



News Release

U.S. General Services Administration

May 3, 2012
R2-12-108

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Officials Gather to Dedicate New U.S. Courthouse

BUFFALO, N.Y. - Federal and local officials, members of the federal judiciary and other invited dignitaries and guests gathered today to dedicate the new United States Courthouse at Niagara Square in downtown Buffalo, N.Y. The formal ceremony took place inside the new building, with guests filling several courtrooms and a live video stream of the event available for the overflow areas.

Participants in the event included U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer, U.S. Congressman Brian Higgins, and Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown. In addition, Chief Judge William M. Skretny of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York presided while District Judge Richard Arcara along with Chief Judge Dennis Jacobs of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and Second Circuit Judge Richard C. Wesley also participated. Denise L. Pease, Regional Administrator of the U.S. General Services Administration's Northeast and Caribbean Region delivered a welcome address to the gathered guests.

Colors were presented by the members of the 914th and 107th Niagara Falls Air Base Honor Guard from Niagara Falls, N.Y. while Chief Probation Officer Anthony M. San Giacomo led guests in the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem was performed by the Resonance Vocal Ensemble from the Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts.

The new 10-story United States Courthouse in Buffalo, N.Y. is a striking enhancement to the local skyline, gracing downtown Buffalo with its prominence and unique profile. It is dramatically situated on a 1 ¾ acre site in the northwest corner of Niagara Square in the downtown civic center of the city. A curved south wall, oriented towards the Square, encloses the public lobbies, transparently revealing the activity within. A glass pavilion creates a courtyard interlocked with the tower form and a 255 foot elevator tower topped with a glowing lantern completes the structure.

The 284,000 gross square foot facility includes five District and four Magistrate courtrooms. There are also ten judges' chambers, a Court of Appeals chamber and a satellite library, along with necessary supporting space for the U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Attorney, Probation and Pretrial Services, the Federal Public Defender and the U.S. General Services Administration. The building will provide secure indoor parking for 54 vehicles.

The building has received LEED-NC Gold certification through the U.S. Green Building Council. It extensively uses local, recycled materials and low-VOC materials to ensure excellent air quality. The building was designed using iterative energy modeling, and the subsequent installation of energy systems have been independently commissioned to optimize energy use. The high performance building envelope features low "e" glazing to help reduce energy needs. In addition, the building is fitted with occupancy sensor controls and low flow water fixtures.

Under GSA's Art-in-Architecture program, monumental colored glass panels designed by Buffalo native Robert Mangold, a major figure in the geometric abstraction movement are installed in the courthouse pavilion lobby. The text of the United States Constitution is etched on the glass façade of the pavilion, casting its shadow upon all who enter into the building.

The building was designed by Kohn Pederson Fox Associates, P.C. of New York City and constructed by Mascaro Construction Company of Pittsburgh, PA. The Construction Manager was Cannon Design of Grand Island, N.Y.

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For a fact sheet about the Buffalo courthouse contact Renée Miscione at renee.miscione@gsa.gov.

Information about the new courthouse is also at www.gsa.gov/buffalocourthouse .