



## City Attorney Dennis Herrera Statement

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Dear Colleagues,

In these tumultuous times, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on our better nature. There is one person in particular who comes to mind when I think of someone who always gently led by example and inspired us to be the best possible version of ourselves. That person is Buck Delventhal.

Whether it was being quick with a smile, or kindly insight, or an offer for an early morning swim in the Bay, Buck was always there to encourage, help, and teach.

Today would have been Buck's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in our office. That's a lifetime of public service to the people of San Francisco. It's also a lifetime of doing the right thing when faced with difficult choices. Buck made mistakes, as we all do. He just seemed to make fewer of them and always learn from them. It's something to think about as we all pull together to get through these difficult times.

Once we are able to gather again, there will be an unveiling of a plaque dedicating the rotunda outside the Board of Supervisors' chamber in City Hall as the Buck Delventhal Rotunda. I look forward to that day.

Until then, we can reflect on our own ability to be forces for good in this world. Buck touched many lives, mentoring countless people across the state. He was the consummate teacher. I was reminded of that recently when I was asked by the City Attorneys Department at the League of California Cities to present a remembrance of Buck at their spring conference. Buck was a venerated member of the organization and a friend to many there.

I wanted to share with you some of the words of one member of the league. I know they will resonate with all of us who knew Buck:

“Those in our department who had the privilege of knowing, working with, and learning from him over the years were crushed by his passing. We all miss him tremendously. There have been many times that I and others in the department have lamented during this COVID-19 crisis: ‘If only we could just call Buck.’”

I have thought the same thing many times. But know that we can still learn from Buck. Only now, each of us must look inside ourselves.

Warmly,

Dennis J. Herrera