



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.
- *Sadlowski 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.

All Insights

02.19.2020	Practice Makes Perfect: Mock Oral Arguments and Effective Oral Advocacy
04.04.2019	The Corporate Legal Department of Today and Tomorrow <i>Of Counsel: The Legal Practice and Management Report</i>
08.10.2018	Clients and Lawyers Have Choices
07.14.2015	Alternative Fee Arrangements
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 <i>The Tampa Tribune</i>
12.28.2012	Key to Bay Area Transit is Cooperation <i>Tampa Bay Times</i>
12.09.2012	Moving Forward on the Region's Transportation Needs <i>The Tampa Tribune</i>
11.05.2012	The Key to Time Management—and Achieving Work/Life Balance
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 <i>ABA Litigation Magazine (PDF)</i>
04.01.2011	Class Action Litigation: Successful Partnering Between Inside and Outside Counsel (2011 edition) <i>Thomson/West and Association of Corporate Counsel Treatise</i>

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- 02.01.2010 Class Actions: Successful Partnering Between Inside and Outside Counsel
Thomson/West and Association of Corporate Counsel Treatise (PDF)
-
- 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
-
- 04.30.2005 Revisiting Garner and the "Fiduciary" Exception to the Attorney-Client Privilege on Shareholder Litigation
Corporate Counsel Newsletter
-
- 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
The Appellate Advocate (PDF)
-
- 11.01.2002 Circumventing Intent
Securities News (PDF)
-
- 06.01.1994 Appellate Oral Argument
ABA Litigation Magazine (PDF)
-
- 04.01.1989 Anatomy of the Written Argument
ABA Litigation Magazine (PDF)

All News

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- 02.26.2021 Carlton Fields' Gary L. Sasso and Lori Baggett Named to Tampa Bay Business Journal's Power 100
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- 01.20.2021 Carlton Fields Celebrates 120 Years
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- 09.30.2020 Carlton Fields' Gary L. Sasso Named One of Florida's Most Influential Business Leaders
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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	Distinguished Chief Operating Officer Frederick B. O'Malley Joins Carlton Fields
02.05.2020	Carlton Fields' New Chief Operating Officer, Fred O'Malley, Featured in Media
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
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
09.06.2018	Carlton Fields Named Top Law Firm for Innovation and Technology
08.28.2018	Top Litigator Steven B. Weisburd Joins Carlton Fields' Los Angeles Office
08.15.2018	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
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
10.29.2017	Carlton Fields Named Top Performer By Leadership Council on Legal Diversity
09.04.2017	Carlton Fields Congratulates Matt Leopold on his Nomination to be EPA General Counsel
08.21.2017	General Counsel Rank Carlton Fields Among Top Law Firms For Client Service
08.15.2017	Eight Carlton Fields Attorneys Named 2018 "Lawyers of the Year" by The Best Lawyers in America
08.15.2017	78 Carlton Fields Attorneys Named "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 Launches Financial Elder Abuse Practice
06.21.2017	Carlton Fields Ranked Top Firm and Attorneys Named Legal Leaders in Florida Trend Magazine's 2017 "Legal Elite"
05.30.2017	American Lawyer Ranks Carlton Fields Top Law Firm for Diversity

Recognition

- AV Rated by Martindale-Hubbell
- Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*
 - “Lawyer of the Year”
 - Mass Tort Litigation/Class Action – 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 (2005–2021)
- *Chambers USA* (2006–2018)
- Florida Hall of Fame of Top 100 Lawyers, Florida Legal Elite, *Florida Trend Magazine* (2004–2020)
 - Representing the top 1.6% of all attorneys practicing in Florida
- Florida 500 – “Most Influential Business Leaders,” *Florida Trend Magazine* (2018–2019)
- Florida Super Lawyers, *Super Lawyers Magazine* (2010–2020)
- Florida Super Lawyers Top 10 and Top 100, *Super Lawyers Magazine* (2013)
- 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)

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

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, District of Columbia
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida
- Florida State Courts

CLERKSHIPS

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

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)

Areas of Focus

PRACTICES

- Appellate & Trial Support
- Class Actions
- Consumer Finance
- Coronavirus
- Creditors' Rights and Bankruptcy
- Eminent Domain
- Labor & Employment

INDUSTRIES

- Securities & Investment Companies

- Litigation and Trials
- Mass Tort and Product Liability
- Securities and Derivative Litigation