

MERGER: 40 YEARS OF DEBATE
Tuesday, November 8, 2005 • 1:45 a.m.

A business leader, state legislator, merger advisor, and the former County Executive of Jefferson County will give a taste of the Pro and Con debate over merger in Louisville from the 1950s to the successful 2000 referendum. Why did the community's leaders pursue merger for so long? What were the ongoing arguments for and against it? What changed over the four decades that made a successful referendum possible?

The panel will cover the various strategies tried over the years to pass a merger referendum, support provided by the business community in the quest to unify city and county governments, and voter concerns that faced elected officials who were for or against merger – including particular concerns of African-American voters in the city, and county residents fearful that a merged government would bring unwelcome changes in taxes or services.

Panelists

Sheryl G. Snyder – Member, Frost Brown Todd LLC -- is a constitutional lawyer, commercial litigator and appellate advocate. He was both a strategist and spokesperson for Vote Yes for Unity, the campaign to merge Louisville and Jefferson County Governments in 2000. He served as Chair of the Kentucky Center for Public Issues, which provided the impetus to the movement in the 1990's to reform the Constitution of Kentucky. He was a co-author of the Gubernatorial Success Amendment and served as Treasurer of the advocacy committee that secured its passage in 1992. He also was Chair of the successful campaign for the Local Government Amendment to the Kentucky Constitution in 1994.

Sheryl has represented the last six Governors of Kentucky, of both political parties, in politically high profile cases involving state and federal constitutional law. A past President of both the Kentucky and Louisville Bar Associations, he founded the Louisville Bar's Judicial Evaluation program.

C. Edward Glasscock – Co-Managing Member, Frost Brown Todd LLC -- is a business lawyer who concentrates his practice in the areas of mergers and acquisitions, and also works with emerging companies on venture capital transactions. He chaired the fund-raising effort for the successful Vote Yes for Unity campaign in 2000 to merge Louisville and Jefferson County governments. His long list of civic activities includes current service as Chair of the Kentucky Center for the Arts, past Chair of Greater Louisville Inc. and the Fund for the Arts, and executive level activities with the University of Louisville, University of Kentucky College of Law, Louisville and Kentucky Bar Associations, Leadership Louisville Center, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, Metro United Way, and Bellarmine University.

He is a recipient of the prestigious Gold Cup Award for Outstanding Community Leadership from Greater Louisville, Inc., the Tom Simons Leadership Award from the Leadership Louisville Foundation, and the Louisvillian of the Year Award. He has been elected to the Hall of Fame of the University of Kentucky College of Law and Junior Achievement, and is listed among the Best Lawyers in America by Naifeh and Smith.

Rebecca D. Jackson was a leader in the successful merger campaign during her tenure as Jefferson County Judge-Executive from 1998-2002. After leaving office, she was CEO of *rj Consulting*, serving as a motivational speaker and conducting leadership and management training. She currently serves as Chief Executive Officer of the WHAS Crusade for Children, a

local charity that has collected and granted more than \$113 million since 1954 to agencies caring for children with special needs.

Jackson taught special education in the public schools and founded an employment agency for persons with handicaps prior to serving as Jefferson County Judge/Executive and as Jefferson County Clerk -- the first woman elected to either office. She founded the Young Professionals Association of Louisville, a group organized to retain and attract young professionals in the community. Jackson works with Beta's Blessings in the U.S. and Romania to assist teachers who have children with special needs mainstreamed into their classrooms; has led for 25 years at Highview Baptist Church a social/recreational program for adults with handicaps; and has written a children's picture book, *Mackenzie and the Baby Robin*, which deals with wandering away and turning back toward home.

Gerald A. Neal is a member of the Kentucky General Assembly serving as Senator of the 33rd District in Louisville. He Co-Chairs the Human Resources Subcommittee of the Appropriations and Revenue Committee; Co-Chairs the Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education of the Education Committee; and also serves on the Judiciary Committee. His additional committee assignments include Co-Chair of the Commission on Poverty, Co-Chair of the Task Force on Coordinated HIV/AIDS Services and Financing, and Chair of the Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice of the Justice Council.

Neal is a practicing attorney with Gerald A. Neal & Associates. He formerly served as Assistant Director of Public Health and Safety of the City of Louisville, was a Hearing Officer for the State Workers' Compensation Board and worked as a Juvenile Probation Officer. He also served five terms as Chairman of the Louisville-Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District. He founded the Kentucky Education Reform African-American and All Children's Caucus to affect policy and implementation of the 1990 Kentucky Education Reform Act. He has served as Vice President, Regional Director, and Parliamentarian for the National Bar Association, and has served as President of the Kentucky National Bar Association.