



# John Purcell

Three people who nominated John W. Purcell for a Jefferson Award cited the same quality in the Indianapolis lawyer: his leadership in motivating residents to join forces and help breathe new life into a deteriorating part of town — the College Avenue corridor from 38th to 42nd streets.

Purcell, 43, a partner in Baker & Daniels, helped form Meridian-Kessler Development Corp., the business development arm of the Meridian-Kessler Neighborhood Association.

He has spent endless volunteer hours trying to rebuild the once-depressed area. Mayor William H. Hudnut recognized his effort and appointed him to the 38th Street Task Force and the Task Force on Neighborhoods.

"Actually, what has been accomplished is the result of a lot of people's efforts," said Purcell, "and while I'm pleased, I wish this recognition could be spread around."

Purcell may shun the accolades, but those who work with him insist he is deserving.

"John will roll up his sleeves and contribute no matter the type of task," Alice M. Ross said in her nomination.

"He personally sacrificed thousands of hours, but millions of dollars have been pumped into the 38th Street and College corridor," said Pegg Kennedy.

Purcell is a member of the Cathedral Arts board of directors, Youth Development Initiatives and International Violin Competition. He assists the boards of the Family Service Association of Indianapolis and the Indianapolis Zoo.