

University Cites Judge Gross For Distinguished Service To USF

CLEARWATER – Sixth Judicial Circuit Judge Raymond O. Gross of Clearwater has been presented with the University of South Florida’s Donald A. Gifford Alumni Service Award, presented annually to an alumnus who has “rendered distinguished service” to USF.

Judge Gross was honored during USF Homecoming activities last week. The award was presented during the alumni banquet on Friday (Nov. 4), and he was recognized during halftime of the USF football team’s victory over Pittsburgh. It was the third time in recent years that USF has cited Judge Gross for his community contributions.

In 2002, he was presented with the alumni association’s Distinguished Alumni Award and the USF President’s Distinguished Citizen award, which recognizes a “U.S. citizen, usually a Floridian, who has rendered distinguished public service to the people of Florida, particularly the people of the University of South Florida service area.”

Gross, a circuit judge since 1995, was graduated from USF in 1969, with a bachelor’s degree in political science. He earned his law degree in 1972 from Florida State University, where he served as student body president. He has been an active supporter and alumni affairs participant at both universities.



Judge Gross

He is a past president of the USF National Alumni Board of Directors, currently sits on the board of the USF Foundation and was a member of the search committee that chose current USF President Judy Genshaft.

In addition to being a circuit judge, he is an adjunct faculty member at USF, teaching upper level courses about the legal profession and public policy. He also has been a lecturer for Advanced Judicial Study continuing education and in various programs at Stetson College of Law.

Gross, a native Floridian, also has been highly active in state and local bar groups and court committees. He currently sits in the Sixth Judicial Circuit’s Unified Family Court Division at the Criminal Justice Center in Clearwater, and he chaired a circuit-wide committee that improved the handling of child dependency cases in the court system.

Prior to being appointed to the bench, he had a trial practice in Clearwater for more than 20 years before being appointed to the bench and was an assistant public defender for two years. In 1998, he was a finalist to fill a vacancy on the Florida Supreme Court.