

## **The 2017 Sunshine Luncheon: March 14, 2017**

The First Amendment Foundation awarded the **2016 Pete Weitzel/Friend of the First Amendment Award** to the **Honorable Scott Ellis**, Clerk of Court for Brevard County, the winner of the **2016 James C. Adkins/Sunshine Litigation Award** was **Mr. Curtis Lee** of Jacksonville.

The nomination for the Pete Weitzel/Friend of the First Amendment Award was based on Mr. Ellis' commitment to ensuring compliance with Florida's public records law and his tenacious struggle to obtain records from the Economic Development Commission of the Space Coast. The Pete Weitzel/Friend of the First Amendment Award was created to recognize the significant contribution made by Pete Weitzel, former managing editor of *The Miami Herald*, and founder and past president of the First Amendment Foundation, in the area of open government. The Weitzel Award is given annually to someone in Florida who has made a significant contribution to the cause of furthering open government.

Mr. Lee was nominated for the James C. Adkins/Sunshine Litigation Award for his role in *Board of Trustees, Jacksonville Police & Fire Pension Fund v. Lee* and his continuing commitment to ensuring that Florida government remains open and accessible to its people. The James C. Adkins/Sunshine Litigation Award was created to recognize the importance and continuing value of Justice Adkins' open government opinions while on the Florida Supreme Court and is given to attorneys or citizens who have made a significant contribution to the cause of furthering open government through litigation.

We owe Mr. Ellis and Mr. Lee special thanks for all they have done for the public. They set a standard that citizens and those in government should emulate.

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