



[SunHerald.com](#) | [News](#) | [Business](#) | [Sports](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Living](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Cars](#) | [Homes](#) |

Sun Herald, The (Biloxi, MS)

1998-05-27

Section: LOCAL/FRONT

Page: A2

GEISS ADMITS TO DRUNKEN DRIVING

MARGARET BAKER

THE SUN HERALD

Former Municipal Court Judge Eric Geiss on Tuesday admitted he was legally drunk Jan. 3 when his car collided with an ambulance near Copa Casino.

Geiss pleaded no contest to the misdemeanor drunken driving charge in the court he once presided over. An out-of-state judge called in to hear the case ordered Geiss to attend alcohol awareness classes and pay a \$500 fine plus court costs. The former judge also will lose his driver's license for at least 90 days once the state sends him a formal notice in writing revoking his driving privileges.

“The only thing that was shown or proven here today is that I am human like everybody else,” Geiss said after the 30-minute court hearing before Brandon Judge Richard Wilson, who was asked to preside.

“The system is not perfect,” Geiss said, “but I've got a lot of respect for it. I'm a part of it. I'm an attorney and a candidate again for Chancery Court judge.”

Geiss currently is in private practice, sharing an office with Gulfport attorney **Wayne Woodall**, who also represented him Tuesday. **Woodall** himself currently is awaiting trial in Gulfport on felony charges accusing him of forging prescriptions for various painkillers.

Woodall on Tuesday said he was prepared to fight Geiss' DUI charge but said his client decided “to accept responsibility for this and go on with his life.”

A court-ordered blood test taken three hours after the 3 a.m. accident at U.S. 90 and Copa Boulevard showed that Geiss was driving at almost twice the state's legal limit of .10. He registered .19.

Witnesses said Geiss had been at a U.S. 90 bar to hear a band and was on his way home when the accident happened. Geiss has said he had four drinks before the accident.

Geiss said he does not expect Tuesday's conviction to hurt his chances to become a District 8 Chancery Court judge in the Nov. 3 election.

“If I'm standing before the judge in Chancery Court and there is a decision being made about the rest of my life or my children's life, I don't want some goody-two-shoes making that decision,” he said. “I want a real person.”

But, Geiss added, he has no plans to drive under the influence of alcohol in the future.

``Believe me," he said, ``I won't do it anymore."

Margaret Baker can be reached at 896-2322 or at margar(AT)sunherald.infi.net

[News](#) | [Business](#) | [Sports](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Living](#) | [Shop Local](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Cars](#) | [Real Estate](#)
[About SunHerald.com](#) | [About the Real Cities Network](#) | [About the McClatchy Company](#)
[Terms of Use](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Copyright](#)