

**WELCOME OUR
NEW ATTORNEY**

JEFFREY P. PARTINGTON

Jeffrey served as a law clerk for us in 2006 and has worked at multiple firms in the area since graduating from University of Richmond School of Law. Most recently, Jeffrey was a partner at a prominent local defense firm.

Jeffrey has extensive experience practicing in the courts of Norfolk, Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Newport News, Portsmouth, Hampton, and Suffolk. A Virginia Beach native himself, he attended William & Mary and the University of Richmond School of Law where he graduated cum laude. He will primarily serve clients seeking legal help with personal injury, workers' compensation, and business law and has worked on both sides of the aisle.. [~read more](#)

CITY OF MERMAIDS

The newest addition to the Norfolk Mermaid family can be found at the recently renovated Waterside District! But did you know that this mermaid swam here all the way from Chesapeake? That's because the honor of painting her went to 14-year-old Sydney Diaz, a freshman at Great Bridge High School who also attends the Governor's School for the Arts. Diaz worked for more than 40 hours after school to put this beautiful mermaid design together! And we have to say it's a beautiful sight from the upper floors of our office.

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**START A NEW TRADITION
THIS SEASON WITH
TURKEY AND STUFFING
MEATBALLS**

Try something new for the holidays that will be a hit at all of your holiday gatherings!

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TIPSY, BUZZED OR BLITZEN?

PLAN A SOBER RIDE WHEN YOU CELEBRATE

According to the NHTSA, during the holiday season between Thanksgiving and New Years, the average number of fatalities involving an alcohol-impaired driver rises by 34%. Over a five-year period, more than 4,000 people have died in alcohol-related incidents in December alone. Crashes are 4-times more likely to happen at night, and many fatalities can be avoided with careful planning and responsible drinking.

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The most important thing about our law practice is helping people.

THE
DECKER
LAW FIRM

Decker, Cardon, Thomas, Weintraub, & Neskis, PC



PLAN A SOBER RIDE WHEN YOU CELEBRATE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

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You can help make roadways safer and ensure that you can enjoy the festivities without incurring a DUI or endangering others by planning ahead this holiday season:

If you are going to drink, entrust your keys to the host of the event or other responsible person as soon as you get there. This can be a designated driver, a close coworker, or a relative. Be sure to select this person ahead of time and discuss this strategy with them.

Keep a list of nearby cab companies in your wallet or saved on your smartphone. Dial 1-800-TAXI-USA for immediate taxi service or download the company's free mobile app, Taximobile, to find a taxi service near you. If you are intoxicated and need a ride home, consider using a service like Lyft or Uber. The popular ride-sharing applications cost about as much as one drink per ride and keep your hands off the wheel.

Avoid driving late at night. Crashes are 4-times more likely to occur after dark during the holidays. The safest way to avoid incidents on the road is to plan your drive times around routine congestion and road conditions. Remember there is no stigma attached to deciding not to drink at a holiday social gathering. Take on the role of a designated driver for someone else, and try some of that holiday punch!

As the host of a get-together this season, you are integral in helping to prevent drunk driving and DUI incidents. If you serve alcoholic beverages, be sure to also serve plenty of food, as a full stomach helps alcohol absorb more slowly into the bloodstream. Provide tasty alcohol-free alternatives to alcoholic beverages so that designated drivers won't feel left out or be tempted to indulge. Pay attention to your guests' behavior and serve alcohol accordingly. It's usually smart to stop serving alcoholic drinks an hour or two before the party ends.

However, if you find yourself in an accident involving alcohol or other substances, call the experienced attorneys at The Decker Law Firm. Our long history and experience in criminal traffic violations and drunk driving charges can make the difference in the resolution of your individual traffic situation.

Call The Decker Law Firm right now at 757-622-3317.

Start a New Tradition This Season With Turkey and Stuffing Meatballs

by Kelsey Holt
cookingwithcab.com



Ground turkey meatballs mixed with celery, onions, and cornbread stuffing mix. Thanksgiving in a bowl!

Prep Time: 5 mins • Cook Time: 20 mins • Total Time: 25 mins

Servings: 4

Ingredients

- 1 lb lean ground turkey (I used 96%)
- 2 cups cornbread stuffing mix, lightly crushed
- 1 celery stalk, diced
- 1 small yellow onion, finely diced
- 2 cloves minced garlic
- 2 eggs
- 2 tbsp chopped fresh parsley
- 1/2 cup low sodium chicken broth
- Salt and pepper, to taste

Instructions:

- 1 Preheat oven to 400 F and spray a baking sheet with non-stick spray.
- 2 Place cornbread mix in a large bag and gently crush with hands or a rolling pin. You want the stuffing to act as the breadcrumb in these meatballs, so you want that consistency rather than huge chunks of stuffing.
- 3 Combine all ingredients in a large bowl and mix. Using your hands or a large kitchen scoop, form meatballs and place about an inch apart on baking sheet.
- 4 Spray meatballs with olive oil cooking spray and bake for 20 minutes. This recipe yields about 20 meatballs
- 5 Serve and enjoy!



decker's city of mermaids

The Norfolk Mermaids have graced the streets and buildings of Norfolk for well over a decade.



Mermaid Spotlight

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Bringing an Idea to Life

In 1999, Pete Decker, Jr. (1936-2012) introduced the idea of mermaids at Nauticus during a breakfast with 300 Norfolk leaders. The concept is attributed to his wife, Bess, who had recently returned from Chicago and suggested Norfolk do something similar to the Windy City's "Cows on Parade" art exhibit.

Mermaids were picked to represent Norfolk's nautical heritage, and the idea took off from there. Within a few months, local bronze sculptors mass-produced 130 life-size mermaid castings, and talented artists from all over Norfolk were commissioned to bring the castings to life.

The decorated mermaids—all different and special with their own quirky personalities—were then auctioned off at the event "Mermaids on Parade" in November, 2000.

The beautiful sculptures were placed outside hospitals, schools, community organizations, and countless other Norfolk establishments and homes.

A Symbol of Norfolk Pride

Since then, many more mermaids have been added to the family, and they have become a recognizable symbol of our city. Norfolk natives carry the mermaid symbol with them wherever they go. Whether they wear it as a necklace, a t-shirt, or simply a warm memory, the Norfolk mermaid has traveled the world.

Representing happiness, bringing us beauty, and always welcoming us home, today, the mermaid is more than a logo for the city. It's a symbol of Norfolk pride.



welcome our new attorney

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Jeffrey has extensive experience practicing in the courts of Norfolk, Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Newport News, Portsmouth, Hampton, and Suffolk. A Virginia Beach native himself, he attended William & Mary and the University of Richmond School of Law where he graduated cum laude. He will primarily serve clients seeking legal help with personal injury, workers'



compensation, and business law and has worked on both sides of the aisle.

Jeffrey believes that attention to detail is incredibly important, saying, "most cases are made or broken by the details." Jeffrey is a passionate advocate for his clients in the courtroom. He enjoys helping people get the representation they deserve.

Jeffrey started at the firm on Monday, June 5th, and we are excited to work with him to serve the citizens of Hampton Roads. We have full faith in his knowledge, ability, and passion for law. We can't wait to see what new tools he will bring to our firm.

Jeffrey Partington is a trustworthy and compassionate advocate for the injured

by Donna Sanders Corbus

At age 33, Jeffrey Partington has been practicing law for almost a decade. Although Jeff has won cases on behalf of some large companies, one case stands out in his mind. He represented an employee who was injured on the job. He won the case and the worker was extremely grateful. "It was so gratifying to see that I could make such an impact on someone's life. It wasn't just a win; it meant something," Jeff says. He joined the team at The Decker Law Firm in June where helping injured people is their specialty. Previously a defense attorney, his main focus today is personal injury.

Jeff comes from a large family and was born in New Haven, Connecticut. His dad was a physician in the Navy. In 1989, his family was living in Castro Valley, California and Jeff vividly remembers the devastating San Francisco-Oakland earthquake that shook the area. A few years later, when Jeff was seven, the family relocated to Hampton Roads.

Jeff's parents still live in Virginia Beach. His father, Jonathan, is a neurosurgeon and his mother, Deborah, is in real estate. He is close to his siblings, although these days they are scattered all over the world. Older brother, Josh, is an attorney in Northern Virginia, specializing in trademark law. His sister, Jill, teaches English in Israel, and younger brother, Jordan, lives in Los Angeles and is a real estate agent. Jeff is looking forward to being reunited with them at Jordan's wedding in November.

After graduating from Norfolk Academy in 2001, Jeff headed to William and Mary as a government major. It wasn't until his senior year that he decided to become an attorney. Jeff graduated in 2005, and then went on to the University of Richmond School of Law, graduating in 2008. After his first year of law school, Jeff was actually a law clerk at The Decker Law Firm. The experience taught him how important it was to really pay attention to details.

Jeff enjoys spending time in his Virginia Beach home with his family. He's been married to Kristin for five years. "She's wonderful," Jeff says proudly. They are the parents of sons Jack, who is almost four, and Charlie who is 18 months old, and they are expecting a third child in April.

The young father loves spending time with his boys. They enjoy going to Williamsburg, the Children's Museum or going to the Virginia Beach Aquarium. Kristin also grew up in Virginia Beach and has plenty of family that they socialize with on weekends.

Jeff is also the proud dad of fur babies, Oliver, a long-haired miniature dachshund, and Daisy, formerly a stray, sickly cat they took in when she found her way into their backyard.

Jeff starts each day by running and

"It was so gratifying to see that I could make such an impact on someone's life. It wasn't just a win; it meant something."

~ Jeffrey Partington



Paralegal Lisa Lechner and Jeff Partington work together to help people

lifting weights. This keeps him healthy and helps him focus on his cases for the day. He believes it's important to be in the best physical condition to fight for his clients.

The attorney has a great deal of compassion for others, perhaps because of a very serious event surrounding his first child. Jack was 17 weeks in utero when it was discovered by EVMS Maternal Fetal Medicine that he had transposition of the great arteries, or D-TGA. This condition is caused when the two major arteries leaving the heart are connected to the wrong ventricles. It was a stressful time for the young couple. Twelve days after birth, Jack had a surgery known as the switch operation at Levine Children's Hospital in Charlotte

to correct the problem. Today, Jack has a functionally normal heart and is an energetic toddler, but would have died without the surgery. Jeff remembers when people stepped in to help his family, and this fuels him to passionately represent each and every client.

"I'm an advocate for the injured because I know what it's like to have to deal with a very serious frightening situation," Jeff declares.

Paralegal Lisa Lechner aids Jeff in pursuing justice. She joined The Decker Law Firm in May, and brought with her a vast array of experience. Originally from North Carolina, Lisa graduated from Cox High School in Virginia Beach and attended Tidewater Community College. She now lives in Chesapeake and is married to Scott. Between them, they have five grown children.

"I became a paralegal by chance. I wanted to have a job that was a career and when I accepted an entry level position at my first law firm, the paralegal there saw something promising in me. She took me under her wing and began mentoring me," Lisa says. Her career took off and she has been enjoying success for almost 30 years. Lisa explains paralegals deal with the clients and maintain the documents. The attorney decides the strategy of the case and the paralegal facilitates and makes it happen. "If a paralegal does their job well, the attorney's job appears effortless," Jeff explains.

The Decker Law Firm was founded by Peter Decker, Jr. He passed away in 2012, but left a compelling legacy: helping people. The law firm is one of the most successful and respected in Hampton Roads. Prospective candidates applying to the firm must share Mr. Decker's priority of helping people to even be considered for employment.

Jeff truly believes in his clients and represents them with zeal, to such a great degree that after a trial people have approached him and asked to hire him as their attorney. In fact, Martin Thomas, Jr., another attorney for The Decker Law Firm, was so impressed with Jeff after seeing him try a case that he suggested to the firm that they hire him. Jeff's passion for helping people, his commitment to his clients and his skill as an attorney make him a great addition to The Decker Law Firm.