

Joseph P. Mawhinney was born in Tallahassee, Florida in 1951. He graduated from Florida State University with a Bachelor of Science degree (accounting) in 1973, and with his law degree in 1976. He was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1976 and is also admitted to the U.S. District Courts, Northern and Middle Districts and the U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit.

Joe initially moved to Lakeland in 1982 and was appointed as the City Attorney for the City of Lakeland in 1989. During his tenure as City Attorney, he served as legal counsel to the LDDA. He was elected President of the Florida Municipal Attorneys Association for 1998-99 and, in 1995, he received the Paul S. Buchman Award from the Local Government Section of the Florida Bar. In November of 2001, he left City Hall to become a shareholder in the law firm of Clark, Campbell & Mawhinney, PA, where he heads the litigation section and practices in the areas of civil and commercial litigation, condemnation, corporate and business law and administrative law.

Joe has served on numerous community boards and committees, including the Lakeland Area Chamber of Commerce Board, Leadership Lakeland Alumni Board, Politics in the Park Committee (Chairperson 2002), VISTE, Paint Your Heart Out Lakeland and Campfire Boys and Girls. He is an active member of the Downtown Kiwanis Club and served as its President in 1998-99. Joe and his wife, Mary, have five children.