

William P. Cervone

Bill was born in St. Petersburg and raised in Tampa but has lived in Gainesville since arriving at the University of Florida as a Freshman in the Fall of 1967. He is a proud double Gator as a 1971 graduate of the University of Florida with a BA in Political Science and a JD from the University of Florida in 1973.

After graduation from law school, Bill served as an Assistant State Attorney in Gainesville's Eighth Judicial Circuit until 1989. During that time he worked in all areas of the office and handled prosecutions ranging from the simplest of misdemeanors to capital murder. From 1989 through 1992 he was in private practice, primarily handling insurance and medical malpractice defense cases. He returned to the State Attorney's Office in 1993 as Chief Assistant State Attorney, a position he held until his election as State Attorney for the Eighth Judicial Circuit in 2000. He served as State Attorney for five terms, retiring at the end of 2020.

During his years as a prosecutor Bill was recognized as Florida's outstanding prosecutor by his peers in 1985, and served as the President of the Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association in 2009-11. For many years he represented Florida's prosecutors before the Florida Legislature on matters related to both substantive criminal law and budgetary considerations. He also served as a member of the Board of Directors of the National District Attorneys Association. For many years he was also an adjunct professor at the University of Florida Law School teaching trial practice. His involvement in and support for various community groups in the Gainesville area, especially those related to criminal and juvenile justice, and recognitions are too numerous to list, although he takes special pride in having been recognized by the local Gainesville Bar association as its Professionalism Award recipient in 2014 and by the Gainesville League of Women Voters as its Outstanding Elected Official in 2012.

Since retirement Bill has remained active in serving through his church, and has enjoyed travel with family and friends as well as time at his summer vacation home in the North Carolina mountains. He is also an avid reader and an amateur stained glass artist.