

Chicagoan Known Best to Lawyers Wins

Chicago Sun-Times Service.

Chicago, Ill. — As Albert F. Jenner, Jr., drifts off to sleep after a day in court, he can reflect comfortably that his pay for the last 24 hours was \$2,550. And after 4½ hours of twitchiness rest, he will be fresh, confident and ready to set out after another \$2,880. His clients generally agree that he is worth every penny of it.

At the age of 60, Bert Jenner, who has been named to the staffs of two Presidential commissions, is among the most successful, energetic, unworried lawyers in the United States. As of the close of the courts last week, he hadn't lost a case in two years.

"It scares me a little," he said in his office here. "Under the percentages, I'm due for a fall, a bad one."

In the legal profession, Mr. Jenner is a widely known — even renowned — often envied and frequently feared advocate before the bar of sometimes shaky justice.

He would not claim to be loved among his colleagues (lawyers and judges), but success seldom breeds affection in this savagely competitive profession.

On the Pages

In any history of the law in America, Mr. Jenner's name will appear often on the pages covering the 1960-70 decade and, from his current state of health, well beyond.

His neighbors in the exclusive Chicago suburb of Kenilworth regard him as anything but a celebrity and some of them may wonder why he arrives home by taxi at 3 or 4 a. m., day after day.

Mention him to a preponderance of Chicagoans and the response likely will be a puzzled: "Who's he?" However, there will be instant recognition these days among the men under sentences of death in United States

on Federal Scene, Too

As matters stand, he has saved some 450 of them from the electric chair or the gas chamber.

First, it should be established that Mr. Jenner is neither a money-grubber nor a publicity-seeker.

He spends his time for free and unsparingly, without boasting about it later, on causes that he believes to be just and fair. It has cost him tens of thousands of dollars in fees to serve on Government commissions and professional committees.

For Good Judges

His most important mission in life, he says, is to insist that

450 thousand dollars, maybe 400 thousand dollars."

When trying a case in court these days, Mr. Jenner's pay is 120 dollars an hour—for every one of the 24 hours in the day. For other work, such as preparing a case in the office, his scale drops to one hundred dollars an hour.

During the last few days, Mr. Jenner figured in two significant news events and he was understandably gratified about his part in both of them.

A staunch Republican, he was appointed by President Johnson as a member of a nine-man commission to study violence in America, after the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

Blocked Disgrace

Secondly, he saved Chicago Judge James E. Murphy from disgrace by impeachment from the Cook County Circuit Court bench.

The week before, he won a ruling that could lead to abolishment of the death penalty in America. At least, it will stop what the court called "hanging juries" from imposing the punishment.

Mr. Jenner is a man of subdued enthusiasms, but he glowed and his eyes shone as he talked about another of his victories, a triumph over Senator Edward M. Kennedy (Dem., Mass.) and members of his family in the Democratic Party.

In 1965 Senator Kennedy nominated an obscure Boston Municipal Court judge, Francis X. Morrissey, for a Massachusetts United States District Court judgeship.

Mr. Jenner came into the pic-



Jenner . . . "Who's he?"

honorably, highly qualified men be appointed to Federal judgeships and that incompetent or venal candidates be shunted aside—no matter what the political clout behind them.

When asked what many people regard as the most prying inquiry of all, he replied without a flicker of hesitation, "I suppose I'm worth about

ture as chairman of an American Bar Association committee on qualifications of the Federal judiciary and what he saw in Mr. Morrissey he didn't like.

The word among Boston lawyers was that the nominee was a political hack with scant professional abilities and uncertain legal background.

Withdrew

The Chicago lawyer investigated the Bostonian back to his boyhood and the result was a blistering recommendation that the nomination be killed. Mr. Jenner found the nominee to be "the worst-qualified man ever recommended" for the Federal bench.

The battle ended with more of a murmur than a bang. President Johnson announced on a quiet week end in Texas that Mr. Morrissey had asked for

withdrawal of his nomination and it was done.

At an age when most men resent the passing of years, Mr. Jenner seems to ignore the unavoidable way of nature. He walks erect, jauntily and with long strides. His abdomen is as flat as during his days as a track athlete and champion boxer at the University of Illinois.

His black hair is unflecked by gray and his associates say he'll finish a 20-hour day without a line of weariness showing his face.

There are 56 lawyers, with Mr. Jenner as senior partner, in the law firm of Raymond, Mayer, Jenner & Block. They bring in the money to keep the establishment going during long periods of Jenner absences.

Warren Report

He was gone for months while

serving as one of the attorneys on the Warren Commission, which decided that Lee Harvey Oswald, without co-conspirators or political backing, murdered President John F. Kennedy. And Mr. Jenner says he can refute beyond doubt every point in the many books written to the contrary.

Mr. Jenner's conduct in a courtroom, no matter what the provocation might be, lacks flamboyance and noisiness. He may be persistent to the point of doggedness, but never loud and seldom flowery of language.

"What a courtroom needs is light and not heat," he says. "If the lawyer is quiet, the judge can think better than if his ears are battered with sound. A courtroom is not a showroom."

How about hobbies, recreation, physical exercise? Does he play golf? "I'd love to," he said, "but there just isn't time."

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