



## Jeff Geiger Counters

### Lawyers Gone Wild

**By: Jeff Geiger. *This was posted Tuesday, January 4th, 2011***

Lawyers really get a raw deal. As a profession, they hold some of the [highest rates](#) in both “problem drinking,” suicide and divorce rates. Yes, that’s bad. They also get to compel witnesses to say such things as “[you can’t handle the truth](#)” and all drive BMWs, Of course, [lawyer jokes](#) hurt but what really hurts are the morons that make their client’s causes and cases so personal that they cannot represent them objectively and diligently. Do you really think that if your lawyer yells at the other lawyer that you will achieve a tactical, let alone a strategic, advantage? All that is accomplished is to have angered the other lawyer such that it is likely that his or her heels will be dug in more firmly (for right or wrong). Of course, there are the instances in which a passive personality may shrink under the scrutiny of an aggressive attorney but that is the exception (or the result of bad facts and bad law).

Then, come the bad apples. A couple of attorneys in Florida apparently failed kindergarten and, as a result, were [disciplined](#) by the Florida State Bar. As noted by my colleague, [Andrew Biondi, St. Petersburg Times](#) reported on the matter, including e-mail exchanges between the attorneys which involved the following choice comments:

1. In referring to the practice of the other, Attorney A noted that his cases were more important than the “claims that are handled by bottom feeding/scum sucking/loser lawyers like yourself.”
2. Not to be out done, Attorney B noted that the other is disabled as evidenced by his “closely spaced eyes, dull blank stare, bulbous head, lying.”
3. Attorney A notes that Attorney B should check out the mirror and “[t]hen check your children (if they are even yours. ... Better check the garbage man that comes by your trailer to make sure they don’t look like him).”
4. Unrepentant, Attorney B, after learning that Attorney A’s child suffers from a birth defect states that: “While I am sorry to hear about your disabled child, that sort of thing is to be expected when a retard reproduces.”

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Enough. I, for one, am tired of reading articles by lawyers telling of the need for civility. But it is hard to comprehend the absence of any common sense in sending such comments by e-mail or otherwise. By contrast, I would point to the enormous good served by lawyers professionally and in their communities and give a shout out to my partner, [Chip Delano](#), for his years of service to the bar and to the [Boy Scouts of America](#). The bottom line—don't get in the slop with pigs.

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