

MARY LOUISE FOUST

1956 - 1960

1970 - 1976

Mary Louise Foust started in state government in 1938 as a filing clerk in the Department of Revenue. She went on to become the first woman in Kentucky to run for governor and served three terms as the state Auditor. She was the first woman in Kentucky to be a licensed attorney and a certified public accountant. She earned degrees from Georgetown College and the University of Louisville.

Known as a political maverick because she was not aligned with the established political "machine", Ms. Foust was an outspoken critic of Governors Wendell Ford and Julian Carroll.

"Everybody's writing telling me they're glad there'll be some real auditing now. Kentucky's never had a qualified auditor in this job before," said Ms. Foust.

After her first term as Auditor, Ms. Foust resumed her law practice. In 1969 she was elected to fill the unexpired term of the late Clyde Conley. She was then elected to another full term from 1971 to 1975.

Ms. Foust practiced law in Shelbyville and in Lexington and was licensed to practice law before the Supreme Court of the United States. In the private sector she was with Bittner and Clark, Certified Public Accountants in San Francisco; United States Steel Corporation in New Albany, Indiana; and Humphrey Robinson and Company in Louisville.

She ran unsuccessfully for governor in 1963 but distinguished herself by being the first woman in Kentucky to run for governor.

Mary Louise Foust was born October 15, 1909, in New Albany, Indiana. Her parents were Reverend David T. Foust and Mary Margaret (Rippel) Foust. Her family moved to Shelbyville, Kentucky, where Ms. Foust graduated from high school. She worked at a bank in Shelbyville during her college years at Georgetown.

Georgetown College established the Foust Co-Curricular Series in 1985-1986 in honor of her endowment to the school's concert, lecture and arts program.