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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Jim Merten of City Securities Corp. Named Indiana Chamber Chairman**

**November 6, 2008 (INDIANAPOLIS)** — At its annual awards dinner tonight, the Indiana Chamber of Commerce formally introduced Indianapolis businessman Jim Merten, an investment banker and vice chairman of the board for City Securities Corporation, as the 2009 leader of its board of directors.

The evening festivities followed the Chamber's fall board of directors and annual membership meetings earlier in the day. The Chamber's board members are presidents, CEOs and other top officers from companies throughout the state.

At the annual awards dinner, Merten led the recognition for the Chamber's outgoing board chair, Indianapolis entrepreneur Andre Lacy, chairman of the board of LDI Ltd.

The event honored former governor Joe Kernan and Chief Justice of the Indiana Supreme Court Randall Shepard as Government Leaders of the Year; Tony George, president of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, as Business Leader of the Year; and Noblesville as Community of the Year. Former U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich delivered a thought-provoking message about the status and direction of our country to conclude the night.

Over the years, Merten has served the Indiana Chamber in numerous capacities, including his service on the Chamber Board of Directors since 1993 and executive committee since 2002. He's also a member of the Chamber Finance and Audit Committee.

"Jim is a dedicated individual whose vast financial knowledge and passion for protecting the state's business climate will be of great value in the coming year," states Indiana Chamber President Kevin Brinegar.

Merten has continuously been employed at City Securities Corporation since he graduated from Indiana University in 1973. He has devoted much of his time at the company to public finance. Case in point, Merten developed a pension funding financing plan utilized by over 200 Indiana school corporations that totaled over \$1.1 billion.

Merten's chairmanship duties for the Chamber extend through the group's next annual board meeting on November 10, 2009.

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**The Indiana Chamber of Commerce has been the state's largest broad-based business advocacy organization for over 85 years. The more than 4,800 member companies employ 800,000 Hoosier workers**