

The District of Columbia Courts process almost 150,000 cases each year and employ a staff of 1,200 who directly serve the public, process the cases, and provide administrative support. The Courts' capital funding requirements are significant because they include funding for projects critical to maintaining and preserving in a timely manner safe and functional courthouse facilities essential to meeting the heavy demands of the administration of justice in our Nation's Capital. To effectively meet these demands, the Courts' facilities must be both functional and emblematic of their public significance and character. The FY 2010 Capital Budget seeks to address these issues comprehensively.

In preparing the FY 2010 capital budget request, the Courts carefully assessed the capital requirements essential to performing our statutory and constitutionally mandated functions. The Courts' request for capital funding is particularly critical in FY 2010 because of the need: (1) to address essential public health and safety conditions in our busy court buildings, including our main building to which some 10,000 people come each day; (2) to meet the courts' space requirements for conducting their business, which includes the Family Court established by Congress; and (3) to avoid interruption of ongoing projects, as that typically results in substantially increased costs.

The Courts presently maintain 1.1 million gross square feet of space in Judiciary Square. The Courts are responsible for four buildings in the square: the Historic Courthouse at 430 E Street NW, the Moultrie Courthouse at 500 Indiana Avenue, N.W., and Buildings A and B, which are located between 4th and 5th Streets and E and F Streets, N.W. In addition, the District government has vacated Building C, the old Juvenile Court, returning this building to the D.C. Courts' inventory.

Historic Judiciary Square

The D.C. Courts are primarily located in Judiciary Square, with some satellite offices and field units in other locations. The historical and architectural significance of Judiciary Square lend dignity to the important business conducted by the Courts and, at the same time, complicate efforts to upgrade or alter the structures within the square. Great care has been exercised in designing the restoration of the Historic Courthouse, the centerpiece of the square, to preserve the character not only of the building, but also of Judiciary Square. As one of the original and remaining historic green spaces identified in Pierre L'Enfant's plan for the capital of a new nation, Judiciary Square is of keen interest to the Nation's Capital.

Buildings A, B, and C, dating from the 1930's, are situated symmetrically along the view corridor comprised of the National Building Museum, the Historic Courthouse, and John Marshall Park and form part of the historic, formal composition of Judiciary Square. The Moultrie Courthouse, although not historic, is also located along the view corridor and reinforces the symmetry of Judiciary Square through its similar form and material to the municipal building located across the John Marshall Plaza.

Judiciary Square Master Plan

The National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) required that the D.C. Courts develop a *Judiciary Square Master Plan* – essentially an urban design plan – before any construction by the Courts and others could be commenced in the area. The D.C. Courts worked with all stakeholders on the Plan, including the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (Memorial Fund), the Newseum, and the Metropolitan Police Department. The *Judiciary Square Master Plan* was approved in August 2005.

The *Judiciary Square Master Plan* resolves important technical issues related to access, service, circulation, and security within a rapidly changing and publicly oriented area of the District, while re-establishing the importance of this historic setting in the “City of Washington.” It provides a comprehensive framework for capital construction for all local entities, and it lays the groundwork for the regulatory approval process with the National Capital Planning Commission, the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, the District of Columbia Office of Historic Preservation, the District of Columbia Office of Planning, and the District of Columbia Department of Transportation, among others. The *Judiciary Square Master Plan* will ensure the preservation of one of the last green spaces in the District of Columbia awaiting revitalization, incorporating areas where the public can gather and relax, and creating a campus-like environment where citizens can feel safe and secure.

Master Plan for D.C. Courts Facilities

The Courts have worked with the General Services Administration (GSA) on a number of capital projects since fiscal year 1999, when the Courts assumed capital project responsibility from the District’s Department of Public Works. In 1999, GSA produced a study for the renovation of the Historic Courthouse to house the D.C. Court of Appeals. In 2001, GSA prepared Building Evaluation Reports that assessed the condition of the D.C. Courts’ facilities. These projects culminated in the development of the first *Master Plan for D.C. Courts Facilities*, which delineates the Courts’ space requirements and provides a blueprint for optimal space utilization, both in the near and long term. A Facilities Master Plan update is currently underway and will be completed in 2009. This update will review the recommendations of the 2002 Master Plan while taking into account the significant facility improvements completed by the D.C. Courts as well as operational changes that have taken place since 2002.

The *Master Plan for D.C. Courts Facilities (Facilities Master Plan)*, completed in December 2002, incorporates significant research, analysis, and planning by experts in architecture, urban design and planning. During this study, GSA analyzed the Courts’ current and future space requirements, particularly in light of the significantly increased space needs of the Family Court. The *Facilities Master Plan* examined such issues as alignment of related court components to meet evolving operational needs and enhance efficiency; the impact of the D.C. Family Court Act of 2001 (Public Law Number 107-114); accommodation of the Courts’ space requirements

through 2012; and plans to upgrade facilities, including, for example, security, telecommunications, and mechanical systems. The Plan identified a space shortfall for the Courts of 48,000 square feet of space in 2002, with a shortfall of 134,000 square feet projected in the next decade.

The experts proposed to meet the Courts' space needs through three mechanisms: (1) renovation of the Historic Courthouse for the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, which frees critically needed space in the Moultrie Courthouse for trial court operations; (2) construction of an addition to the Moultrie Courthouse, to include a separately accessible Family Court facility; and (3) the reoccupation and renovation of Building C. In addition, the Plan determined that all court facilities must be modernized and upgraded to meet health and safety standards and to function with greater efficiency.

Overview of the D.C. Courts' Facilities

Historic Courthouse

The Historic Courthouse, built from 1821 to 1881, is one of the oldest public buildings in the District of Columbia. Inside the Historic Courthouse, Daniel Webster and Francis Scott Key practiced law and John Surratt was tried for his part in the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. The architectural and historical significance of the Historic Courthouse led to its listing on the National Register of Historic Places and its designation as an official project of Save America's Treasures.

Thanks to the strong support of the President and Congress, the Courts recently completed the restoration of the Historic Courthouse for use by the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, a pivotal element in meeting the space needs of the court system. The Court of Appeals opened for business in its now home on April 20. Investment in this restoration has not only improved efficiencies by co-locating the offices that support the Court of Appeals, but also provides 37,000 square feet of space critically needed for Superior Court and Family Court functions in the Moultrie Courthouse. The restoration of the Historic Courthouse has also preserved a historic treasure of our nation and imparted new life to one of the most significant historic buildings and precincts in Washington, D.C.

Moultrie Courthouse

The Moultrie Courthouse is uniquely designed to meet the needs of a busy trial court. It has three separate and secure circulation systems – for judges, the public, and the large number (200-300) of prisoners brought to the courthouse each day. Built in 1978 for 44 trial judges, today it is strained beyond capacity to accommodate 62 trial judges and 24 magistrate judges in the trial court and 9 appellate judges, as well as senior judges and more than 1,000 support staff members for the two courts. Currently, the Moultrie Courthouse provides space for most Superior Court and Family Court operations and clerk's offices. Essential criminal justice and social service

agencies also occupy office space in the Moultrie Courthouse. The Courts have clearly outgrown the space available in the Moultrie Courthouse. The space is inadequate for this high volume court system to serve the public in a safe, appropriately dignified, and well maintained setting. The Courts require well-planned and adequate space to ensure efficient operations in a safe and healthy environment.

Buildings A, B, and C

Buildings A, B, and C, dating from the 1930's, had been used primarily as office space in recent years, but today have been renovated and modernized for court operations.

Infrastructure in the Courts' Strategic Plan

The capital projects included in this request are an integral part of the Courts' Strategic Plan, entitled *Delivering Justice: Strategic Plan of the District of Columbia Courts*. The Strategic Plan articulates the mission, vision, and values of the Courts in light of current initiatives, recent trends, and future challenges. It addresses issues such as increasing cultural diversity, economic disparity, complex social problems of court-involved individuals, the increasing presence of litigants without legal representation, rapidly evolving technology, the competitive funding environment, emphasis of public accountability, competition for skilled personnel, and increased security risks.

The strategic plan is informed by the input of court personnel, court users, and other stakeholders that the Courts received through extensive outreach activities. In 2007, as the Courts developed the strategic plan for 2008 – 2012, improved facilities were a need identified as a high priority among all constituency groups surveyed. Employees, judges, and stakeholders were asked whether Court facilities met user needs and 73% responded that facilities did meet their needs. In addition the adequacy of lighting, heat/AC and ventilation was surveyed. In the survey, the adequacy of the physical environment varied by building. Occupants of buildings that have been renovated showed the greatest satisfaction. In Gallery Place 88% of occupants thought their workplace environment was acceptable. In Building B 86% of occupants thought their workplace environment was acceptable. In the Moultrie Courthouse, which is scheduled to have the majority of upcoming renovation work, only 51% of occupants their workplace environment was acceptable.

“A Sound Infrastructure” is the Plan's Strategic Issue 4. The Strategic Plan states--

Court facilities must support efficient operations and command respect for the independence and importance of the judicial branch in preserving a stable community. Modern technology must be employed to achieve administrative efficiencies and enhance the public's access to court information and services.

The facilities and technology enhancements in this capital budget support two strategic goals and

their related strategies:

Goal 4.1 Court facilities will be accessible to the public and support effective operations.

Strategy 4.1.1: Ensure that court facilities are easily navigable and accessible to all persons, particularly persons with disabilities.

Strategy 4.1.2: Provide functional and comfortable work space for judicial officers and court personnel.

Goal 4.2 The D.C. Courts will employ technology to support efficient operations and informed judicial decision-making.

Strategy 4.2.1: Ensure that technology investments are aligned with the Courts' strategic goals and are cost-effective.

Strategy 4.2.2: Maximize staff productivity by providing up-to-date, stable, and reliable technology and customer support.

The Strategic Plan identifies completion of building renovations outlined in the *Facilities Master Plan* as a priority action item necessary to implement the Strategic Plan. The FY 2010 capital budget request will help the D.C. Courts attain these goals.

Implementing the *Facilities Master Plan*

Thanks to the support of the President and Congress, the Courts have made significant progress in implementing the *Facilities Master Plan*. As noted above, the restoration of the Historic Courthouse is complete.

In 2003, the Courts relocated the Superior Court's two highest volume courtrooms, Small Claims and Landlord Tenant, into Building B. This move vacated space in the Moultrie Courthouse that was immediately renovated for the Family Court, permitting the construction of three new courtrooms, three new hearing rooms, a centralized case intake facility, a family-friendly waiting area, and District government liaison offices for Family Court matters. These renovations, completed in July 2004, consolidated the public face of the Family Court. Also in Building B, in April 2005, the Courts renovated space for the Family Court Social Services Division, providing more appropriate space for supervision of juveniles on probation.

The restoration of Building A is also complete. The Multi-Door Dispute Resolution Division moved late in 2006, vacating space in the Moultrie Courthouse that is currently under construction to create a modern holding facility (cellblock) for juvenile detainees that meets U.S. Marshals Service standards. The Probate Division moved to Building A in July 2007, vacating office space and courtrooms for the Civil Division. The relocation of the Multi-Door and Probate Divisions to Building A are part of a sequence of moves that, ultimately, will further the consolidation of the Family Court, as the space vacated by the Civil Division and the existing juvenile holding area is planned to house Family Court clerks offices.

Several projects are less visible but critical to the Courts' infrastructure. For example, the new garage providing secure parking for the Historic Courthouse and eliminating adjacent surface parking is essentially complete. A new fire and security system has been installed in the Moultrie Courthouse. The Moultrie HVAC system is being upgraded, with the replacement of all 31 air handling units as of June 2008.

Improved Energy Efficiency

Implementation of the Facilities Master Plan has resulted in numerous improvements to the energy efficiency of existing Court buildings and building systems. For example, the replacement of exterior doors and windows in Building A and Building B has improved their building enclosures resulting in significant reduction of energy loss. The replacement of mechanical systems in these same buildings has resulted in more efficient energy use as well. Additional equipment replacements, such as replacement of all the air handler units for the Moultrie Courthouse and the U.S. Marshal Service HVAC improvement project have both resulted in more efficient energy consumption.

The D.C. Courts continue to hold greater energy efficiency as a goal as future projects are implemented. The Moultrie Courthouse renovation and reorganization project includes re-design and relamping of all lighting fixtures with energy efficient fixtures. Replacement of the steam station system that provides hot water and heat also conserves energy. In addition, energy conservation measures will be considered in upcoming courtrooms and chambers renovations.

Capital Funding in FY 2010

As the Courts progress through implementation of the Facilities Master Plan, the Courts' older buildings in Judiciary Square—the Historic Courthouse and Buildings A and B—have been renovated. In the next several years, the Moultrie Courthouse, the Courts' largest building by far, will be the focus of most of the Courts' capital projects, along with renovation of Building C, exterior improvements, and technology. These projects impact the safety and security of the court building occupants, advance the consolidation of the Family Court, and enhance efficient operations.

The FY 2010 capital request focuses on the Moultrie Courthouse, security, and building maintenance. The Courts' capital budget request totals \$161.78 million.

Exhibit 300: Capital Asset Plan and Business Case Summaries are divided into three sections. The first section includes projects to renovate, improve, and expand court facilities, as specified in the Master Plan for Facilities. The second section includes projects necessary to maintaining the existing infrastructure. The final section, containing projects not requiring funding in FY 2010, provides an update on projects financed in previous years and plans for future projects. Projects have been divided into phases to the extent practicable.

The D.C. Courts have coordinated renovations required by the consolidation of the Family Court with activities related to the maintenance of existing infrastructure, in order to minimize disruption to the Courts. The D.C. Courts are committed to maintaining Court operations during construction activities. For example, renovation and re-organization activities related to Family Court consolidation are coordinated with HVAC, Electrical and Plumbing Upgrades, Restroom Improvements and Fire and Security Systems budget line items.

The capital budget request includes \$32.00 million to continue the renovation and reorganization of the interior of the Moultrie Courthouse, which allows the Courts to renovate space vacated by those operations relocated to the Historic Courthouse and to Buildings A and B, and to move operations and functions within the courthouse in order to consolidate the Family Court in one location. In addition, \$27.24 million is requested for the first phase of the renovation of Building C.

The Courts, like many public institutions, face security threats to daily operations and individual judges. In addition, the Courts face unique security risks due to the presence of hundreds of prisoners in the Moultrie Courthouse each day. The Courts' request includes \$19.08 million to improve physical safety through perimeter security enhancements and lighting/signage upgrades. Equally important is the personal safety of those deciding cases and the public and staff involved in courtroom proceedings. The United States Marshals Service (USMS) provides security and protection for our judges and in our courtrooms. The D.C. Courts' space shortage and infrastructure repair requirements apply equally to the space occupied by the USMS, which houses its largest and busiest operation in the nation in the basement of the Moultrie Courthouse. For FY 2010, the Courts request \$15.00 million for USMS and cellblock renovations.

The capital budget also includes a request for \$34.06 million to maintain and upgrade the Courts' facilities. Mechanical systems and structural repairs are necessary in order to ensure the safety of building occupants and to preserve the integrity of these historic structures. The \$5.56 million requested for Fire and Security will finance a sprinkler system for the Moultrie Courthouse, as recommended by GSA and U.S. Marshals Service studies. Following a 2006 study that found the electrical system in the Moultrie Courthouse to pose a danger to workers, the Courts request \$14.52 million for the HVAC, Electrical, and Plumbing Upgrades project. To renovate courtrooms and chambers \$21.17 million is requested, and to upgrade the existing elevators \$2.00 million is requested. To renovate dilapidated restrooms used by the public and court staff, \$1.00 million is requested. In addition, \$8.96 million is requested for General Repair Projects, for, among other things, ADA accessibility, safety repairs, replacement of doors and windows and cleaning of the exterior of the Courts' buildings. Finally, funding is requested for technology infrastructure enhancements.