

ANTHONY A. GARGANESE

City Attorney  
for the City of Winter Springs



# BROWN, GARGANESE, WEISS & D'AGRESTA, P.A.

*Attorneys at Law*

Debra S. Babb-Nutcher<sup>†</sup>  
Joseph E. Blitch  
Usher L. Brown<sup>†</sup>  
Suzanne D'Agresta<sup>‡</sup>  
Anthony A. Garganese<sup>‡</sup>  
J.W. Taylor  
Jeffrey S. Weiss

Offices in Orlando, Kissimmee, Cocoa,  
Ft. Lauderdale & Tampa

Gail C. Bradford  
Scott J. Dornstein  
Mitchell B. Haller  
Katherine W. Latorre  
Amy J. Pitsch

Erin J. O'Leary  
Catherine D. Reischmann  
William E. Reischmann, Jr.  
*Of Counsel*

<sup>†</sup>Board Certified Civil Trial Lawyer

<sup>‡</sup>Board Certified City, County & Local Government Law

August 17, 2006

Florida League of Cities, Inc.  
Attn: Florida Cities of Excellence  
301 S. Bronough Street Suite 300 (32301)  
P.O. Box 1757  
Tallahassee, Florida 32302-1757

**Re: Nomination of Anthony A. Garganese for City Attorney of the Year**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Enclosed please find the documentation in support of my nomination for City Attorney of the Year. This nomination packet is being submitted in support of the nomination made by the City of Winter Springs, of which I have the honor and pleasure of serving as their city attorney.

While I am honored and humbled by the fact that the City of Winter Springs Mayor and Commission thought highly enough of my legal skills and professionalism to nominate me as a candidate for this very prestigious award, I wish to recognize my assistant city attorneys and staff for their daily commitment and dedication. The city and I are very fortunate to have such competent and professional assistants to successfully help handle the myriad of legal challenges facing municipalities today. Particularly, I wish to recognize attorneys Debra Babb-Nutcher, Kate Latorre, and Erin J. O'Leary. Moreover, I am very fortunate in so many ways to have the pleasure of working with such outstanding and dedicated city council members and city staff. Without all of them, the accomplishments I have made during the past year, which are referenced in my nomination packet, would not have been possible.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of me for this award.

Sincerely,

  
Anthony A. Garganese  
City Attorney Winter Springs

**FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES  
FLORIDA CITIES OF EXCELLENCE AWARD PROGRAM  
CITY ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR  
NARRATIVE**

**ANTHONY A. GARGANESE  
CITY ATTORNEY OF WINTER SPRINGS**

Anthony A. Garganese dedicates his entire practice to serving municipalities throughout Florida, and is recognized as a leading municipal lawyer in Florida. In particular, he has served as the City Attorney of Winter Springs since 1999. During the past seven years, he has served as the City's chief legal advisor, and is responsible for representing the city in all legal proceedings and for advising the City Commission, City Manager and staff, and many of the city boards and committees. He provides a wide array of legal services to the City on a daily basis with professionalism, enthusiasm, pride, and commitment. These services include drafting numerous ordinances, resolutions, and other legal instruments; negotiating and drafting agreements; handling all aspects of litigation and other adversarial matters; advising staff; providing training seminars; and handling a multitude of other legal issues, as expected from a full service law department. His commitment over the years has provided stability and valuable institutional knowledge and insight in the provision of legal services to our community.

He is certified by the Florida Bar in City, County & Local Government Law, and is rated "AV" by Martindale Hubbell. Based on peer review, he was also given the honor of being listed in the Orlando Business Journal as 2004 and 2005 "Best of the Bar" and in "2006 Florida Super Lawyers." These honors are a testament by his peers that he

practices municipal law with the utmost professionalism, judgment, integrity, commitment, and pride.

His commitment to providing superior legal services to municipalities is also evidenced by his law firm Brown, Garganese, Weiss & D'Agresta, P.A. Under his stewardship as managing shareholder of his law firm, he has brought together some of the finest municipal law talent in the State of Florida. His firm currently serves as the city attorney for seven (7) municipalities, provides special counsel to a variety of other municipalities, and serves as panel counsel in the Central Florida region for the Florida League of Cities Insurance Trust.

In addition, because of his experiences at the front lines of complex municipal law issues, this year he was invited to speak, once again, at annual conferences sponsored by the Florida Municipal Attorneys Association and the Florida League of Cities. At the Florida Municipal Attorneys' conference, Mr. Garganese gave an important lecture to his fellow City Attorneys on the recent instability in the law regarding the regulation of adult entertainment establishments. During the annual Florida League of Cities conference, he participated as a guest lecturer, with several Mayors, regarding the extremely important issue of preventing the erosion of municipal home rule authority by charter counties. Additionally, during the recent Florida legislative session, he also worked with the Florida League of Cities regarding the important issue of preservation of municipal home rule powers.

Mr. Garganese has also provided pro bono legal services to the Florida League of Cities. Specifically, he volunteered to write an amicus curie brief in the case *Daytona Grand, Inc. v. City of Daytona Beach*, which is currently pending before the United

States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. On behalf of the Florida League of Cities and its members, he advocated against raising the evidentiary burden that municipalities must satisfy in order to demonstrate that a substantial governmental interest exists to regulate the negative adverse secondary effects of adult entertainment on the community.

Furthermore, the City of Winter Springs is currently creating a new town center covering over several hundred acres of land, with multiple property owners, using new urbanism land development concepts. Mr. Garganese has been intimately involved in the Town Center project. He has assisted the City in negotiating and drafting numerous development agreements with developers, handled necessary real estate transactions, advised on numerous development permit applications including comprehensive plan amendments, rezonings, and final engineering approvals, and worked on getting the Florida Department of Community Affairs to approve the Town Center as an Urban Business District. Importantly, Mr. Garganese has been at the forefront of attempting to preserve our City's municipal home rule authority against an aggressive county charter amendment which permits the county to preempt municipal comprehensive planning authority within a municipality, including the City of Winter Springs.

No matter what the issue, or what time of day it is presented to him, Mr. Garganese is always ready to respond to our needs. His commitment is second to none. He has displayed excellence in judgment, initiative, integrity, innovation, professionalism, commitment, and citizen relations. We highly endorse and recommend him as the Florida League of Cities City Attorney of the Year.