

Law, Leadership and Legacy: Jefferson County Across 250 Years



Milestones in Louisville's Legal History*

1780	1784	1837–1860	1846	1900	1921	1953	1959	1962	1975–1976	1976	1999	2002	2021
Jefferson County is Created	Louisville's First Courthouse Opens	Construction of the Historic Courthouse	UofL Law School Founded	Louisville Bar Association Established	Legal Aid Society and Louisville Urban League Established	First Black attorneys are admitted to the LBA: Charles Anderson, Harry McAlpin and Ralph Richards	Alberta Odell Jones Becomes First Black Woman to Pass KY Bar	Louisville Human Relations Commission Established	KY Court Reform Created the Modern Unified Court System	Hall of Justice opens	Judicial wing added	Family Court Expansion	Business Court Docket Established

* This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_Louisville,_Kentucky
<https://louisvilleky.gov/government/human-relations-commission/history>

Did You Know?

Louisville's first courthouse was a log cabin.

The first Jefferson County courthouse, completed in 1784, was a modest 16-by-20-foot log structure—a far cry from today's judicial complex.

The current historic Jefferson County Courthouse took more than 20 years to complete.

Construction began around 1837, portions were in use by 1842, and the building was not fully completed until 1860.

Jefferson County was created just four years after the Declaration of Independence.

That means Jefferson County's legal institutions are almost as old as the nation itself and were built by the generation that lived through the American Revolution.

Seven U.S. presidents have spoken at the Jefferson County Courthouse.

That's an impressive distinction for a county courthouse.

<https://courthouses.co/us-states/h-l/kentucky/jefferson-county/>
<https://history.ky.gov/markers/jefferson-county-courthouse>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jefferson_County,_Kentucky

50th Anniversary of KY Court of Justice Unified Court System



“The Kentucky Court of Justice is marking the 50th anniversary of Kentucky's unified court system, one of the most significant reforms in the commonwealth's history.

Before 1976, Kentucky's courts operated through a patchwork of more than 300 local courts with overlapping responsibilities and varying procedures. Voters approved the Judicial Article in 1975, creating a modern, statewide court system designed to provide fair and consistent administration of justice across Kentucky.



Implemented Jan. 1, 1976, the reform established the Supreme Court of Kentucky as the commonwealth's highest court and created a unified judicial structure that includes the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Circuit Court and District Court. It also established the Administrative Office of the Courts to support court operations throughout the state.” - Kentucky Court of Justice

Read more at <https://www.kycourts.gov/Courts/Pages/default.aspx>.



Judge Hugh
Smith Haynie
(ret.)

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