctor (J.D.) from Stetson University and his Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) from the University of South Florida. He is now working closely with his father, injury law and board certified civil trial attorney Paul Cavonis, who has successfully litigated for the firm for 30 years.

"A father could not be prouder than I am of Michael," Paul beamed. "First and foremost, he is a good man with a clear sense of what is right. This will serve him well in his role as an advocate and counselor."

This is the second time a family member has joined the firm as an attorney. Twenty-two years ago estate planning and board certified elder law attorney Rep DeLoach was the first to follow in his father's footsteps. He later assumed leadership of the probate practice from his father, Dennis R. DeLoach Jr., and has now passed the baton to Michael.



Michael and Paul Cavonis

"I am so pleased to have Michael join our firm to help grow and strengthen our probate and estate litigation practice areas," praised Rep. "I know Michael is the perfect fit for this type of practice."

Growing up in the Cavonis family, Michael was impressed with how his father was such a rational thinker who trained himself to maintain clear thought processes and intense observation skills.

"He taught me that everyday problems can be boiled down into simple elements that become easy to grasp and can be tackled individually," explained Michael. "It gave me an early peek at what life as an attorney would be like."

"I learned that being an attorney means always being prepared," continued Michael. "While being prepared may require creativity, it will always require hard work."

"The opportunity to join a highly respected law firm, work closely with my father and those I look up to, like Rep, is a blessing," Michael said appreciatively. "The ability to serve the same community I was born and raised in is an even greater opportunity. I feel at home serving people here."

At a law firm that embraces both its employees and its clients as family, it's unique and gratifying that so much knowledge is passed down in the DHC family. Please join us in welcoming Michael to the firm. To learn more about Michael, visit dhclaw.com/Michael.



Michael and Rep with the probate team at the recent open house



FAQs: Probate & Estate Litigation

What is probate?

Simply put, probate is a court supervised process your estate may go through after you pass away to transfer your assets to beneficiaries and satisfy creditors. Normally, probate is only required when your estate has assets that are in your own individual name. Note that having a will does not avoid probate, but a properly drafted and executed will does guide the disposition of your assets.

What is estate litigation?

Estate litigation involves formal legal

objections to the distribution of assets after someone passes away. Unfortunately, it is not uncommon that family, friends, and others may disagree with your estate plans and contest their implementation. Other times, estate litigation is necessary to prevent fraud, theft, or other coercion that may have happened during your lifetime or after your passing.

How can estate litigation be avoided?

Although there is no one way to prevent litigation, action during your lifetime can

solidify your estate plan. Carefully consider where you want your assets to go, who you want to administer your estate, and then take the most important step by seeing an estate planning attorney. This last step is crucial to a successful estate plan and will help ensure the ones you leave behind are taken care of.

If you want to learn more about probate, download a free copy of Rep DeLoach's guide *Navigating the Florida Probate Process* at dhclaw.com/FreeLegalResources.



Read What Our Clients Say

Francine
Probate Client

Working with Rep DeLoach and his team was an absolute blessing. I was only 39, at my worst moment after the loss of two parents and they took such care and expertise guiding me and handling various matters of the estate. I thought living out of state would make things more difficult, but they made everything so easy/simplified and had my back during the entire process. They were very thorough and detailed in all aspects. Their referrals for other matters were also just as polite and professional. I cannot express how grateful I am to Rep, Lorry and the entire probate team for being there for me. I consider them part of my family now and will forever be grateful to have had such wonderful folks during such a dark time in my life. Even though I live out of state, I praise them personally and professionally to everyone I know.

 In the COMMUNITY

Legacy of Leadership

Congratulations to probate and estate litigation attorney Michael Cavonis for joining the Greater Seminole Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. On January 12, attorney Tim Schuler did the honors of installing the new Board for 2023-24 at a lovely luncheon at St. Petersburg College Seminole Campus. We are very proud of Michael and his commitment to civic engagement on behalf of our firm. DeLoach, Hofstra & Cavonis, P.A. has a long legacy of past leadership with the Chamber: Dennis R. DeLoach Jr., Director; Paul Cavonis, President; Rep DeLoach, Director; and Joe Murphy, Secretary. Dennis first joined the Seminole Chamber nearly 60 years ago in 1965. DHC is a proud "2023 Executive Sponsor" of the Chamber.



Chamber Executive Director Randi Nash-Ortiz, President Danielle Lower, past President Allison Bean and Michael Cavonis



Michael being sworn in



Dr. Jim Olliver, Simone DeLoach, Michael Cavonis and Forrest Feld



HelpForTheHurt Motorsports Pit Crew

18th Annual Festivals of Speed

We had a "revving good time" at the 18th Annual Festivals of Speed presented by Bert Smith Porsche on January 22 in beautiful Vinoy Park. This luxury car show was also supporting St. Petersburg's own Friends of Strays Animal Shelter. Thanks to everyone who came by our booth to say hello, check out the cars, and enter to win great prizes. Injury law and board certified civil trial attorney Paul Cavonis shared his crowd-pleasing 2019 Ford GT (Gulf Heritage Edition) and 2006 Ford GT. Our Hot Wheels cars giveaway was a big hit with car enthusiasts of all ages. Please visit HelpForTheHurtMotorsports.com for event photos, upcoming events, free driver safety information, and much more.



Rep DeLoach and Michael Cavonis



Paul's 2019 Ford GT



Paul with his 2006 Ford GT



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 PROUDLY A **PET-FRIENDLY OFFICE**

SAVE *the* DATE

2023 SPCA Tampa Bay Pet Walk

SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2023
North Straub Park, St. Petersburg

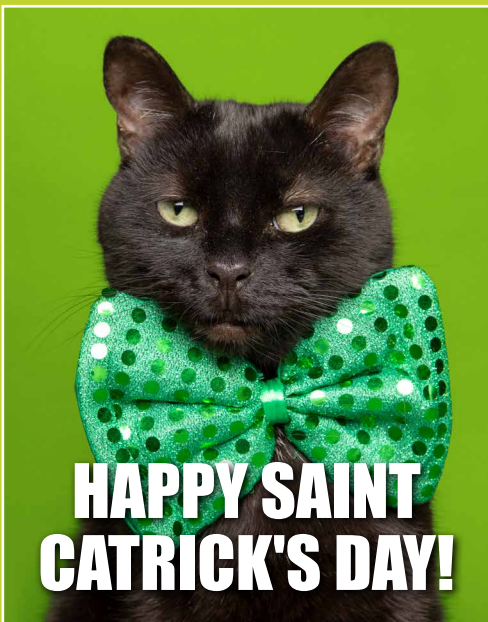
For event details or to join our “Legal Beagles” walking team, contact Simone DeLoach at 727-308-5441 or visit theLegalBeagles.com.



Cover masthead photo: Michael Cavonis and his wife Maggie’s rescues Georgia (Fluff Animal Rescue) and Pepper (Friends of Strays)

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



Seminole Title Company Wins Business of the Year



President Joe Murphy and Past President/Founder Dennis R. DeLoach Jr.

Congratulations to Seminole Title Company (STC) for winning the Greater Seminole Chamber of Commerce’s Business of the Year award in honor of its 30th Anniversary! The judges were past Business of the Year winners. Founded in 1993 by Dennis R. DeLoach Jr. and Peter T. Hofstra, STC has proven its long-time excellence in conducting business with buyers, sellers, and Realtors through its extensive record of positive online reviews and numerous awards from its title insurance underwriters.

After Mr. Hofstra retired from the law firm and title company

in 2018, he entrusted the day-to-day management duties of STC to his successor, real estate attorney Joe Murphy, who is now President of STC. DeLoach, Hofstra & Cavonis, P.A. (then DeLoach & Hofstra) won Business of the Year on its 30th anniversary (1976–2006), so it was especially meaningful for STC to receive the same honor on its own milestone anniversary.



When you need help.

DeLoach Hofstra
+ Cavonis, PA
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 **Upcoming EVENTS**

While in-person seminars are on pause, we continue to offer estate planning, long-term care and pet planning seminars online. All seminars are presented by attorney Rep DeLoach.

Estate Planning Essentials

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

How to Qualify for Medicaid

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

Estate and Pet Planning

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



Please visit [dhclaw.com/seminars](https://www.dhclaw.com/seminars) to register. If you would like to be added to a list to be contacted when our in-person seminars resume, please contact Ashleigh Fisichella at 727-308-5441 or ashleigh@dhclaw.com.

 **Our Favorite RECIPES**

Ashleigh's Pineapple Salsa

Thank you to marketing coordinator Ashleigh Fisichella for sharing her fun and fresh pineapple salsa recipe with us. This colorful appetizer will be a hit at any party, not just on Cinco de Mayo. It's a little sweet, a little spicy, and 100% yummy. According to Ashleigh, "this quick and easy salsa also goes well with tacos and fish."

- ▶ 1 medium red onion, diced
- ▶ 5 tomatoes on the vine, diced
- ▶ 4 jalapeños, diced, seeds and ribs removed, then minced (adjust for your heat preference)
- ▶ 1 fresh pineapple, diced
- ▶ ½ cup cilantro leaves, chopped
- ▶ 2 tbsp fresh lime juice

Place diced onion, tomato, jalapeños, pineapple, and cilantro in a bowl. Stir in the lime juice. Serve immediately or cover and refrigerate. Suggestions for serving: with tortilla chips alongside guacamole or traditional red salsa, on tacos, fish, lettuce as a dressing, or with any Mexican-themed meal.

Pro Tip: In a hurry? Buy pre-cut fresh pineapple from the produce department and dice it up yourself. It's more expensive this way, but quicker.