

# 2007 Florida Cities of Excellence Awards Program ▶

**Category** (Please check one) See Award Criteria for more information. Please print or type. One nomination per page.

**Name of Municipality Nominated** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Nominated by** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of City/Town/Village)

**Name of Municipality Nominated** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Nominated Project** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Nominated by** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of City/Town/Village)

**Name of Individual Nominated** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Nominated by** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of City/Town/Village)

**Name of Individual Nominated** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Nominated by** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of City/Town/Village)

**Name of Individual Nominated** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Title** \_\_\_\_\_ **Department** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Nominated by** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of City/Town/Village)

**Name of Individual Nominated** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Nominated by** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of City/Town/Village)

**Name of Individual Nominated** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Nominated by** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of City/Town/Village)

**Name of Individual Nominated** Samuel S. Goren  
**Nominated by** City of Coral Springs, FL  
(Name of City/Town/Village)

**Name of Individual Nominated** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Nominated by** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of City/Town/Village)

**Name of Individual Nominated** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Nominated by** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of City/Town/Village)

The following person will be the main contact if your city's nominee is selected as a finalist.

Please print or type.

Name Kevin Knutson

Title Director of Communications & Marketing

Government City of Coral Springs

Address 9551 W. Sample Rd., Coral Springs, FL 33065

Telephone Number 954-344-1091 Fax 954-344-1171

E-mail Address KKnutson@coralsprings.org

This nomination has been voted on and approved by a majority of the city council/commission.

Signed   
City Clerk

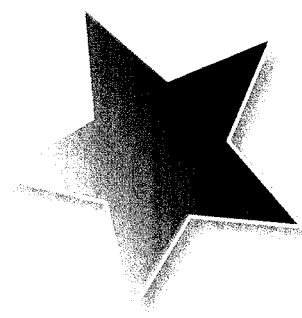
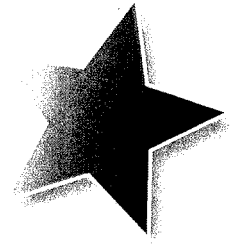
The judges will use the narrative and supportive information to select the award winners. Nominators/nominees are asked not to contact the judges directly.

In the narrative, please be clear and concise, using the Award Criteria to support the selection of your nominee. Please type (or print in black ink), up to 1,200 words, double-spaced on white 8-1/2" x 11" paper.

Please include a word count: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of words

Up to 10 pages of supportive information (newspaper clippings, photographs, letters from constituents, etc.), on 8-1/2" x 11" paper (single-sided) may be provided. Please do not include videotapes, DVDs, CDs or Power-Point presentations.

Submit nominations by **August 10, 2007:**  
Florida League of Cities, Inc.  
Attn: Florida Cities of Excellence  
301 S. Bronough Street, Suite 300 (32301)  
P.O. Box 1757  
Tallahassee, FL 32302-1757



**FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES  
FLORIDA CITIES OF EXCELLENCE AWARD PROGRAM**

**CITY ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR**

***Samuel S. Goren, City Attorney  
City of Coral Springs***

Sam Goren, City Attorney for the City of Coral Springs since 1994, deserves to be recognized as the Florida League of Cities "City Attorney of the Year" in 2007 not only because he is widely considered a top government lawyer in Florida, but also because of the many personal attributes he brings to his profession.

In addition to Coral Springs, Mr. Goren also serves as the City Attorney for other Broward cities including North Lauderdale, Tamarac, and Pembroke Pines, as well as providing representation to other governmental entities and taxing authorities. He began his career in law after graduating with a bachelor's degree from the University of Rhode Island, then a law degree from the North Carolina Central University School of Law in 1975.

Prior to joining the law firm of Goren, Cherof, Doody & Ezrol in 1978, Mr. Goren served in the Office of General Counsel for Broward County, Florida where he served as counsel to several County and Charter Advisory bodies including the Supervisor of Elections of Broward County.

Mr. Goren is a member of the Florida Bar since 1975, and is admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. District Courts for the Southern Districts of Florida, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals. He is also a certified Florida Supreme Court and Circuit Court Mediator. He has served as Mediator at the request of both governmental and private parties in matters of eminent domain and administrative practice. Mr. Goren has also acted as Special Master in election matters and municipal matters on a periodic basis, having served from 1976 through 2001 as General Counsel for the Supervisor of Elections of Broward County. It is notable that he was in that position during the presidential

election of 2000, which unexpectedly thrust Broward County into the national limelight. His professionalism and commitment were proven during that period.

In 2005, he was named by his peers among Florida's Legal Elite, a listing of the most highly respected lawyers published by *Florida Trend* magazine. As a member of that group, he is among a prestigious cadre representing the top 1.6 percent of the 54, 548 Florida Bar members who are practicing in the state. This special recognition is a testimony to his character, judgment, integrity and professionalism, as he was selected by attorneys with whom he has worked, and who hold him in the highest regard.

Again his integrity and professionalism were recognized when he received the 2006 Lynn Futch Professionalism in Practice Award. This award recognizes those in the legal profession who exhibit the highest characteristics of professionalism in his or her daily practice, as well as in their personal life. In appreciation for his twelve years of dedication as an impeccable role model as a community professional, leader and resource, the City Commission recently proclaimed June 20 and 21, 2006 as "Sam Goren Days" in the City of Coral Springs.

Mr. Goren is actively involved in the Broward County and Coral Springs communities. He serves as General Counsel for the South Florida Regional Planning Council, the Hillsboro Inlet District, the Housing Authority of the City of North Lauderdale, the North Lauderdale Water Control District, the Area Agency on Aging and several Special Counsel assignments to South Florida local government.

In addition to his professional and civic leadership positions, Mr. Goren has lectured for the Florida Bar, the Institute of Government at FAU/FIU, the Lorman Foundation, Continuing Legal Education (CLE) International, Florida City Clerk's Association conferences and events, and many other local governmental agencies in the area of election law, municipal and governmental practice.

"I think one of the most admirable and amazing facts about Sam is that he travels at his own expense to make presentations at numerous Florida City Clerk's Association conferences

and events,” said Coral Springs City Clerk Peter Richardson. “Even though he neither requests nor receives reimbursement for his travel expenses to these speaking engagements, in the nine years that I have known Sam, he has been a speaker at least fifteen to twenty events.”

The Florida Bar Association awarded him the Marsicano Award for Excellence in Local Government Law Practice in 1986, an early indication of the potential he has. Broward County Commissioner Ilene Lieberman, who has known Sam Goren for more than 25 years, has only the highest praise. “Sam has given tirelessly to assist local governments. He is held in highest esteem – so much so that he is known as the ‘Dean of Municipal Law’.”

Coral Springs City Manager Michael Levinson also holds Mr. Goren in high regard. “In 30 years of management, Sam has been the best corporate counsel I’ve ever had the pleasure of working with,” he said.

Mayor Scott Brook agrees with Mr. Levinson and considers Sam the consummate professional. “His legal acumen has served our City well for years, and he is most deserving of this recognition.”

Besides his professional affiliations and recognitions, Sam is a devoted husband to wife Shellie and father to two children, Jessie and Daniel.

Impressive as his resume may be, to those who know Sam, his accomplishments pale in comparison to the soul and grace he brings to every interaction. To his co-workers, employers, and friends; indeed, everyone who has the honor to know him, Sam is unfailingly courteous, kind, and a delight to work with. He has a way of listening carefully to everyone he interacts with, remembering details about each person he meets. He is accessible at all hours and any day to anyone who might need his encyclopedic knowledge or sound judgment.

One of the challenges of any legal professional is in making the sometimes arcane concepts and complicated procedures understandable to citizens, a task Sam handles with clarity, simplicity, and infectious humor. The fact that he is genuinely funny helps people

traverse difficult grounds at times and he uses humor in a way that is always appropriate and often self-deprecating. It's one of the many ways his humility and authenticity become readily apparent.

He is also is gifted with genuine gravitas, bringing a measured, thoughtful approach to each situation. He is a man of unimpeachable character, ethical, fair, and considerate. His concern for others is palpable. His passion is for finding the most elegant solution, the one that serves all.

Acknowledging the contributions of others, he never seeks the spotlight, but rather generates inclusive and collective success. His advice reveals opportunity while avoiding pitfalls, and he has the capacity to recognize an emerging reality and act in accordance with it. He shows great courage.

Sam Goren is truly a remarkable man.