



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

Sun Herald, The (Biloxi, MS)

1998-01-15

Section: COAST & STATE

Page: B1

EX-JUDGE GEISS CHARGED WITH DUI

MARGARET BAKER

THE SUN HERALD

Police on Wednesday accused former Municipal Court Judge Eric Geiss of being legally drunk when his car hit an ambulance the morning of Jan. 3.

Geiss, 46, turned himself in to police late Wednesday afternoon and was charged with first-offense DUI, a misdemeanor punishable by a \$1,000 fine or two days in jail. Police said a blood test taken after the 3 a.m. accident showed Geiss was driving at more than twice the state's legal limit of .10 when he hit the ambulance at U.S. 90 and Copa Boulevard.

“He definitely registered above the legal limit,” Gulfport police Major **Wayne** Payne said Wednesday. “It’s really just a sad day. He was a city judge, and he made a mistake.”

Geiss' attorney, **Wayne Woodall**, said his client plans to enter a plea of not guilty when he appears in Gulfport City Court on March 17.

After the collision, police obtained a search warrant to get a blood sample from Geiss. The judge and a patient in the ambulance were injured, and were taken to Memorial Hospital at Gulfport, where they were treated and released.

Woodall said Geiss requested police officers to get an arrest warrant for the blood sample. The judge already had admitted to having four drinks before the accident.

Geiss, who resigned after the accident, said Wednesday he plans to “let the system do its job.”

Woodall said he expects Geiss' trial to be rescheduled because the city judges in Gulfport are expected to excuse themselves, with an independent attorney brought in to hear the case.

“But I have a lot of questions,” **Woodall** said. “At this time, we haven't even been informed of any results of any blood tests.”

Payne said he will wait on the trial to make any other comments: “That's what the courts are for. These things will be brought out in court.”

Margaret Baker can be reached at 896-2322 or at [margar\(AT\)sunherald.infi.net](mailto:margar(AT)sunherald.infi.net)

Former Municipal Court Judge Eric Geiss, left, arrives at the Gulfport Police Department on Wednesday. Geiss was charged with drunken driving in connection with a January accident.

[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](#)