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Florida League of Cities Presents Chip Morrison With Raymond C. Sittig Distinguished Public Service Award

Local attorney honored for significant contributions to Florida's cities

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The Florida League of Cities recently presented one of its employees, attorney Chip Morrison, with the Raymond C. Sittig Distinguished Public Service Award. This award honors a non-elected person who has made significant contributions to the welfare of Florida's cities.

"Chip is a once-in-a-lifetime kind of person, and his depth of knowledge is mind-blowing," said FLC Executive Director Mike Sittig as he presented Morrison with the award. "Think of all the complex issues cities deal with and have dealt with for the last four decades. Now picture one person who is a detailed legal scholar on *all* those issues. That's a picture of Chip Morrison."

"His commitment to our mission is unmatched," continued Sittig. "Many of you may not know him personally, as he likes to stay in the background. But let me promise you, you know his accomplishments. The common denominator in every single municipal victory and every League victory has been him. It's an honor to recognize Chip and his many contributions to Florida's cities."

The Raymond C. Sittig Distinguished Public Service Award is named in honor of Raymond "Ray" C. Sittig, executive director emeritus for the Florida League of Cities, who served the League from 1959 until his passing in 2012.

Morrison accepted the award in front of hundreds of Florida's local officials. True to form, rather than focusing on himself and his accomplishments, Morrison took that opportunity to praise them and their public service.

"I come from a long line of public servants, so I ought to know public service when I see it," said Morrison. "Everything you do as municipal officials touches every citizen in your community. Yours is the greatest public service of all. It is the epitome of what public service is all about. Thank you. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve you."

Morrison has represented the League since 1982, first serving as general counsel from June 1990 until October 2017, and then as "of counsel," a position he still holds today. Throughout his career, Morrison has routinely consulted with municipal attorneys around the state, given lectures and written numerous articles on municipal law. He has also authored and coauthored more than 40 legal briefs that have

been filed with Florida's appellate courts on municipal issues with statewide concern and lobbied municipal issues in the state Legislature for 15 legislative sessions. He has served on the Executive Council of the City, County and Local Government Law section of The Florida Bar and served as executive secretary for the Florida Municipal Attorneys Association.

Morrison has been recognized and honored by several prominent institutions throughout his career including receiving the Ralph A. Marsicano Award from the Florida Bar's City, County and Local Government Law section for his "significant and outstanding contributions to the development of local government law in Florida," being named Municipal Attorney of the Year and receiving the Paul S. Buchman Award from the Florida Municipal Attorneys Association and being named one of *Florida Trend's* Legal Elite in the category of Government/Non-Profit Attorney in 2014. He is also rated AV Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell.

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Founded in 1922, the Florida League of Cities is the united voice for Florida's municipal governments. Its goals are to promote local self-government and serve the needs of Florida's cities. Florida's cities are formed by their citizens and governed by their citizens. The League is founded on the belief that local self-government is the keystone of American democracy. For more information, visit <u>floridaleagueofcities.com</u>.