



NEWS ADVISORY

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For immediate release

MISSOULA CITY ATTORNEY RECEIVES STATE BAR AWARD **Jim Nugent Honored with 2011 Bousliman Professionalism Award**

Missoula City Attorney Jim Nugent is the recipient of the State Bar of Montana's 2011 Bousliman Professionalism Award. He accepted the award Friday at the State Bar Annual Meeting in Kalispell.

The award is named for George L. Bousliman, former State Bar executive director, and honors its recipients' outstanding accomplishments as lawyers.

Nugent, who is considered "the dean of city attorneys in Montana," has served as Missoula's City Attorney since May 2, 1977. During that time, he has worked for seven different mayors and 18 different City Council iterations. He has helped craft approximately 1,500 of the roughly 3,500 ordinances in the City's Municipal Code. In her nomination, Whitefish City Attorney Mary VanBuskirk noted that Nugent's work has often required changes in enabling legislation at the state level and that he has frequently argued before the Montana Supreme Court. His work has benefited cities and towns throughout the state.

"Jim has devoted his career to the city that he loves and the people of Missoula who benefit from his quiet, often invisible, stewardship," VanBuskirk wrote. "He is respected as a man who committed himself to his hometown and the need to make it a real community for the people who live there."

Mayor John Engen applauded Nugent's award.

"Those of us who've worked with Jim understand his dedication to the City of Missoula and to public service," Engen said. "The fact that his peers in the legal profession have recognized that dedication is testament to the length and quality of his service. We congratulate Jim and thank the Montana Bar for rewarding Jim's hard work."

City of Missoula Chief Administrative Officer Bruce Bender also commended Nugent.

“In my over 30 years of City government work, Jim is one of the most dedicated and honorable public servants that I have had the pleasure to work with,” Bender said. “It’s a recognition well deserved.”

Nugent began employment with the City of Missoula on June 19, 1975. He is a graduate of The University of Montana School of Law.

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