



Edward Charles Deeno Kitchen

May 1, 1942 - July 12, 2023

Edward Charles Deeno Kitchen, a man of integrity, humor, and generosity, died on July 12, 2023, at the age of 81. He was born to Rose Deeb Kitchen and Oscar Edward Kitchen. He was the third generation of his family to live in Tallahassee, Florida and a second-generation native to the town.

Deeno was a gifted storyteller and loved to amuse an audience. He found peace and joy in the natural environments of his beloved North Florida home. He loved spending time in nature fishing, hunting, and cooking, especially when accompanied by his sons or hound dog. He delighted children with his gift of being able to whistle any and all tunes effortlessly, by blowing perfectly uniform smoke rings on command, and by never failing to tie the cherry stem from his daughter's Shirley Temples into knots with his tongue that he would then hand to her on their Daddy-Daughter dates to the Silver Slipper. He was a lifelong fan of the Florida Gators and earned black belts in Chuong Nhu and Isshin-Ryu Martial Arts. He was also inducted into the Leon High School Football and Tallahassee Little League Halls of Fame.

Deeno graduated cum laude from the University of Florida College of Law in 1967. He was fourth in his class and a member of the Law Review, the Order of the Coif, and the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. He was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1968 and has been a Board-Certified Trial Lawyer since 1983. He was also a member of the Tallahassee Bar Association.

Deeno began his legal career as an associate in the office of E. William Gautier, his father-in-law, in New Smyrna Beach, and joined Ervin, Pennington, Varn & Jacobs in Tallahassee in 1969. He became a partner of Ervin, Varn, Jacobs, Odom & Kitchen in 1971. In 1988, he was a founding partner of the law firm that would become Kitchen, Judkins, Simpson & High in Tallahassee. He returned to Ervin, Kitchen & Ervin as a partner in 2006. He was peer review AV rated by Martindale-Hubbel, which is the highest level of professional excellence. Best Lawyers in America named him to Florida Legal Elite, Florida's Top Lawyers, and Florida Super Lawyers. He was a fellow with the American College of Trial Lawyers, the International Society of Barristers, the American Bar Foundation, and the Florida Bar Foundation, as well as a member of the American Bar Association.

Deeno practiced law in Tallahassee for over 45 years, focusing primarily on complex civil litigation and criminal defense. His civil practice included personal injury, commercial, and products liability cases for both plaintiffs and defendants. His criminal defense practice included health care fraud, public corruption, antitrust, and illegal drug prosecutions. His clients have included IBM, Purina Mills, Winn-Dixie Stores, R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, and Phillip Morris USA. He served as trial counsel for Vice President Al Gore and Senator Joe Lieberman in the Florida Presidential Election Contest of 2000. Deeno was especially proud that his law office was located on the same street where he was born and lived, for a time, as a child.

Deeno is survived by his wife of 55 years, Patricia Gautier Kitchen. They have four children, Anne Elizabeth Williams (husband Jimmy), Kimberly Gautier Kitchen Robson (husband Don), William Gautier Kitchen, and Deeb-Paul Kitchen, II (wife Shannon); as well as eleven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

In addition to his legal accomplishments, Deeno was also a dedicated community leader. He served on the board of directors of the Legal Services of North Florida, the Area Agency on Aging for North Florida, and the National Wild Turkey Federation. He was also a member of the Rotary Club of Tallahassee and the Kiwanis Club of Tallahassee.

A rosary and visitation will be held on July 21, 2023, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM, at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 624 Miccosukee Road, Tallahassee, Florida. A funeral service will be held on July 22, 2023, at 10:00 AM, at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to:

- Legal Services of North Florida Private Bar Involvement Program: Elder, Bankruptcy, Estate

Planning, and Health Care

2119 Delta Blvd

Tallahassee, FL 32303

- Area Agency on Aging for North Florida: Elder and Health Care

2414 Mahan Dr

Tallahassee, FL 32308

- National Wild Turkey Federation

770 Augusta Road, Edgefield, SC 29824

- Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

624 Miccosukee Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32308

Deeno will be remembered as a kind, compassionate, and talented man who made a difference in the lives of so many. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Susie Mozolic of Bevis Funeral Home is assisting the Kitchen family with their

arrangements. (850-385-2193 or www.bevisfh.com)

Previous Events

Rosary & Visitation

JUL 21. 7:00 PM (ET)

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church
624 Miccosukee Rd.
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Funeral Service

JUL 22. 10:00 AM (ET)

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church
624 Miccosukee Rd.
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Tribute Wall

JB

“ *My condolences to the Kitchen family.*

Jimmy Baggerly

Class of 1960

Jimmy Baggerly - July 23, 2023 at 05:41 PM

DL

“ *In 1977, when I started dating Eddie Long, the Long family would participate with Marcia and Danny Long (brother and sister in law) in the Deeb family gatherings. Deeno and Pat were two of the few people who always made me feel welcome and were so kind to me. I have continued to follow the children as I watched the Kitchen children and Marcia Catherine, JR and Jacqueline grow up. I remember watching lots of children running around at holidays and sharing so much fun and memories. We too are gators and would see each other from time to time at Leon County Gator club gatherings “civilization among the savages”. More recently, as as I cared for my grandchildren, I had a grand child in a class with Ren at Faith and I was given the opportunity to come in contact with sweet, Anne Elizabeth. Her way with words and gift of story telling that she seems to have learned from her father has touched my heart on a daily basis. Four months ago I lost my sweet daddy at 103 years old and I know how difficult this time is for you all. We are so blessed to have a strong faith that assures us that we will meet again. My love and prayers are with you all. I’m so glad we were able to attend the visitation because we will be unable to be at the service. 🙏❤️*

Dawn and Eddie Long

Dawn Long - July 21, 2023 at 11:17 PM



“ *Heavenly Grace Spray was purchased for the family of Edward Charles Deeno Kitchen.*



July 20, 2023 at 07:38 AM



“ *Deeno frequented an establishment at which I worked while putting myself through Graduate School at FSU. One afternoon near sunset, while I was clearing tables on the patio, I noticed Deeno intently staring toward the western, setting sun. He noticed me, and called me over. He told me to look at the sunset. I did, it was a wonderful gradation of lineated, layered clouds in every hue of orange and blue. I commented "Wow" that's spectacular!!! He agreed, and asked if I knew what it meant to him. I said no Deeno, what? He replied with a slight smile, and said "that God is a University of Florida fan". I worked there for about 13 years as a student, and then a father of three needing a second income. He was kind, generous and mentored me over the years regarding fatherhood and family matters. Thank God for Deeno, a good and faithful servant. Fondly, barrett*

aklsdfj - July 19, 2023 at 06:17 PM



“ *I graduated from Leon High School the same year as Deeno. I always held him in such high regard. He was a very special person. My prayers are with all of the family. Shirley Yarbrough Stoudt, Leon High Class of 1960*

Shirley Stoudt - July 19, 2023 at 12:32 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Edward Charles Deeno Kitchen.*



July 18, 2023 at 10:21 AM



“ *When we lived at the coast, we would always run into Deeno and his pet beagle.....loved sitting and talking with him. A neat man. ❤️*
🙏

Linda Price - July 18, 2023 at 09:04 AM



“ *William S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edward Charles Deeno Kitchen.*

William S. - July 17, 2023 at 09:32 PM



“ *Deeno was an outstanding lawyer and a protector of those unable to afford counsel. He stood side by side with me and many of our Tallahassee Bar colleagues in the late '90s when the Legal Aid Foundation was in danger of not being staffed with enough volunteer attorneys. He was a great friend and mentor to so many young lawyers. May he rest in peace.*
Bob Cohen

Bob Cohen - July 17, 2023 at 04:28 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Edward Charles Deeno Kitchen.*



July 17, 2023 at 03:34 PM



“ *Many many years ago my husband and I managed a hunting club in Gadsden County and were fortunate enough to get to know Deeno. You knew where you stood with him as he always was straightforward with you. I remember how he gave me money for a Christmas tree and told me to be sure it was unforgettable for the kids.*

Jimmie Fay Griffin - July 17, 2023 at 02:00 PM



“ *I took a trial practice seminar from Deeno about 40 years ago. I still remember him talking about his two hunting dogs, Judge and Counselor. Also remember many of the tips and tools he taught that week that I still use today when trying a case. He was an excellent lawyer with a warm heart.*

Julie Gallagher - July 17, 2023 at 01:19 PM



“ *Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Edward Charles Deeno Kitchen.*



July 16, 2023 at 08:58 PM

EW

“ Deno jumped to my defense when he overheard a negative comment about me years ago. I have never forgotten; it saved my reputation. I will never forget him.

Elizabeth Willis - July 16, 2023 at 05:14 PM



“ Care and Compassion Spray was purchased for the family of Edward Charles Deeno Kitchen.



July 16, 2023 at 02:46 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Edward Charles Deeno Kitchen.

July 16, 2023 at 02:46 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Edward Charles Deeno Kitchen.



July 15, 2023 at 03:00 PM

FG

“ *Frances Eubanks Gray lit a candle in memory of Edward Charles Deeno Kitchen*



Frances Eubanks Gray - July 15, 2023 at 09:56 AM

EW

“ *Attorney and counselor Deeno Kitchen was a remarkable attorney, most able in trial work, and, as was his mother, Rose Deeb Kitchen, a great humanitarian. May his spirit and the memories of him remain with each of us who knew him and appreciated his many talents.*

Enoch Whitney - July 15, 2023 at 09:51 AM

CI

So sorry to hear this. Knew Deeno my entire life. His mom used to work with my dad and our families spent many great times together. We were close during those times. He was a great guy and will be missed. Prayers for his family.

Charlene Irvin - July 16, 2023 at 08:17 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Edward Charles Deeno Kitchen.*



July 14, 2023 at 08:23 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Edward Charles Deeno Kitchen.*

July 14, 2023 at 08:23 PM