

George Trovato – City of Deltona

Florida Cities of Excellence Award Program
2008 City Attorney of the Year Nominee

Deltona is a city of over 87,000 residents with a total annual budget of 125 million dollars and is the largest municipality in Volusia County. George Trovato is the only attorney employed by the City and is tasked with attending the monthly meetings and advising Planning & Zoning, Special Magistrate, Firefighter's Pension Board, Water Utility, six other advisory boards, three subcommittees, as well as the bi-monthly meetings of the City Commission. To say he has a full plate is an understatement.

George began with the City of Deltona in September of 2003 as a law clerk, became our first and only Assistant City Attorney the following year, and is now our City Attorney. George has been a loyal and dedicated City employee for the past five years.

George's hard work, commitment and teamwork approach has earned him several awards and recognitions. He is the only City employee to be recognized with an award by the Volusia League of Cities, during their inaugural awards recognition, with the 2007 Silver Star President's Award for distinguished service for going beyond the call of duty and surpassing what is expected in 2006. He was fortunate enough to be a finalist as City Employee of the Year in 2007 by the Florida League of Cities.

Furthermore, George was acknowledged by the City in 2006 for his dedicated service and extraordinary efforts to collect outstanding enforcement services fines of over \$150,000 and satisfaction of liens totaling over \$700,000. In 2007, the Mayor of the City of Deltona presented George with a Certificate of Recognition for his dedication to the City and his outstanding community service.

George, in a team effort, helped save the City over \$200,000 in insurance premiums for property, liability, and workers compensation insurance this past year through committee review of our assets and a competitive bidding process. In addition, George has taken the initiative to lead the development and revitalization of our "Safety First" program to expand safety awareness.

George has been instrumental in the resolution of several key litigation resolutions which could have possibly delayed multimillion dollar road projects. His ability to coordinate with various contractors, as well as with City and County department employees, ensures that City projects are expedited and not slowed down by legal review.

The challenge of creating the 2008/2009 City budget proposals was an eye opening experience after Amendment 1 was passed. He persisted through the lengthy process and contributed to the overall City budget planning and preparation process, which realized over twelve (12) million dollars in expenditure reductions, without any lay-offs.

George lives 30 miles from the City of Deltona but has committed his personal time to serving our community. George continues a free legal community service program, in conjunction with the Deltona Civic Association and Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, which has helped over 100 residents such as the elderly and low-income families who cannot afford an attorney. He also makes time to conduct free legal foreclosure clinics, provide pro bono advice, and distribute information on available social service resources in the community on weekends.

George has an incredible relationship with the citizens of our City. He is a board member of two local non-profit organizations based in our City. His involvement, accomplishments and contributions to these organizations has resulted in, but is not limited to, the following:

- Volunteered to be a legal advocate for the 2007 Volusia County Tornado victims;
- Fundraiser for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life;
- Helped distribute free school supplies to over 500 low-income children during the start of the last three school years;
- Participated in several fundraisers for food and toy drives which are provided to families during the winter holidays;
- Helped to provide free Spanish and English language classes to citizens and City employees;
- Provided workforce skills training to help homeless individuals return to work;
- Made personal contributions of several thousand dollars to non-profit organizations;
- Personally volunteered several hundred hours to local event and non-profit organizations this year;
- Involved with the Deltona Civic Association to organize the Annual Deltona Day Parade for the last three years; and
- Volunteered to provide free tax preparation services to the elderly.

George has completed five years of outstanding, dependable, dedicated and reliable service to the City of Deltona.

George has future plans of developing municipal government education, law awareness, and public relations programs for high school students in cooperation with the Volusia County School Board and the Florida Bar Justice Teaching program, which is intended as a proactive approach to promote public participation in municipal government.

For these and other reasons not mentioned, we believe that George Trovato should be strongly considered for the 2008 Florida Cities of Excellence City Attorney of the Year Award.

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