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**KINDERHOOK** — Attorney Thomas G. Griffen of Kinderhook was appointed executive director of the state Office of Real Property Services, formerly the state Division of Equalization and Assessment.

Gov. George Pataki made the appointment this week.

Griffen, 50, is a founding partner in the Hudson law firm of Rapport, Meyers, Griffen and Whitbeck and has been with the firm, with offices in Hudson and Poughkeepsie, since 1973. Born in Gainesville, Texas, Griffen

got a bachelor of science degree in political science from Hope College in Michigan and his law degree from Albany Law School of Union University.

A U.S. Army veteran, Griffen was admitted to the bar in 1973. Legal adviser to the city of Hudson, 1974-80, he was an assistant Columbia County public defender in 1975-85.

A member of the New York State and Columbia County Bar Associations and the American Arbitration Association, he also has been Kinder-

hook town attorney, Stuyvesant town attorney and Valatie village attorney.

His legal experience has included representing water and sewer districts, planning boards and zoning boards of appeals; local development corporations, Industrial Development Agencies, private developers and banks, involving public and private sector contributions; Key Bank and Fleet Bank in connection with commercial and community loans, and numerous mortgage banks in connection with residential loans.

Griffen also has represented a multitude of entities — including real estate developers, citizen groups, utilities and municipalities, to help them through the regulatory process before a range of state and local agencies, ranging from zoning boards of appeals to nearly 20 state agencies.

Griffen is a past president of the county Chamber of Commerce, a director of Mid-Hudson Pattern for Progress and chairman of its public policy committee, past president of the county Young Republican Club, past

president of Friends of Olana Inc. treasurer for the Roger Miner for Supreme Court campaign, a founding member and director of the Columbia Economic Development Corp., a director of the county Council on the Arts and, through his firm, a member of the state Business Council.

He sat on the Home and City Savings Bank Advisory Board from 1983-87 and has been on the Taconic Telephone Corp. board of directors since 1992.