

Gary L. Sasso

PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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Overview

Gary Sasso represents business clients in securities fraud and consumer fraud class actions and other complex litigation at the trial and appellate level, in the financial services industry, energy sector, products manufacturing industry, and services sector. Gary has tried cases in the areas of securities fraud, business contracts, product liability, professional malpractice, employment discrimination and termination, eminent domain, bankruptcy, construction, administrative law, and land use in Florida, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

Gary has argued appeals on diverse issues including business fraud, federal and state constitutional claims, product liability, personal injury, insurance coverage, national bank regulation, employment discrimination, federal occupational safety and health regulation, eminent domain, county taxation, and public utilities law.

Before joining the firm in 1987, Gary worked as a law clerk for Justice Byron R. White of the U.S. Supreme Court, and as a law clerk for Judge Spottswood W. Robinson III of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

Experience

- Consumer fraud class action against information services firm for violation of consumer privacy rights (resolved through settlement).

- Securities fraud case brought by former shareholders of a company acquired by the defendant (class certification denied and state claims dismissed as preempted).
- Securities fraud class action against issuer for misleading disclosures and violation of accounting irregularities (resolved through settlement).
- Securities fraud class action against financial services firm alleging stock analyst had conflict of interest (resolved through settlement).
- Class action brought against a financial institution for aiding and abetting a Ponzi scheme (dismissed with prejudice).
- Multiple, consolidated securities fraud cases brought by investors in a closed-end investment fund (class certification denied).
- Environmental class action brought against various chemical manufacturers in state court by landowners situated near a Superfund site in central Florida (resolved through settlement).
- Professional liability claim brought on behalf of FDIC against law firm that represented failed bank (obtained \$21 million jury verdict).
- Multi-plaintiff products litigation brought by South American plaintiffs against European chemical manufacturers (case dismissed on grounds of forum non conveniens).
- *Office Depot, Inc. v. AIG Specialty Insurance Co.*, Ninth Circuit. Represented appellee in upholding summary judgment against claim for insurance coverage and indemnification of Office Depot's fees and settlement of qui tam action brought under California False Claims Act on behalf of state purchasers of office supplies.
- *Citrus Cty. Hosp. Bd. v. Citrus Mem'l Health Found., Inc.*, Florida Supreme Court. Represented hospital from trial through appeals in challenge successfully invalidating special law enacted by the Legislature that transferred control over hospital as violative of the Contracts Clause of the Florida Constitution.
- *O'Halloran v. First Union Nat'l Bank of Fla.*, Eleventh Circuit. Represented appellee defending dismissal of claims brought against national bank, alleging that the bank aided and abetted a faith-based Ponzi scheme.
- *Lee v. Russell Cty. Bd. of Educ.*, Eleventh Circuit. Represented appellant in discrimination case establishing standard for adjudicating mixed-motive cases under Title VII.
- *Sadowski v. United Steelworkers of Am., AFL-CIO-CLC*, District of Columbia Circuit. Represented appellant in OSHA case establishing workplace hazard communication standards.
- *Tampa Elec. Co. v. Garcia*, Supreme Court of Florida. Represented appellant in challenge to order by Florida Public Service Commission authorizing development of "merchant" electrical power plants in Florida.
- *Citizens Nat'l Bank & Tr. Co. v. Stockwell*, Supreme Court of Florida. Represented appellee in action brought to challenge action by national bank in terminating executive officers and abrogating employment contracts.

- *Am. Optical Corp. v. Spiewak*, Supreme Court of Florida. Represented defendants in asbestos litigation seeking reversal of ruling that asbestos reform law may not be applied constitutionally to pending litigation.
- *City of Winter Park v. Fla. Power Corp.*, Supreme Court of Florida. Represented appellant in challenge to ruling by intermediate appellate court upholding permanent injunctive relief requiring utility to pay “franchise” payments to local government previously paid under expired agreement.
- *Walter Goldberg v. Fla. Power & Light Co.*, Supreme Court of Florida. Represented appellee in lawsuit in which jury awarded \$30 million to parents of decedent killed in intersection accident attributed to interruption of power to traffic signal.
- *Home Shopping Network, Inc. v. Jovon Broad. Corp.*, Florida Second District Court of Appeal. Represented appellee in defending summary judgment terminating option agreement.
- *Fernandez v. Union Carbide*, Florida Third District Court of Appeal. Represented appellee in appeal from defense verdict in asbestos personal injury case.
- *Inter-Tel, Inc. v. Executone of Fla., Inc.*, Florida Fifth District Court of Appeal. Represented appellant on appeal from \$7 million jury verdict for breach of contract.
- *Nuko Holdings I, LLC v. Mobile Mini, Inc.*, Florida Second District Court of Appeal. Represented appellee in appeal from \$14 million jury verdict for tortious interference with business acquisition contract.

Areas of Focus

Practices

- Litigation and Trials
- Appellate & Trial Support
- Consumer Finance
- Creditors’ Rights and Bankruptcy
- Eminent Domain
- Insurance
- Labor & Employment
- Mass Tort and Product Liability
- Securities Litigation and Enforcement
- Class Actions

Industries

- Insurance
- Securities & Investment Companies

Insights

01.11.2021

Visions of the Future: Gary Sasso, President & CEO of Carlton Fields, P.A.

02.19.2020

Practice Makes Perfect: Mock Oral Arguments and Effective Oral Advocacy

04.04.2019

The Corporate Legal Department of Today and Tomorrow

04.04.2019

The Corporate Legal Department of Today and Tomorrow

08.10.2018

Clients and Lawyers Have Choices

07.15.2015

Alternative Fee Arrangements

09.20.2014

One Question, One Minute with Gary Sasso, Carlton Fields

05.31.2013

The ATL Interrogatories: 10 Questions with Gary Sasso of Carlton Fields

12.31.2012

Embracing Diversity: Beyond Statistics

12.31.2012

Attributes of Success

12.30.2012

Even if Merger isn't in Cards, Agencies Should Work Together More to Better Region

The Tampa Tribune

12.28.2012

Key to Bay Area Transit is Cooperation

Tampa Bay Times

12.09.2012

Moving Forward on the Region's Transportation Needs

The Tampa Tribune

11.05.2012

The Key to Time Management—and Achieving Work/Life Balance

01.06.2012

The LCLD Interviews: Gary Sasso

01.04.2012

Budgets

09.08.2011

Gary Sasso Keeps Carlton Fields Focused on Continuous Improvement

09.01.2011

Toward a New Understanding of Loyalty

04.01.2011

Class Action Litigation: Successful Partnering Between Inside and Outside Counsel (2011 edition)

Thomson/West and Association of Corporate Counsel Treatise

02.01.2010

Class Actions: Successful Partnering Between Inside and Outside Counsel

07.01.2006

Defense of Federal Question Class Actions

PLI Manual on Class Actions

06.01.2005

Class Actions – de Minimis Curat Lex?

ABA Litigation Magazine

05.01.2005

Revisiting Garner and the "Fiduciary" Exception to the Attorney-Client Privilege on Shareholder Litigation

10.28.2004

Defending Federal Question Class Actions

PLI Manual on Class Actions

12.01.2003

Defending Securities Class Actions

ABA Class Actions & Derivative Suits

08.01.2003

Misapplication of Section 48(a) of the ICA as a 'Controlling Person' Provision

The Investment Lawyer

05.01.2003

Preserving the Record: An Exercise in Trial Advocacy

11.01.2002

Circumventing Intent

06.01.1994

Appellate Oral Argument

04.01.1989

Anatomy of the Written Argument

News

03.25.2024

Carlton Fields President and CEO Gary Sasso Recognized as a 2024 “Power 100 Leader” by Tampa Bay Business Journal

01.31.2024

Carlton Fields President and CEO Gary L. Sasso Recognized as a 2024 “Power 100 Leader”

01.01.2024

Gary Sasso Interviewed in Law360: “Fla. Law Firm Leaders Envision Continued Growth in 2024”

11.02.2023

Carlton Fields Welcomes Former U.S. Magistrate Judge Mac R. McCoy Back to the Firm’s Business Litigation Practice

08.03.2023

Gary Sasso Featured in Daily Business Review: “Carlton Fields CEO Gary Sasso Strives to Keep His Firm in the ‘Sweet Spot’”

06.27.2023

Carlton Fields Attorneys Named in Florida Trend’s 2023 Legal Elite Hall of Fame

02.16.2023

Law360: “Carlton Fields Promotes 8 Shareholders in 5 Offices”

02.01.2023

Carlton Fields President and CEO Gary Sasso Recognized as a “Power 100 Leader”

07.01.2022

Carlton Fields Named Top Firm and Attorneys Named Legal Leaders in Florida Trend’s 2022 “Legal Elite”

05.19.2022

Carlton Fields Welcomes 2022 Summer Associate Class

01.28.2022

Gary L. Sasso Discusses Tampa Bay Affordability

01.26.2022

Carlton Fields President and CEO Gary L. Sasso Recognized as a “Power 100 Leader”

12.10.2021

Carlton Fields Snags Litigator for LA Office

12.09.2021

Prominent Litigator Ellyn S. Garofalo Joins Carlton Fields in Los Angeles

11.16.2021

Carlton Fields Taps Own Attorney as Managing Shareholder in Tallahassee

11.12.2021

Carlton Fields President and CEO Gary Sasso Quoted in Tampa Bay Business Journal

11.09.2021

Carlton Fields Names William P. Sklar as Tallahassee Office Managing Shareholder

10.25.2021

Carlton Fields Grows Consultancies as Law Firms Diversify Their Businesses

10.18.2021

Carlton Fields' Gary L. Sasso Named One of Florida's Most Influential Business Leaders

06.28.2021

Carlton Fields Named Top Firm and Attorneys Named Legal Leaders in Florida Trend's 2021 "Legal Elite"

05.12.2021

'They Expect to See the Bills Reduced': Litigators Juggle New Expectation Amid Pandemic

02.26.2021

Carlton Fields' Gary L. Sasso and Lori Baggett Named to Tampa Bay Business Journal's Power 100

01.20.2021

Carlton Fields Celebrates 120 Years

09.30.2020

Carlton Fields' Gary L. Sasso Named One of Florida's Most Influential Business Leaders

09.25.2020

Carlton Fields' Gary L. Sasso Featured in Tampa Bay Business Journal on Lawyer-Client Connection During COVID

07.27.2020

Carlton Fields Joins Law Firm Antiracism Alliance

07.23.2020

Carlton Fields Adds Trial Vet Robert L. Shannon Jr. in Atlanta

07.22.2020

Carlton Fields Welcomes Esteemed Trial Lawyer and Retired U.S. Air Force Two-Star General Robert "Bobby" L. Shannon, Jr.

06.07.2020

Unity in a Time of Crisis

03.17.2020

COVID-19 Update from Carlton Fields

02.05.2020

Carlton Fields' New Chief Operating Officer, Fred O'Malley, Featured in Media

02.05.2020

Distinguished Chief Operating Officer Frederick B. O'Malley Joins Carlton Fields

01.10.2020

Carlton Fields Names Lori Baggett as Tampa Office Managing Shareholder

09.18.2019

Carlton Fields' Gary L. Sasso and Sylvia H. Walbolt Recognized as Two of Florida's Most Influential Business Leaders

08.23.2019

Carlton Fields' Innovation Technology Clerk Wins 3rd Place in Law School Admission Council's Inaugural Justice Innovation Challenge

05.28.2019

Carlton Fields' President & CEO Gary L. Sasso Featured in Invest: Tampa About Legal Tech, Talent, and Regional Development

05.03.2019

Carlton Fields Ranks Among Best in Chambers USA 2019 Guide

04.19.2019

Class Action Research Shows the Cost of Defending High-Risk Litigation Is Up

03.29.2019

Carlton Fields Earns Perfect Score in Corporate Equality Index for 10th Consecutive Year

02.19.2019

Carlton Fields Bolsters its Mass Tort and Product Liability Practice with Group of Attorneys and Consultant

02.01.2019

Media Shines Spotlight on Carlton Fields' New Office and Lawyers; Firm Opens New Jersey Office and Bolsters Real Estate and Insurance Litigation Practices

01.07.2019

Carlton Fields Opens New Jersey Office, Adds Five Attorneys

12.13.2018

Carlton Fields Named to BTI Client Service A-Team

10.19.2018

Corporate Counsel Name Carlton Fields a Leading Law Firm in Five Types of Litigation

10.11.2018

Former Real Estate In-House Counsel and Investment Professional Michael H. Jo Joins Carlton Fields

09.19.2018

Nine Tips for Building a Diverse and Inclusive Law Firm

09.18.2018

Florida Trend Names Gary L. Sasso One of the Most Influential Business Leaders

09.07.2018

Carlton Fields Named Top Law Firm for Innovation and Technology

08.29.2018

Top Litigator Steven B. Weisburd Joins Carlton Fields' Los Angeles Office

08.16.2018

Carlton Fields President and CEO Gary Sasso Featured in The American Law Institute Reporter

07.09.2018

Super Lawyers Honors 81 Carlton Fields Attorneys on 2018 Florida "Super Lawyers" and "Rising Stars"

06.29.2018

Carlton Fields Ranked Top Firm and Attorneys Named Legal Leaders in Florida Trend Magazine's 2018 "Legal Elite"

06.28.2018

Carlton Fields Recognized as a Leader for Diversity

06.12.2018

Carlton Fields' 2018 Class Action Survey Featured in Top Business and Legal Publications

06.12.2018

Carlton Fields' 2018 Class Action Survey Featured in Top Business and Legal Publications

05.18.2018

2018 BTI Brand Elite Recognizes Carlton Fields Among Top Law Firms for Brand and Use of Technology

05.04.2018

Carlton Fields Ranks Among Best in 2018 Chambers USA Guide

04.09.2018

Carlton Fields Adds Preeminent Project Management Executive

02.05.2018

Column: Even With Rapid Buses, Tampa Bay Needs Light Rail

01.22.2018

Carlton Fields Names a New Office Managing Shareholder to Lead Its Tampa Office

12.09.2017

Carlton Fields Congratulates Matt Leopold on his Confirmation to Serve as U.S. EPA General Counsel

11.17.2017

CEOs Inspired by the Fountain of Youth Want to Evolve Tampa Bay's Brand

11.09.2017

Ninth Consecutive Year Carlton Fields Earns Perfect Score in Corporate Equality Index

10.30.2017

Carlton Fields Named Top Performer By Leadership Council on Legal Diversity

09.05.2017

Carlton Fields Congratulates Matt Leopold on his Nomination to be EPA General Counsel

08.22.2017

General Counsel Rank Carlton Fields Among Top Law Firms For Client Service

08.15.2017

78 Carlton Fields Attorneys Named "Best Lawyers in America"

08.15.2017

Eight Carlton Fields Attorneys Named 2018 "Lawyers of the Year" by The Best Lawyers in America

08.02.2017

Law360 Names Carlton Fields a Top Law Firm For Associates and Female and Minority Equity Partners

07.23.2017

Law360 Names Carlton Fields a Top Law Firm For Female Partners

06.28.2017

Carlton Fields Recognized as a Leader for Diversity

06.28.2017

Carlton Fields is a Top Law Firm in U.S. for Diversity

06.23.2017

Florida Super Lawyers Ranks 92 Carlton Fields Attorneys as 2017 “Super Lawyers” and “Rising Stars”

06.21.2017

Carlton Fields Ranked Top Firm and Attorneys Named Legal Leaders in Florida Trend Magazine’s 2017 "Legal Elite"

06.21.2017

Carlton Fields Launches Financial Elder Abuse Practice

05.30.2017

American Lawyer Ranks Carlton Fields Top Law Firm for Diversity

05.25.2017

Straz Center Parking Squeeze Infuriates Patrons, Motivates Search for Solutions

Recognition

- AV Rated by Martindale-Hubbell
- Power 100, *Tampa Bay Business Journal* (2021–2023)

- *The Best Lawyers in America*
 - Tampa “Lawyer of the Year”
 - Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions – Defendants (2018)
 - Legal Malpractice Law – Defendants (2017)
 - Appellate Practice (2013)
 - Appellate Practice, Bet-the-Company Litigation, Commercial Litigation, Legal Malpractice Law – Defendants, Legal Malpractice Law – Plaintiffs, Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions – Defendants (2005–2024)
- Legal Elite Hall of Fame, *Florida Trend Magazine* (2004–2023)
- Florida 500, "Most Influential Business Leaders," *Florida Trend Magazine* (2018–2021, 2023)
- Florida Super Lawyers, *Super Lawyers Magazine* (2006–2023)
- Top 10 Florida Super Lawyers, *Super Lawyers Magazine* (2013)
- Top 50 Tampa Bay Super Lawyers, *Super Lawyers Magazine* (2013–2015)
- Top 100 Florida Super Lawyers, *Super Lawyers Magazine* (2006–2014)
- *Chambers USA* (2006–2018)
- Tampa Bay Business Hall of Fame (2014)
- Tampa Connection's Tampa Citizen of the Year Award (2010)
- Diversity Best Practices' CEO Diversity Leadership Award (2008)
- Top Managing Partners: Head of the Firm, Florida Legal Elite, *Florida Trend Magazine* (2006–2007)
- 100 Lawyers You Need to Know in Securities Litigation, *Lawdragon*

Professional & Community Involvement

- International Academy of Trial Lawyers
 - Fellow
 - Membership limited to 500 trial lawyers, by invitation only
- American Academy of Appellate Lawyers
 - Fellow
 - Membership limited to 500 appellate lawyers, by invitation only
- American Law Institute
 - Council (2011–present)
 - Executive Committee (2012–2018)

- American Bar Association
 - Death Penalty Steering Committee (2008–2010)
 - Section of Litigation
 - Jury Innovation Task Force (2009–2010)
 - Council Member (2003–2006)
 - Co-Chair, Task Force on Independence of the Judiciary (2006–2007)
 - Task Force on Vision Implementation (2006)
 - Editor in Chief, *Litigation* (published by the ABA Section of Litigation) (2001–2002)
- Leadership Council on Legal Diversity
 - Board of Directors (2012–2017)
 - Vice Chair, Talent Development (2012–2017)
- The Florida Bar
 - Gender Diversity Task Force (2016–2017)
- The Florida Council of 100 (2010–present)
 - Board of Directors (2017)
- Straz Center for the Performing Arts
 - Board of Trustees (2008–present)
 - Chair (2014–Present)
 - Vice Chair (2012–2014)
 - Chair, Broadway Ball (2011)
- Tampa Museum of Art
 - Board of Trustees (2013–2016)
- Tampa Bay Partnership
 - Chair, Board of Directors (2009–2010)
 - Executive Committee (2008–2016)
- United Way Suncoast
 - Chair, Regional Board of Directors (2012–2013)
- Tocqueville Society
 - Chair, United Way of Tampa Bay (2010)
- American Heart Association
 - Chair, Heart Ball (2008)
- Tampa Arts Alliance
 - Board of Directors (2021-present)

Speaking Engagements

- "Corporate America Has Failed Black Lawyers – Time for Real Change – Empower the Black Partner," National Bar Association (November 12, 2020)
- "C-Suite + PR Pro Panel," Public Relations Society of America, Tampa, FL (October 8, 2019)
- "Forging Ahead: Tackling Challenges and Embracing Opportunities in Tampa Bay's Transport Sector," Tampa, FL (June 13, 2019)
- "Lessons Learned From Leading Transportation Initiatives," Café con Tampa, Tampa, FL (February 16, 2018)
- "May It Please the Court: Effective Appellate Oral Advocacy," American College of Trial Lawyers and the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers, University of Texas at Austin School of Law, Austin, TX (June 23, 2017)
- "Diversity in All Things," Greater Cincinnati Minority Counsel Program, Cincinnati, OH (May 10, 2012)
- "Appellate Advocacy," Stetson University College of Law (March 2010)
- "Harnessing the Winds of Change to Bring Balance and Meaning to the Workplace," ABA Section of Litigation (August 2008)
- "Opposing Class Certification in the United States," Barreau du Quebec, Montreal, Canada (October 2006)
- "Defending Class Actions," Practising Law Institute, New York, NY (July 2006)
- "Florida Supreme Court Advocacy Seminar," Government Law Section, The Florida Bar (June 2005, June 2006)
- "Energy Policy Act of 2005," Emerging Issues Policy Forum, Orlando, FL (October 2005)
- "Preserving Error for Appeal in Civil Cases, Federal Practice and Courtroom Advocacy," New Orleans, LA (April 2005)
- "Preservation of Error in Civil Cases," 20th Annual Federal Practice & Advocacy Seminar, New Orleans, LA (April 7–8, 2005)
- Annual Program on Successful Appellate Practice sponsored by Stetson University College of Law and the Appellate Practice Section of The Florida Bar. As a core faculty member, presented demonstration oral arguments and lectured on appellate practice, brief writing, and oral advocacy (2005, 2003, 2001, 2000, 1999)
- "Defense of Federal Question Class Actions," Practising Law Institute, New York, NY (July 2005, 2004, 2003)
- "Innovation and Investment in Telecommunications," Emerging Issues Policy Forum, Orlando, FL (April 2004)
- "Preserving the Record on Appeal – An Exercise in Trial Advocacy," Fifth Circuit Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA (January 2004)

- Florida Circuit Judges Conference, Class Action Litigation, Orlando, FL (June 2003)
- "Effective Oral Argument," demonstration oral argument, Practice Before the First District Court of Appeal (January 1999)
- "Effective Oral Argument," demonstration oral argument, Third Annual Liability Claims Institute (July 1999)
- "Appellate Ethics," Annual Meeting of The Florida Bar (1998)

Credentials

Education

- University of Pennsylvania Law School (J.D., magna cum laude, 1977)
 - Editor in Chief, *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*
 - Awarded Peter McCall Prize for attaining the highest grades in law school graduating class
 - Awarded Carrye G. Barenkopf Scholarship for first-in-class ranking
- Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania (B.S., magna cum laude, 1974)

Bar Admissions

- District of Columbia
- Florida
- Pennsylvania

Background

- Litigator, Bredhoff & Kaiser, Washington, D.C. (1979–1987)
- Law Clerk to the Honorable Byron R. White, U.S. Supreme Court (1978–1979)
- Law Clerk to the Honorable Spottswood W. Robinson III, U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia (1977–1978)

Court Admissions

- U.S. Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Third Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida

Clerkships

- Hon. Spottswood W. Robinson III, U.S. Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit
- Hon. Byron R. White, U.S. Supreme Court