



# COURTHOUSE CONSTRUCTION

Court Capital & Facilities Management Electronic Newsletter  
Spring 2012

Massachusetts Trial Court - Chief Justice for Administration and Management Robert A. Mulligan

*"Courthouse Construction" has been developed by the Capital Projects team of the Trial Court to provide regular updates on new construction, renovations, planning and development. Court Capital Projects partners with Commissioner Carole Cornelison and the Commonwealth's Division of Capital Asset Management to upgrade court infrastructure statewide.*

## J. Michael Ruane Judicial Center Opens for Business



In December, the Trial Court's newest courthouse, the J. Michael Ruane Judicial Center at 56 Federal Street in Salem, opened for business. This 195,000 square-foot facility of glass, steel and brick is the new home of the Superior, District, Juvenile and Housing Court Departments, as well as a Law Library.

The state-of-the-art building has 11 light-filled courtrooms, including a "high tech" courtroom capable of enhanced multimedia presentations for trial proceedings. There are over 20 conference rooms available for attorney and client use, as well as a safe and secure waiting area for victims and witnesses. The District Attorney also

has a satellite office in the building and modern facilities are provided for the Grand Jury to operate in a secure manner. Adult and juvenile court clinics are provided, as well a center for self-represented litigants near the Law Library.

The Law Library, formerly the First Baptist Church of Salem built in 1804, was relocated to the corner of the site and linked to the main court building. The church building has been carefully restored, retaining the original balconies, coved ceilings, chandeliers and intricate plaster medallions and moldings. The portraits of former judges and

prominent legal figures in Essex County now are displayed in this beautiful space.

The contrast between the modern courthouse and this historic building is striking. The two structures represent the best architecture of their era. The former outdated facilities replaced by the new complex now are now under study by DCAM to determine the best scenarios for their eventual re-use. The major renovation of the nearby Essex County Probate and Family Court currently is in the study phase.

THE LAW: IT HAS HONORED US; MAY WE HONOR IT.  
- DANIEL WEBSTER



## Taunton Trial Court Officially Opens

The official opening ceremony for the Taunton Trial Court was held in December. Chief Justice for Administration & Management Robert Mulligan welcomed Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray, Senator Marc Pacheco, Representative Shaunna O’Connell, Supreme Judicial Court Justice Robert Cordy, Secretary of Administration and Finance Jay Gonzalez, Division of Capital Asset Management Commissioner Carole Cornelison, Miss Massachusetts Molly Whalen and other community leaders.

Speakers highlighted the collaborative efforts among the three branches of government and noted that the \$80 million project supported approximately 140 construction jobs and was completed on time and \$6 million under budget. Construction began in the fall of 2008 and the building opened to the public in July 2011. The new building includes the District, Housing, Juvenile and Probate and Family Court Departments in one courthouse, improving service to the public.

District Court First Justice Kevan Cunningham spoke on behalf of court staff. “In the past six years, this District Court has had three different addresses and now has gone rapidly from the 19th century to the 21st century. It’s good to finally be home.” The Taunton District Court endured poor working conditions in the original courthouse, which was built in 1826, and later moved to a leased facility at the former Cohannet School.



Program participants at the official opening ceremony at the Taunton Trial Court



Courtyard area of the Taunton Trial Court

## Greenfield Trial Court

Leers Weinzapful has concluded the schematic design phase for the renovation and new construction of the Greenfield Trial Court. A preliminary presentation was given to the Court Administrators in February to seek their comments. The comments were reviewed and incorporated into the plans and a final presentation was made to the departmental Chief Justices and the CJAM for comment and approval in March.

During the Design Development phase which will take approximately eight months, the final details, structural plans, mechanical, HVAC, power and data plans

will be completed in preparation for the final construction documents.



## Court Projects

### Repair/Energy Performance Projects

#### Projects in Study Phase

Clinton District Court (Roof Replacement)  
 Gardner District Court  
 (Roof Replacement)  
 Palmer District Court  
 (Roof & Exterior Repairs)  
 Woburn District Court  
 (Roof Replacement)  
 Pittsfield Probate & Family Court  
 (Security)

#### Projects in Design Phase

Somerville District Court  
 (Roof Replacement)  
 Hampshire Hall of Records  
 (HVAC, Electrical and Roof Upgrades)  
 New Bedford Probate & Family  
 (Roof Replacement)

#### Projects in Construction Phase

**(Energy Upgrades to the following)**  
 Brockton Trial Court  
 Cambridge Juvenile Court  
 Edward W. Brooke Court  
 East Boston District Court  
 Fall River Durfee  
 Middlesex Probate & Family Court  
 Suffolk County Highrise Court  
 West Roxbury Court

### Major Projects

#### Projects in Study Phase

Salem Probate & Family Court

#### Projects in Design Phase

New Greenfield Trial Court

#### Projects in Construction Phase

### Court Deferred Maintenance—CAMIS

#### Projects in Study Phase

Roxbury Municipal Court  
 (Sprinkler Head Replacement)  
 South Boston Municipal Court  
 (Electrical/Roof/Exterior Envelope)  
 Concord District Court  
 (Plumbing and Electrical)

#### Projects in Design Phase

Gardner District Court  
 (Roof, Exterior Stair, Wall and  
 Replacement & Toilet Upgrades)  
 Pittsfield Probate Court (Life Safety)  
 Suffolk County Court  
 (Emergency Electrical Room)

#### Projects in Construction Phase

Edward W. Brooke Court  
 (Sprinkler Head Replacement)  
 Covett Courthouse  
 (Sprinkler Head Replacement)

## Nominate a Facilities Employee for Recognition

Do you know a Trial Court employee who consistently performs their job in an “Above and Beyond” manner and who you feel may not be recognized for their important contribution to the smooth running of your courthouse? As you know, Court Capital & Facilities Management is running our buildings with a shortage of staff. These employees are working especially hard to maintain our buildings.

And for that we want to acknowledge their outstanding work and dedication to our department. Court Capital and Facilities Management is seeking nominations for outstanding personnel, so that we can highlight their



performance and talents in achieving success during these challenging times.

Please forward nominations to:

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 3 Pemberton Square, Suite 207  
 Boston, MA 02108

Or [estela.cardoso@jud.state.ma.us](mailto:estela.cardoso@jud.state.ma.us)

## Fun Facts

### BARNSTABLE, DUKES AND NANTUCKET COUNTIES



7	Courthouses
13	Courtrooms
98,705	Courthouse Space (Square Feet)
46,041	Caseload for FY10 <i>(Statistics for all departments except Housing and Land Courts)</i>
\$14.17	Average Operating Cost per Square Foot <i>(Utility cost plus rent, when applicable)</i>
242,595	County Population (2010 Census)
▲ 4.7%	Population Change from 2000 to 2010
548	Area of County (Square Miles)
\$8.8 million	Identified Deferred Maintenance Needs <i>(Gienapp Assessment)</i>
\$1.0 million	Bond Bill Allocation <i>(Chapter 304 of the Acts of 2008)</i>



## Personnel Updates

### Accomplishments/Awards

#### Congratulations on Length of Service:

- Francis J. Harrington, Facilities Manager in Dudley, has been with the state for 41 years and with this department since 1996.
- Carol A. Meehan, Fiscal Specialist in Northampton, has been with the state for 34 years and with this department since 1998.
- Charlie Prosser, Custodian at the Brooke Courthouse, is the longest-employed person with the Court Capital & Facilities Management Department. He started in 1988 and has served with us for 24 years.

Thank you all for your dedication to the Facilities Management Department.

### Retirements

Robert LaRocca retired in November after 31 years of service to the state. In 1989, Bob began his career with CFB as a facilities manager and was later promoted to operations manager. We wish him and his wife Lorna many happy, healthy years together to enjoy retirement.

Vincent Musto, who served 37 years with the Commonwealth, retired in February. Vinny spent the last 25 years as Assistant Director of the Facilities Department. We wish him and his family many happy and healthy years to enjoy retirement.

### Bereavements/Births/Marriages

We are sad to report that our colleague, Benvinda Rosario, passed away in November. Ms. Rosario began her service in 2005 as a custodian at the George N. Covett Courthouse in Brockton before transferring to the new Fall River Justice Center. We extend condolences to Ms. Rosario's family and friends.

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For more info, please visit <http://www.mass.gov/courts/admin/courtcapitalprojects.html>

