

# Mid-Atlantic FOCUS



A Newsletter for Customers of the GSA Public Buildings Service

Winter 2009

## In This Issue

- 2** **From the Desk of Rob Hewell**  
Business improvements reap fiscal and programmatic rewards
- 2** **Richmond Field Office**  
Now located in the new Courthouse
- 4** **Pittsburgh's Moorhead Federal Building**  
Completes five year renovation project
- 6** **Reducing Fossil Fuel Energy Use**  
Meeting the challenges of the Energy Independence and Security Act
- 7** **IRS Construction Kickoff in Philadelphia**  
Celebrating the past and looking to the future
- 8** **New Regional Account Manager**  
Pedro Viera
- 8** **Ask a RAM:**  
What are the significant changes to the Tenant Improvement-Solicitation for Offers?
- 10** **PBS Measures Up**  
Beating industry pricing standards
- 11** **You're Invited to the GSA Expo**  
June 9 – 11, 2009 in San Antonio, Texas

## New U.S. Courthouse Dedicated in Richmond, Virginia

On October 17, 2008, the General Services Administration (GSA) and the U.S. Courts held a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony for the new Spottswood W. Robinson III and Robert R. Merhige, Jr., United States Courthouse in Richmond, Virginia. Over 300 guests attended this event hosted by the former GSA Public Buildings Service (PBS) Commissioner David Winstead, former GSA Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Barbara L. Shelton, and keynote speaker, Chief Judge James R. Spencer of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

The ceremony also included remarks from The Honorable L. Douglas Wilder, Mayor of the City of Richmond; Robert A.M. Stern, Robert A.M. Stern Architects, LLP; and U.S. Congressman Robert C. Scott, who conducted the dedication along with members of the Robinson and Merhige families.

*continued on page 3*



*Ribbon Cutting Ceremony: (left to right) GSA Project Manager Gary Zimmerman, former GSA Regional Administrator Barbara L. Shelton, Congressman Robert C. Scott, Chief Judge James R. Spencer, Mayor of Richmond Douglas Wilder, Architect Robert A.M. Stern, and former GSA Public Building Service Commissioner David Winstead*



# From the Desk of Rob Hewell

As we begin the new year, I realize there is much that is new to share with our GSA clients.

In this edition of *Focus*, you'll read about the recent restructuring and improvements made to our Tenant Improvement-Solicitation for Offers (TI-SFO) package used to acquire and administer your leased space. The new, national TI-SFO is expected to bring greater consistency in GSA leasing nationwide.

We also have news to share regarding our accomplishments in energy conservation and sustainability. In this edition, we've outlined a number of recently completed and planned projects that will help us achieve the goals of the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA). This will accomplish substantial savings while maintaining world class workplaces for our clients. GSA continues to drive the market for more energy-efficient building systems and materials, with 32 LEED® certified buildings nationwide, including four new Mid-Atlantic Region lease construction projects certified in 2008.

Sustainability and green design were also incorporated into our \$53.8 million renovation of the William S. Moorhead Federal Building in Pittsburgh, PA. Currently in its final stages of construction, we've modernized building systems as well as over 437,000 square feet of office space for the 43 federal agencies housed in this facility.

In 2008, our Mid-Atlantic realty professionals were successful in securing leases for our clients at an average of 9.76% below the market rate, saving clients and taxpayers close to a million dollars. I'm pleased to share news of two recent selections in the PBS Mid-Atlantic Region that will help ensure continued outstanding service and value. In this edition, you'll read about the selections of Pedro Viera as a Regional Account Manager and Laurie Ney as Realty Services Officer, and the wealth of experience each brings to their new position.

A new year always brings new challenges as well as new opportunities. In this year of Presidential Transition, the security and safety of our tenants, visitors, and facilities remain of paramount importance to PBS. The Secretary of Homeland Security has declared a "Period of Heightened Alert" through July 2009 to address increased risk due to activities associated with the Presidential Transition. I would like to remind all of our federal tenants of the importance of increased vigilance during this time. The Federal Protective Service Mega-Center national phone number is **(877) 437-7411**. I encourage you to call this number if you observe suspicious individuals or activities.

I wish you all a happy, healthy 2009 and look forward to exploring new opportunities for partnership in the year ahead. 

Rob Hewell  
Assistant Regional Administrator  
Public Buildings Service, Mid-Atlantic Region

## New Location for the Richmond Field Office

The General Services Administration (GSA) Richmond Field Office has found a new home in the Spottswood W. Robinson III and Robert R. Merhige, Jr., United States Courthouse. You can now find the same dedicated group of Public Buildings Service (PBS) professionals at:

701 East Broad Street  
Suite 4600  
Richmond, VA 23219

The previous Field Office location in room 466 of the Richmond Federal Building remains open. Property Manager William Blandford is still on site to assist clients in the building. All Richmond Field Office staff can be reached at the same phone numbers and email addresses. 



GSA Richmond Field Office staff

Left row top to bottom:

Tony Tessenaar, Brad Fuhrman, Renee Newman, Jackie Estes, Ray Coward, Lynn Otto

Right row top to bottom:

Ishsherrie Cook, Sherri Friedhoff, Kitty Swanson, Linda Savage-Linder, Rosemary Epperson

Not pictured:

William Blandford, Rick Lerner, Dave O'Donnell, John Remis, Lee Branscomb, James Edmunds, and Amelia Glissman

continued from front cover

# New U.S. Courthouse Dedicated in Richmond, Virginia

“The ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Richmond courthouse was a true celebration of the completion of a great building.”

— *Diane Nymberg,*  
*District Design Manager*  
*U.S. District Court for the Eastern*  
*District of Virginia*

Former PBS Commissioner David Winstead said of the new facility, “I think that we can all agree—with its handsome profile, soaring light-filled entrance loggia, gracious halls and beautiful courtrooms—this courthouse will become part of that legacy—an exemplar of noble public architecture.”

The ceremony included a short documentary on the courthouse construction as well as a video commemorating the honorable men whose names the courthouse bears. The courthouse is dedicated to Spottswood W. Robinson III and Robert R. Merhige, Jr., both federal judges who actively strived for desegregation in the Virginia court system during their tenure.

Spottswood W. Robinson III was a Virginia civil rights lawyer who argued one of the five cases that led to the Supreme Court’s

decision to desegregate schools in the 1954 ruling of *Brown v. Board of Education*. Robinson’s views on desegregation led to envisioning the establishment of complete equality for all people, regardless of race.

Robert R. Merhige, Jr. was a federal judge known for his rulings on desegregation of dozens of Virginia school systems in the 1970s. He also gained a respected reputation for other important rulings that touched on environmental regulations, consumer rights, and civil rights.

Master of Ceremonies and former Regional Administrator Barbara L. Shelton concluded her speech with, “We at GSA are proud of this project and are confident the benefits of this beautiful new courthouse will have long lasting positive effects for the City of Richmond.”

This new seven-story facility houses the U.S. Courts and other judiciary agencies. The building holds 346,000 gross square feet of space, a six story glass atrium as well as nine courtrooms with ancillary spaces. The GSA Federal Acquisition Service provided the furniture procurement and installation as well as telecommunication service. The Integrated Workplace Acquisition Center (IWAC) assisted the U.S. Courts in the procurement of over \$1.5 million in furniture and related services, including the repair and refurbishment of existing furniture.

The courthouse, which reflects a classicalist architectural style, was designed by Architect Robert A.M. Stern and HLM-Heery under the direction of the GSA Design Excellence Program. PBS awarded the construction contract to Tompkins Builders, Inc., a subsidiary of Turner Construction, from Washington, D.C. The full notice to proceed was issued in March 2005. PBS then managed the project with the assistance of Jacobs Engineering Group. The facility was substantially completed in June 2008, and opened to the public on August 18, 2008.

“The ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Richmond courthouse was a true celebration of the completion of a great building,” said Diane Nymberg, District Design Manager, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. “The new courthouse is a signature building on Broad Street and will maintain a strong presence in the downtown area for many years to come. The court family is truly honored to occupy the new courthouse.”



*Spottswood W. Robinson III and Robert R. Merhige, Jr. United States Courthouse in Richmond, Virginia*

# Pittsburgh Federal Building Completes Five Year Renovation Project

The William S. Moorhead Federal Building in Pittsburgh, PA, is in the final stages of a five year renovation project. This is the culmination of five phases of construction, providing over 437,000 square feet of state-of-the-art office space for 43 federal agencies, including the Internal Revenue Service, Veterans Affairs, the Corps of Engineers and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The construction contract for the Moorhead renovation project was awarded on March 14, 2004 to small business Burchick Construction for \$53.8 million. The project consisted of several major components, including asbestos abatement and the overhaul of the heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. Through the project, the General Services Administration (GSA) modernized building systems and renovated all revenue-generating space. Most importantly, the renovations eliminated environmental discomforts present in the pre-existing facility.

The Moorhead project also applied sustainable and green design initiatives into renovations, including construction waste management practices, and use of recycled, regionally manufactured and certified wood materials. Also, energy performance was optimized and a dedicated outdoor air system has been employed.

Other improvements to the facility include:

- ❖ Upgraded fire alarm systems
- ❖ Re-fireproofed of the structured steel
- ❖ Improved switchgears and transformers
- ❖ Renovated restrooms, including plumbing services and handicapped accessibility

“Our agency’s move...was a smooth process. Working with the GSA project team has been a very positive experience.”

— *Laura Brown*  
*Special Assistant for the*  
*U.S. Department of Labor*  
*Office of Administrative Law Judges*

GSA focused on phasing renovations to maximize federal agency efficiency, but also minimize tenant disruption and moves. To do this, GSA worked closely with each agency to complete the transition into their new, modernized space.

“Our agency’s move into the Moorhead Federal Building was a smooth

process,” stated Laura Brown, Special Assistant for the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Administrative Law Judges. “Working with the GSA project team has been a very positive experience. Even the smallest glitches or issues our agency had were promptly addressed and taken care of by the project team.”

Final agency moves will be completed in early spring 2009. The GSA project team continues to work closely with the building tenants and contractors to deliver quality space in the Moorhead Federal Building. 



*Renovations to the William S. Moorhead Federal Building, including this new federal training room, have modernized facilities to maximize agency efficiency.*

*Rooftop delivery of the William S. Moorhead Federal Building's new cooling tower was made via helicopter.*



*Open office space provides the Federal Protective Service a welcoming work environment.*



*Visitors and building tenants alike enjoy the bright and spacious elevator lobbies.*

# Leading the Way in Reducing Fossil Fuel Energy Use

**S**igned into law in December 2007, the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) requires federal agencies to cut fossil fuel consumption by 55 percent in new and renovated buildings by 2010. By 2030, federal facilities are not to use fossil-fuel-generated energy. This means that in many cases, these buildings will not consume more energy than they produce. EISA is a challenge, but one that the General Services Administration (GSA) is well on the way to accomplishing.

Another aspect of EISA includes an annual 3% per year energy consumption reduction requirement for existing federal buildings, based on fiscal year 2003 consumption rates. This meant that in fiscal year 2008, GSA needed to reduce energy consumption by 9% using fiscal year 2003 as a baseline. GSA exceeded this goal by reducing energy consumption nationwide by 10.3%. In all, the Mid-Atlantic Region has achieved a 15.4% reduction in energy consumption measured against the fiscal year 2003 baseline.

GSA is able to accomplish substantial savings while maintaining the world class workplace that our clients are accustomed to. We lead by example in energy conservation and sustainability, with other federal agencies looking to us to drive the market for more energy-efficient systems and materials.

The Mid-Atlantic Region has completed and is planning several projects that will help us achieve the EISA goals, and decrease the operating costs of facilities:

- ❖ The solar electric array at the Fisher Courthouse Annex in Trenton, NJ, produces energy cost savings and reduces carbon dioxide emissions. GSA is able to sell back to the local utility the Solar Renewable Energy Credits that represent clean energy benefits of solar electricity generation.



GSA clients can expect continued improvement that will enhance energy efficiency and sustainability in their government-owned facilities.

- ❖ Solar electric array installations are also in the planning stages for the J. Caleb Boggs Federal Building in Wilmington, DE, and the Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office Building in Philadelphia, PA.
- ❖ The Health Care Financing Administration Centers for Medicare and Medicare Headquarters in Baltimore, MD, is scheduled for a lighting upgrade which will include replacing approximately 9,500 lighting fixtures. The building will also receive improvements to its heating pumps.
- ❖ The Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office building in Philadelphia, PA, has received a web-based building automation system upgrade which has already reduced the building's energy consumption by more than 6.5%. The building is also planning to upgrade its lighting, including installation of lighting motion controls and stairwell lighting upgrades.
- ❖ The U.S. Courthouse in Erie, PA, is undergoing an update to the energy management system.
- ❖ The Mid-Atlantic Region continues to add the ENERGY STAR® designation to federal facilities within the Region's inventory. ENERGY STAR designations recognize GSA's efforts to manage these facilities through measures that reduce energy consumption and costs.

GSA clients can expect continued improvement that will enhance energy efficiency and sustainability in their government-owned facilities. We are currently identifying energy and water-retrofit projects required by EISA through surveys and studies on federal buildings throughout the country. Projects will include installation of high efficiency HVAC systems, efficient lighting and controls, variable air-flow systems, geothermal ground source heat pump systems, building automation control systems and other energy saving technologies.

All federal agencies are required to meet the goals set forth in the Energy Independence and Security Act. GSA is happy to help our fellow feds achieve these goals by ensuring that the space you occupy is as energy efficient, sustainable, functional, operable and maintainable as we can make it. The EISA goals are challenging, but not impossible to meet. By adapting GSA's design and construction approaches to focus on energy efficiency and by reviewing energy use in buildings operations, we as a federal community can meet the challenges of EISA both now and through 2030. ❖

# IRS Construction Kickoff in Philadelphia: Celebrating the Past and Looking to the Future

**O**n November 10, 2008, the General Services Administration (GSA) and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) held a construction kickoff ceremony celebrating the IRS campus project at the former main U.S. Post Office building in Philadelphia's University City area. The ceremony marked a milestone for this lease which will consolidate the majority of existing IRS facilities in the Philadelphia area into a newly renovated, modern facility.

In August 2007, GSA and the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that paved the way for redevelopment of the historic Post Office building at 30th and Market streets into a new, consolidated campus for the IRS in Philadelphia. The facility, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, will be renovated into modern offices to meet the evolving needs of the IRS.

The MOU was the result of years of collaboration among the federal government, state and local officials, USPS, the University of Pennsylvania, Brandywine Realty Trust, and Keating Group. With the redevelopment of the Post Office building and the significant IRS presence in the community, the partners hope to help bring long term economic viability to the prominent location along the Schuylkill River.

**Former GSA** Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Barbara L. Shelton served as the Master of Ceremonies for the construction kickoff. Attendees heard remarks from then GSA Acting Administrator Jim Williams; Keynote Speaker IRS Commissioner Douglas Shulman; President and Chief Executive Officer and Trustee of Brandywine Realty Trust Gerard Sweeney; Acting Deputy Commissioner of Operations Support for IRS James Falcone; and Mid-Atlantic Assistant Regional Administrator for PBS Rob Hewell. Williams stated, "All of us at GSA look forward to

working together with our IRS colleagues to deliver a state-of-the-art campus here in Philadelphia."

IRS Commissioner Douglas Shulman delivered the keynote address thanking GSA and all those participating in the project. He recognized Philadelphia's long history as one of the bedrocks of IRS operations. He also spoke about the important role that IRS employees play by stating, "As the face of the United States government to the American taxpayers, we are the only federal agency that interacts with every adult American and every business in this country."

The event featured posters that displayed the current conditions of the building and illustrated the projected design for the new space while touching on the green and historical features the building possesses. During the ceremony, each speaker

placed an item of significance into a time capsule that will be opened at the end of the building's lease. The time capsule contains items selected by each ceremony speaker representing the current times and environment. Items included the U.S. House and Senate resolutions approving the project, newspaper sections highlighting the Philadelphia Phillies 2008 World Series victory and the 2008 Presidential election.



*Speakers at Ceremony (left to right): Jim Williams, Barbara L. Shelton, Douglas Shulman, Gerard Sweeney, James Falcone, Rob Hewell*

facility will house nearly 5,000 IRS employees. The IRS campus project consolidates several IRS occupied leased facilities, predominately located in Northeast Philadelphia. The new facility will relocate the IRS offices into modern Class A office space and provide solutions that meet the needs of the new IRS business unit alignment and promote future program flexibility. The building is in close proximity to Philadelphia's 30th Street Station, a major transportation hub for the city which will provide accessibility to the new facility. 

When complete in 2010, this 863,000 square foot

# Pedro Viera

## Named Regional Account Manager



*New Regional Account Manager Pedro M. Viera*

**P**edro M. Viera was recently promoted to Regional Account Manager, transitioning from his previous role as Realty Specialist and Warranted Contracting Officer in the Public Buildings Service (PBS) Chesapeake Service Center. Pedro spent seven years as a Realty Specialist where he gained valuable knowledge about the General Services Administration (GSA), our core values, and our role in supporting the missions of our federal clients. In his new position, Pedro will provide regional account management services for the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Veterans Administration, Department of State, U.S. Postal Service, Congress, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Small Business Administration, and Department of Transportation.

Pedro began his career at GSA in 2001. As a Realty Specialist, Pedro managed a portfolio of 1.9 million rentable square feet of leased and federally-owned space, and over \$23 million in annual rent. He received numerous awards and accolades for his successes and achievements in support of our federal clients. While working on a National Ground Intelligence Command (NGIC) 40,000 square foot, build-to-suit effort in Charlottesville, VA, Pedro and his teammates received personal thanks for a job well done. William "Rusty" Rutter from NGIC Washington Headquarters Services stated that the team's "contributions to this project and total dedication to providing customer support will assist not only NGIC in completing their mission, but directly support our war fighting effort in the field."

Pedro has been recognized for outstanding achievements in support of emergency leases for the Federal Emergency Management Agency as well as the construction of the U.S. Courthouse in Lynchburg, VA. Pedro was also part of a team nominated for the GSA Regional Administrator's Award for Customer Service.

Pedro is a graduate of Penn State University, Abington, PA. He was actively involved with mentoring prior to his federal career, is bilingual in English and Spanish, and brings a variety of skills and experience to his new position. Pedro looks forward to continuing a successful partnership with our regional PBS clients. [!\[\]\(fa6f3af6bfa46c5d4a2d362681095beb\_img.jpg\)](#)

## Ask a RAM

### QUESTION:

**What are the significant changes to the Tenant Improvement-Solicitation for Offers?**

### ANSWER:

The Public Buildings Service (PBS) has been working diligently to restructure and improve the Tenant Improvement-Solicitation for Offers (TI-SFO) package used to acquire and administer your leased space. We are pleased to announce these efforts are complete and, effective immediately, all PBS leasing acquisitions will use the revised TI-SFO template.

The main objective for revising the TI-SFO is to achieve greater national consistency in our leasing program. With all PBS regions using the same TI-SFO, we hope consistent General Services Administration (GSA) services become our standard to you.

Some of the significant changes to the TI-SFO include a reorganization for ease of use by the potential Offerors/Lessors and GSA, more detailed instructions on how to offer, an explanation of the tenant improvement allowance, clarification of the Green Leasing policies and procedures, a subparagraph allowing for designated agency officials to order and pay for overtime utilities directly, and revised language on the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) requirements (see sidebar on page 9 for more information).

Other notable changes include:

- ❖ Clarifications on the Notice to Proceed
- ❖ Revised Historic Preference and Evaluation Criteria
- ❖ A Security Unit Price List attachment, which helps clarify and categorize security costs

PBS continuously strives to improve key business processes by enhancing the tools and resources used in our business lines. Our hope is that these changes will lead us to service you more efficiently and we look forward to the substantial benefits the new TI-SFO provides your agency and GSA.

Please contact your PBS Regional Account Manager for more information regarding the TI-SFO. [!\[\]\(9db214d549b9aeebe72aa11d3a5c4b1a\_img.jpg\)](#)

### PBS Regional Account Managers

|                        |  |                |
|------------------------|--|----------------|
| <b>Pat Zucca, Lead</b> | <a href="mailto:pat.zucca@gsa.gov">pat.zucca@gsa.gov</a>           | (215) 446-2889 |
| <b>Shannon Keeley</b>  | <a href="mailto:shannon.keeley@gsa.gov">shannon.keeley@gsa.gov</a> | (215) 446-4574 |
| <b>Peggy Murr</b>      | <a href="mailto:peggy.murr@gsa.gov">peggy.murr@gsa.gov</a>         | (215) 446-2888 |
| <b>Pedro Viera</b>     | <a href="mailto:pedro.viera@gsa.gov">pedro.viera@gsa.gov</a>       | (215) 446-4534 |

# LEED® Certifications

One of the requirements in the updated TI-SFO states that within the first 12 months of occupancy, all new construction of 10,000 rentable square feet or more must meet a minimum Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Silver certification. The U.S. Green Building Council's LEED Green Building Rating System™ is a voluntary, consensus-based national standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings. The General Services Administration (GSA) has 32 LEED certified buildings nationwide, including four new Mid-Atlantic Region lease construction projects certified in 2008. Below is the list of these buildings and a sampling of environmental attributes which have contributed to their LEED certifications, and can help reduce operating costs in the long term.

## FEMA Disaster Operations Center, Winchester, Virginia

- ◆ LEED Certified
- ◆ 155,000 square foot office and warehouse space
- ◆ Owned and developed by Cowperwood Company
- ◆ Raised floors with under-floor air distribution
- ◆ Permeable surfaces in parking areas to filter and reduce storm-water runoff
- ◆ Bio-swales to collect rainwater
- ◆ Green roof

## U.S. Coast Guard National Maritime Center, Martinsburg, West Virginia

- ◆ LEED Silver Certified
- ◆ 60,000 square foot office space
- ◆ Owned and developed by JDL Castle Corporation
- ◆ Motion-sensored lights and dual flush toilets in restrooms
- ◆ Utilized environmentally preferable and low-emitting interior finishes throughout the building
- ◆ Recycled large rocks from site's natural landscape as a physical barrier for building
- ◆ Used low maintenance and low water usage plants in landscaping

## Bureau of the Public Debt Avery Building, Parkersburg, West Virginia

- ◆ LEED Certified
- ◆ 183,000 square foot office space
- ◆ Owned and developed by Lowe Enterprises, Mid-Atlantic, Inc.
- ◆ Repositionable partitions
- ◆ Raised floors with under-floor air distribution, electrical, phone and data lines
- ◆ Utilized certified wood throughout the facility's infrastructure
- ◆ Installed water-efficient landscaping
- ◆ 64% of total project's materials were manufactured within 500 miles of the site
- ◆ Utilized light colored roofing materials to reduce the heat island effect

## U.S. Courthouse, Newport News, Virginia

- ◆ LEED Certified
- ◆ 40,000 square foot space for office, courtrooms, judge's chambers, jury rooms, and prisoner holding areas
- ◆ Owned and developed by Scannell Properties
- ◆ Glass curtain wall and large windows bring in natural light to core areas
- ◆ Utilized environmentally preferable and low-emitting interior finishes throughout the building
- ◆ Indigenous plants and trees incorporated into the landscape
- ◆ Utilized light colored building and roofing materials to reduce the heat island effect



*FEMA Disaster Operations Center in Winchester, VA, LEED® Certified*



*The Bureau of the Public Debt Avery Building in Parkersburg, WV, LEED® Certified*

# PBS Measures Up to Beat Industry Pricing Standards

General Services Administration (GSA) employees strive every day to provide best value products and services to our clients as well as the American taxpayer. Like many private sector businesses and other federal government agencies, we have measures in place to help us define our successes. One such measure gauges the cost of GSA leased space relative to commercial market rates. We are happy to report that in fiscal year 2008, the Mid-Atlantic Region exceeded our goal, providing leases to clients at an average of 9.76% below the market rate.

Simply put, this measure compares the Public Buildings Service (PBS) cost of leased space with comparable private commercial rates to determine if we negotiate competitive lease rates. PBS nationwide exceeded its fiscal year 2008 goal, negotiating lease costs at 9.41% below the market rate.

GSA calculates the measure by comparing the average cost of PBS leased space to the industry benchmark average cost of commercial space reported by the Society of Industrial and Office Realtors (SIOR). By negotiating lease costs in the Mid-Atlantic Region an average of 9.76% below the market rate, GSA saved clients and taxpayers close to \$1 million dollars.

To help ensure that our realty services professionals continue to provide outstanding service and value to our clients, we are pleased to announce that Laurie Ney has been selected as our

new Mid-Atlantic Region Realty Services Officer (RSO). As the Region's RSO, Laurie is responsible for providing management oversight for regional realty operations. This involves the provision of space for federal tenants through assignment in GSA controlled space, or by leasing space from private and public concerns. She is responsible for ensuring regional consistency in real estate practices and implementing the realty acquisition training program.



*Laurie Ney, Mid-Atlantic Region Realty Services Officer*

Laurie brings a wealth of experience to the RSO position, having served as a Realty Specialist, Team Leader and most recently, a Realty Supervisor. In her position as Realty Supervisor, Laurie was responsible for training and developing a team of Realty Specialists to ensure GSA's main priorities of leasing excellence and client satisfaction. By providing leadership to realty policy and training program development, Laurie has also influenced the realty program regionally and nationally.

"I am excited to be in this position and look forward to working with a wide variety of people and projects," Laurie states. "It's my goal to help our realty employees provide consistent, high quality services to our clients."

Laurie received her Bachelor's degree from the University of Richmond in Virginia and her Master's degree from Villanova University in Philadelphia, both degrees in political science. Laurie is a native of New York and resides in Havertown, PA, with her family. 

"It's my goal to help our realty employees provide consistent, high quality services to our clients."  
— Laurie Ney  
*Mid-Atlantic Region  
Realty Services Officer*

# Register Now for the GSA Expo in June

You are invited to the annual GSA Expo in San Antonio, Texas, June 9 – 11, 2009. The Expo is designed to be a complete experience for federal and military personnel. Admission is FREE. This year's event provides several training courses targeted for those clients who manage real property operations for their agencies.

Register today for the Expo at (888) 272-5565 or [expo.gsa.gov](http://expo.gsa.gov). You can also review online a complete listing of all classes being offered. Visit the "Training" page and click on "2009 Training Matrix." A sample of available workshops include:

## Personal and Real Property Disposal Move/Relocation Responsibility

Through this One GSA presentation you will learn how the General Services Administration (GSA) can provide assistance and guidance to make your move/relocation less stressful. GSA's Public Buildings Service Office of Property Disposal and the Federal Acquisition Service Office of Property Management are jointly presenting this course to give an overview of the complete disposal process including both real and personal property.

## Integrated Workplace Solutions which include Furniture, Copiers, Audio/Video Equipment and More!

GSA's Integrated Workplace Acquisition Center (IWAC) can be your one stop source of supply for your workplace, including furniture, copiers, IT equipment and more! Learn about the wide array of the IWAC's schedule programs and how their team of acquisition professionals and subject matter experts can assist your agency in meeting its needs through innovative acquisition

vehicles that offer best value solutions through the pre-negotiated pricing and terms on GSA's contracts.

## Property Disposal 101

Property is declared excess when a federal agency no longer has a need for the property. Excess and surplus property should be reported to GSA for utilization by other federal agencies,

donated to the community through the state agencies for surplus property, or sold to the public. Learn the basics of property disposal and how you can help ensure that the federal government saves taxpayer dollars by reporting your agency's excess property for proper disposal processing.

## Sustainability for Buildings on GSA Multiple Award Schedule (MAS)

Executive Order 13423, the Environmental Independence and Security Act (EISA) and the Energy Policy Act (EPACT) set some high mandates for sustainability in buildings. These mandates not only relate to new buildings, but to the federal government's existing building inventory. Many of the products and services needed to help meet the sustainable mandates are available on GSA schedule.

## Disposal of Computers, Electronics and other Special Items

Computer and electronics property disposal is an important issue for Property Disposal Officers in federal agencies who need to make cost effective decisions, but conform to laws and regulations on hazardous material disposal. Options and alternatives from basic screening to computers for schools donations, sales and donation in lieu of abandonment and destruction, and recycling will be discussed. 



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Winter 2009

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## Issue Highlights

- 1** **New U.S. Courthouse Dedication in Richmond, Virginia**
- 6** **Reducing Fossil Fuel Energy Use**  
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Focus on the Web at: [www.gsa.gov/midatlanticfocus](http://www.gsa.gov/midatlanticfocus)

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