

**Florida League of Cities, Inc.  
2008 Cities of Excellence Awards Program**

**City Attorney of the Year**

**Nomination of William M. Grodnick  
Submitted by the City of Hialeah**

William M. Grodnick, City Attorney for the City of Hialeah, deserves to be recognized as the Florida League of Cities "City Attorney of the Year" for 2008, not only for his success as City Attorney, but also because of the numerous personal attributes he brings to his profession. Mr. Grodnick's expertise, professionalism, wisdom and dedication have been vital to the City of Hialeah for the last sixteen years.

Mr. Grodnick obtained a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Pennsylvania, and received his law degree from the University of Miami School of Law. Before joining the City of Hialeah in 1992 as an Assistant City Attorney and principal advisor to the City's Planning and Zoning Board, Mr. Grodnick worked as Assistant Attorney General, where he served as Head of the Fair Trade Practices Division in Miami. Mr. Grodnick also practiced in the private sector, where he enjoyed success as a commercial litigator and appellate attorney. Mr. Grodnick was appointed City Attorney for the City of Hialeah in 1998.

Mr. Grodnick is a member in good standing of the Florida and Texas Bars, and is admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States, the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court of Appeals, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida.

As City Attorney for Hialeah, Mr. Grodnick is responsible for managing the Law Department, and advising the Mayor, the City Council, Department Heads and numerous

boards of the City. Mr. Grodnick oversees all litigations, claims and suits involving the City of Hialeah. Mr. Grodnick meticulously and expertly drafts City ordinances, resolutions and other legal instruments; negotiates and drafts agreements; advises staff; provides training seminars to the public; and handles a multitude of legal issues on a daily basis, as is expected from a full service Law Department. Mr. Grodnick was the principal author of the City's new Charter that was approved by voter referendum in 1998.

In the past sixteen years, the City of Hialeah has undergone unprecedented growth and urban revitalization. Mr. Grodnick drafted the Hialeah Downtown Urban Center District that spurred downtown redevelopment and was the lead attorney in the City's annexation of three square miles from Miami-Dade County in 2004. These developments have required Mr. Grodnick to revise major sections of the Hialeah Zoning Code, including parking regulations, procedures and standards for variances and nonconformities. Mr. Grodnick also drafted a new Sign Code that reflects the City's values and protects against sign pollution. Mr. Grodnick authored complete revisions to the Code Enforcement Ordinance, the Fire Prevention Code, the Minimum Housing Code and the Hialeah Affordable Housing Plan. Mr. Grodnick ensures that City Codes keep up with current economic and civic trends, and recommends changes in ordinances accordingly. Mr. Grodnick's vast knowledge of planning and zoning issues has allowed the City to devise ordinances that encourage economic growth, while protecting City neighborhoods and preserving the quality of life for Hialeah residents. Most recently, Mr. Grodnick has been a major advisor to the Mayor and the City Council through the process of opening and running the City's first Charter High School.

Mr. Grodnick approaches his role as City Attorney with an enormous amount of integrity, commitment and pride. During Mr. Grodnick's tenure, he has provided stability, as well as invaluable institutional knowledge and insight in the provision of legal services to our City. In his dealings with City officials and employees, Mr. Grodnick works diligently to provide timely and well-researched legal advice. Mr. Grodnick has an open door policy, and is accessible to anyone who might need his sound judgment. Mr. Grodnick is a mentor and a model of professionalism and ethics for the junior attorneys in his office.

An accomplished speaker, Mr. Grodnick has lectured professional organizations such as the Florida Municipal Attorneys Association in the area of innovative zoning techniques. Because he is so versed in the area of zoning and land use, his lectures draw large audiences.

Mr. Grodnick is actively involved in his community. He has held several official positions, including President of the Jewish Vocational Service, Inc., a not-for-profit organization that services the elderly, the disabled and the community at large. Besides his professional achievements and recognitions, Mr. Grodnick is a devoted husband to wife Debby, a Judaic-studies teacher, father to Jane, Jon, Katy and Kevin and a proud grandfather.

Mr. Grodnick is selfless and dedicated to providing excellent legal counsel to the City of Hialeah, its elected officials and all those in need of his expertise. Mr. Grodnick exemplifies professionalism, and deserves to be recognized as the Florida League of Cities "Attorney of the Year" for 2008.