



MICHAEL S. YENNI

Mayor

CITY OF KENNER

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KENNER CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TO BE RENAMED DURING TUESDAY CEREMONY

Kenner, LA. – The city of Kenner has scheduled a ceremony for 10 a.m. on Dec. 23 to officially name the City Attorney's Office the Hubert A. "Von" Vondenstein City Attorney's Office.

Vondenstein was appointed Kenner City Attorney in 1970 under former Mayor Joe Yenni, and when Yenni became Jefferson Parish President in 1980, Vondenstein was brought in as the Parish Attorney. Vondenstein later became a state district court judge in Gretna. He died in 1993.

"Von, as he was known to all his friends, embraced public service just as my grandfather did," Kenner Mayor Michael Yenni said. "He tutored many of the top lawyers in the parish, including Louis Gruntz, whose time as Kenner City Attorney was all too brief."

Gruntz, former Deputy Parish Attorney, was first hired in the parish by Vondenstein in 1981, under the Joe Yenni administration, and worked there for more than 30 years. He was named Kenner's City Attorney in February and died in August. Michael Power, who also worked with Vondenstein early in his career and later was part of the law firm that handled Kenner's legal issues for nearly two decades through the early 2000s, was named Interim City Attorney in September.

Former Kenner Planning Director Philip Biondillo worked with Vondenstein and once described Kenner's City Attorney as someone whose legal knowledge was only topped by his moral character.

"Hubert Vondenstein had a unique gift," Biondillo has said. "It was common for many people of all ranks to cluster toward Von's wisdom, he was a man that people sought advice from. Von's wisdom was reassuring and thought provoking at the same time."

Vondenstein was born in Gueydan, La. and he earned a mechanical engineering degree before graduating from Loyola Law School, after a stint in the U.S. Marine Corps. He served as Kenner City Attorney from 1970 to 1980 and as Parish Attorney from 1980 to 1986 when he was elected to the 24th Judicial District Court in Gretna. He remained on the court until his death in 1993.

The renaming ceremony will take place in the City Attorney's Office located in Building C of the City Hall complex at 1801 Williams Blvd.

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