



World Trade Center

Tampa Bay

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**WORLD TRADE CENTER TAMPA BAY ANNOUNCES RECIPIENTS OF THE
2010 INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE AWARDS**

Tampa, Florida – July 7, 2010, 2010 – The World Trade Center Tampa Bay Board of Directors announced today it has named William Reece Smith as recipient of the 2010 International Commerce Award and Betty Castor as the inaugural recipient of the 2010 Distinguish Woman in International Commerce Award.

The World Trade Center Tampa Bay (WTCTB) recognizes a company or individual who have made significant contributions to the promotion of international trade and development in the Tampa Bay Area, State of Florida and The Caribbean. Past honorees have included Rick Murrell, chairman and president of Tropical Shipping Lines, and Richard Fain, chairman of Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd, and most recently former Governor Bob Martinez. The WTCTB is also proud to announce the inauguration of a new award, Women in International Commerce, which will serve to focus attention on women pioneers, leaders and executives that have fostered, encouraged or enriched international commerce, education and culture in the Tampa Bay area.

The WTC Awards Banquet is scheduled to be held on September 24, 2010 with reception beginning at 6:00pm, immediately followed by dinner seating at 7:00pm, at the University Club of Tampa in downtown Tampa.

This year's ICA honoree, William Reece Smith, has truly distinguished himself as one of this nation's finest and most respected leaders of the law, whose contributions have benefited not just the law but also education, the arts, and his community. During his career, which spans over 50 years, Mr. Smith has been a leader as a lawyer, an educator, a mentor, a community servant, and an outstanding citizen of this nation.

Throughout his career, Reece Smith has engaged in general trial and appellate practice and has argued cases at every level of the state and federal court systems, including the Supreme Court of the United States. His area of practice is broad and has included both criminal justice and civil litigation in state and federal courts and advocacy before administrative agencies and arbitral tribunals.

Mr. Smith is currently a shareholder at the law firm of Carlton Fields. He is the recipient of many accolades and been acknowledge for his tremendous work within the community. The World Trade Center Tampa Bay is pleased to honor **William Reece Smith** for his contributions to the area that have enhanced the Tampa Bay area in the areas of international commerce, education, public service and law.



The World Trade Center Tampa Bay is honored to name Betty Castor as the first recipient of the Woman in International Commerce Award. Betty Castor has had a long and distinguished career as a public servant and educator, most notably as the President of the University of South Florida, Commissioner of Education and President and CEO of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, as well as State Senator, Hillsborough Board of County Commissioners. Her lifelong interest in international affairs began as a college student leading a project to send books to Africa. She joined the Teachers for East Africa Program and taught secondary school for two years in Uganda, East Africa.

Castor's civic and governmental career began in Hillsborough County where she was the first woman ever elected to the Hillsborough County Commission in 1972. Following her strong interest in governmental reform, she ran successfully for the Florida Senate in 1976, becoming the fourth female elected to that chamber where she served three terms. Throughout her tenure she was known for innovative and creative problem solving.

Castor is presently an education consultant. She has worked over the last few years with former colleagues to launch a new charitable organization to assist schools and universities in East Africa. The World Trade Center Tampa Bay is pleased to honor **Betty Castor** for her contributions to the area that have enhanced the Tampa Bay area in the areas of international commerce, education, and public service. She has set a standard for women in advocacy which the WTCTB recognizes through this award.

Government officials, corporate executive and Bay Area leaders are expected to be in attendance at the 4th The World Trade Center Tampa Bay Annual Dinner where the International Commerce Awards will be presented.

The event is open to the public. Seating is limited and reservations are required. Sponsorship opportunities and tables are also available. To inquire regarding sponsorship or to make reservations, please call 813-864-4500 or e-mail events@wtctampa.com.

Event Information:

When: Friday, **September 24, 2010**
6:00pm – 8:30pm

Where: **University Club of Tampa**
Downtown Tampa