

TENTH CIRCUIT

Karen Baca

Albuquerque, NM

Byron White
U.S. Courthouse
Denver, CO



According to the GSA website, the Byron White U.S. Courthouse is a Denver landmark of dramatic distinction and the regions most magnificent example of neoclassical grandeur. Set on a pedestal and surrounded by sidewalks, the 244,000 square foot building is clad in white Colorado Yule marble. The front exterior is faced with a three-story portico of 16 Ionic columns while the other three sides feature pilasters with the same Ionic capitals modified by the addition of the national coat-of-arms. The building consists of four stories and two basement levels.

The building, completed between 1910 and 1916, originally housed the postal service in the basement and on the first floor, while the judiciary occupied the second floor. The remaining floors served as offices for other federal agencies in the area.

The building has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1973. GSA has compiled a fact sheet regarding the courthouse which can be found at: https://www.gsa.gov/cdnstatic/Byron_White_Factsheet_508.pdf

The building is also embellished with a pair of Indiana limestone sculptures of Rock mountain sheep commissioned from Denver artist Gladys Caldwell Fisher. These sit at the southwest entrance to the courthouse. Notable interior features include:

- ◆ Burled wood gate and bench panels,
- ◆ Brass and glass compass skylight inlay,
- ◆ Beige on white and blue and gold color palettes, and
- ◆ Second through fourth floor views onto interior light courts.

Inscribed on wall piers are the Pony Express rider's names, including Buffalo Bill Cody, an important part of the history of the postal service in the American West.

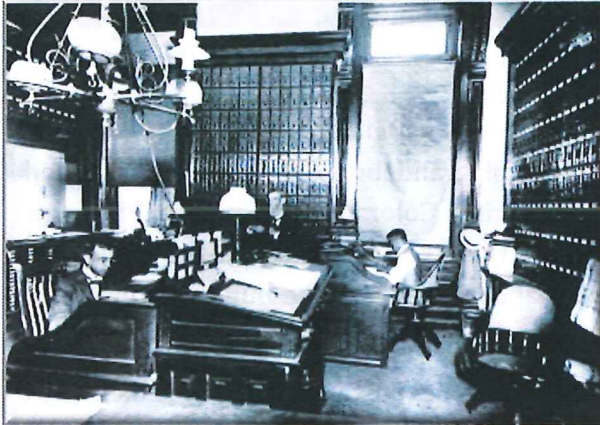
If you ever find yourself in Denver, make sure to schedule time to visit this historic and beautiful building.

Information courtesy [GSA.gov](https://www.gsa.gov)



TENTH CIRCUIT— Continued . . .

Fun Facts about the Byron White U.S. Courthouse



In the original courtrooms of the U.S Post Office and Courthouse, the jury and witness boxes were on rollers, which could be moved around the room

The architects consulted Professor Sabine of Harvard University, a specialist in acoustics, to determine the best design for the courtrooms

There were fountains installed above the post office workroom skylights. They were intended to stream water over the surface of the skylight, although they were never utilized.

A platform on the roof was used to house instruments for the official weather station of Denver.

Contrary to popular rumor, the columns removed from Courtroom III are not in John Denver's Aspen ranch.

The Federal District Courtroom occupies the north end of the second floor. It is finished in pink-tinged white marble streaked with gray. The ceiling is arched. To minimize sound, the panels are draped in thick, deep blue velvet hangings.

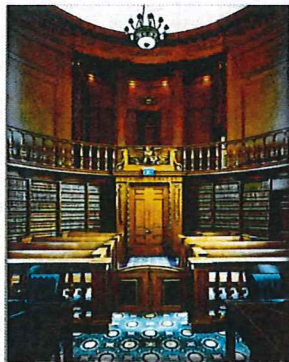
The semicircular recess surrounding the judge's bench is also draped with heavy blue velvet. The entrance to the judge's chambers is through the velvet draperies behind the bench. The black velvet with gold decoration on the ceiling of the apse behind the judge's bench is original. Ornaments of gold catch the draperies; the woodwork is of walnut; the flooring, of cork.

Four Latin inscriptions are cut in marble of the court room walls:

<i>Justitia Virtutum Regina</i>	Justice is the Queen of Virtues
<i>Justitia Soror Fides</i>	Justice is the Sister of Faith
<i>Nemo Est Supra Leges</i>	No One is Superior to Laws
<i>Ita Lex Scripta Est</i>	Thus is the Law Written



TENTH CIRCUIT— Continued . . .



The former Law Library, now Courtroom 4, is wholly finished in richly carved oak. In 1916, the appropriation for the building made no provision for books. Now the shelves are filled with books from the Tenth Circuit Library. Carved about the ceiling are the names of great legal authorities, writers and lawgivers from ancient to modern times. The exit, guarded by a resplendent eagle, is illuminated by the Latin aphorism, *Lux et Veritas* ("Light and Truth") and supported by lateral panels depicting two fasces, a Roman symbol of the strength inherent in unity.



First Floor Lobby

Names on both ends of the Post Office lobby are those of Pony Express riders. The interior of the lobby and the winding staircases are original to the building. The murals at each end of the lobby are original to the building. They were painted in 1918 and shipped from New York. The mailboxes are original to the building and were left in honor of the building's past. Next to the elevator floor indicator exist scrolls that represent the Roman symbol for the law.

ELEVENTH CIRCUIT

Sandra De Varona

Miami, FL



Wilkie D.
Ferguson, Jr.
U.S. Courthouse
Miami, FL

Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr.
U.S. Courthouse

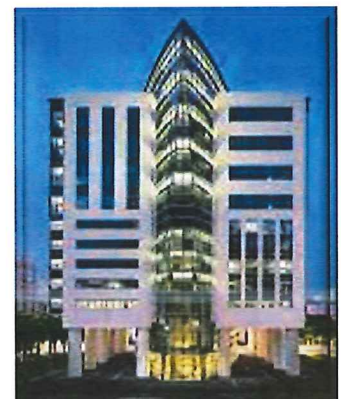
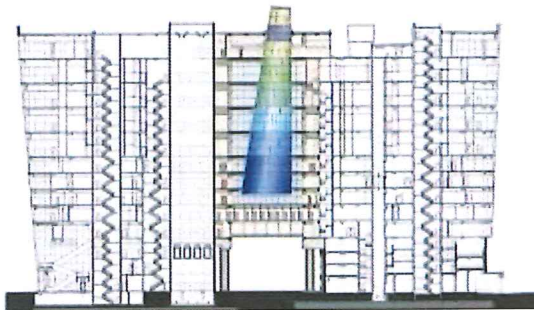
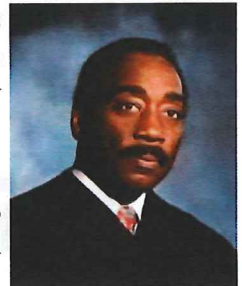


The United States Federal Courthouse was built in 2007 and is located in a judicial campus comprised of six buildings constructed between 1910 and 1996. The building has two limestone towers connected by a curved glass prism. Each tower has 14 floors and the glass prism contains the waiting rooms and circulation spaces. The 550,000 square foot structure adds a beautiful feature to the downtown Miami skyline.

The building hosts 16 courtrooms and chambers, along with a separate space for the Clerk of Court. The building also has 110 secured and covered indoor parking spots.

Designed by the architect firm Arquitectonica, the structure has been hailed as an excellent example of green environmentally sensitive architecture. The glass façade is designed to reflect transparency, the integrity of the court and equality before law.

The courthouse is named for a prominent lawyer and Judge Wilkie D. Ferguson, a native of Miami who made significant contributions to the City of Miami and State of Florida.



ELEVENTH CIRCUIT— Continued . . .



Greetings from the 11th Circuit! Thank you for selecting me to serve as the new FJAA Representative for the 11th Circuit of the Federal Court. I am excited to join you in this capacity and look forward to working with all of you.

My name is Sandra de Varona, and I am the Judicial Administrator for Federal District Court Judge Donald L. Graham. Prior to working with Judge Graham, I served as the Administrator to Judge Barbara Lagoa of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. Judge Graham has been a District Court Judge since 1991. As a Judicial Administrator I am responsible for the overall operation of the office. I manage and maintain the Judge's calendars and schedule. I also coordinate and schedule meetings, and conferences. I work closely with the Judge's law clerk's and courtroom deputy.

I started with Judge Graham on May 18, 2021. I have now been with the Judge for almost five (5) months. Just like all of you, we have been affected by the COVID pandemic. Nevertheless, I have been in the office every day. The law clerks are currently working a hybrid schedule, and we have all been able to maintain the regular office protocol.

Prior to working in the Eleventh Circuit, I worked for the Akerman Law Firm in Miami, Florida as a Legal Assistant and Paralegal for fifteen (15) years. I am also very proud of the fact that my career in the legal world began in the Florida State Court System, where I served as a Judicial Assistant from 1993 to 2005 for Circuit Court Judge Michael B. Chavies.

In my spare time I love to work out. I spend a lot of time in the gym. My daily routine begins very early, as I train for two (2) hours before I arrive at work. The training helps me both physically and mentally. When not training, I love to spend time with my twenty-two (22) year old daughter Samantha, and our Chocolate Labrador – Jackson.



In Miami, we have three (3) Federal Courthouses. The C. Clyde Atkins Building, The James L. King Building and The Wilkie D. Ferguson Building. I work on the thirteenth floor of the Wilkie D. Ferguson Courthouse, which is the newest of the three. The Courthouse is equipped with the most modern and innovative technology. The working conditions could not be better!

I look forward to serving all of you in this position. I also look forward to meeting all of you in person at some point in the near future.

FEDERAL/D.C. CIRCUIT

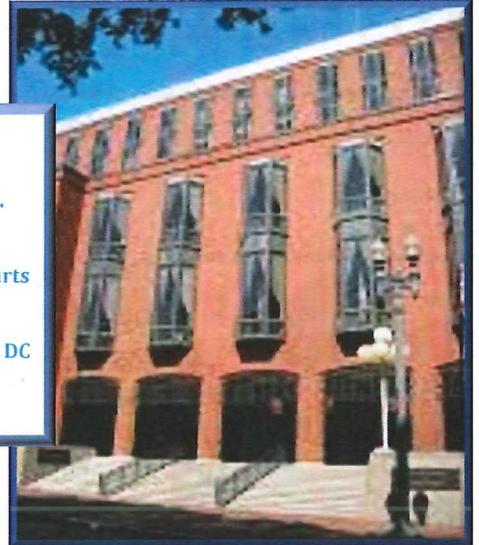
Terri Quintos

Washington, DC

Howard T.
Markey

National Courts
Building

Washington, DC



History of the Howard T. Markey National Courts Building *Submitted by Terri Quintos*

Greetings from the Howard T. Markey National Courts Building! A beautiful red brick, nine-story courthouse prominently located adjacent to the White House, on the east side of Lafayette Square is home to the United States Court of Federal Claims (COFC) and the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit (CAFC). The courthouse is connected to three famous historic buildings—the Benjamin Ogle Tayloe House, the former Cosmos Club, and the Madison House, best known as the Dolley Madison House.



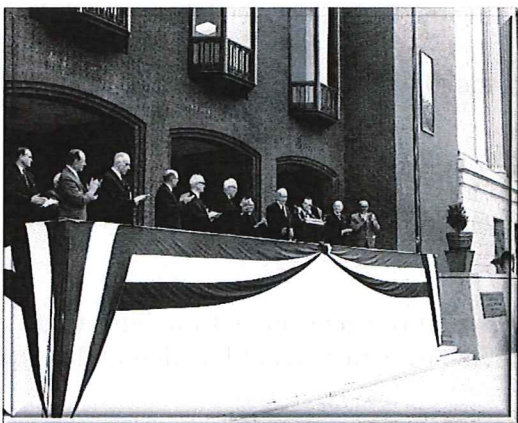
On February 18, 1960, the Evening Star newspaper edition reported that the House of Representatives had approved \$6.3M for the courthouse construction, and the appropriation was ultimately approved by President Eisenhower before the end of his tenure. The Eisenhower Administration's plans for the building were to raze the historical homes and construct the courthouse building. When First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy arrived on the scene and learned of the plan, however, she intervened and persuaded President Kennedy to hire architect John Carl Warnecke to preserve the adjacent historic houses. Warnecke was a renowned and remarkably successful American architect in the 1960s through 1980s. The echoes of history continue to ring out through the halls and walkways of these buildings.

Federal/D.C. Circuit—Continued . . .



Under Warnecke's design, the historic houses were to be preserved on the east and west sides of Lafayette Square, with the new courthouse rising behind them. During the construction phase, the building was once again in the news. On May 31, 1967, the Washington Daily News reported that "soupy cement" was found on the job. Apparently, a General Accounting Office (GAO) investigation reported that the contractor was using "weak, watery cement." The report stated that the GAO observed that "the wetter the cement is, the cheaper it is, and contractors can save large amounts by adding extra water." The "soupy cement" conditions were later resolved by adding less water to the cement mixture. Well, isn't that a sloppy, soupy mess! I'm happy to report that despite this earlier "soupy cement" findings during construction, the courthouse persevered through a 5.8 magnitude earthquake in August 2011.

Finally, on September 20, 1967, the building was dedicated as the National Courts Building in a ceremony by President Lyndon B. Johnson on the courthouse steps. The first, third, fifth, sixth and seventh floors house the COFC and the second, fourth, eighth and ninth floors house the CAFC.



In 1998, President William Clinton signed legislation renaming the National Courts Building after Howard Thomas Markey. Mr. Markey was an American jurist, the first Chief Judge on the CAFC, who was known for establishing the court's expertise in intellectual property law. The re-dedication celebration was held on October 23, 1998, during a special joint session of the two courts.

Federal/D.C. Circuit—Continued . . .

Now, for some fun, cool facts about the adjacent historic buildings.



Dolley Madison House

- ◆ Built in 1820, Dolley moved-in sometime in 1837 after James Madison's death.
- ◆ She was a major player in DC society; January 1 and July 4 were lively days in her house.
- ◆ Dolley died here in 1849. It is rumored that her ghost fancies the place—with reported sightings of her walking around watching over the property.
- ◆ The house was sold to Admiral Wilkes and turned over to the government in 1861.
- ◆ It became General McClellan's HQ in the Civil War, and President Lincoln would walk over from the White House to visit the General to discuss the war. One night, Lincoln waited in the parlor for an hour for the General to return from a wedding and when the General arrived and was told the President was waiting, he decided to go to bed rather than meet with Lincoln.
- ◆ In 1930, the government acquired all the private land in Lafayette Square.
- ◆ The house has been home to many other agencies, including the Federal Judicial Center and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- ◆ It was in the living room that John Glenn and the other members of the Mercury 7 were introduced to the World.

Cosmos Club

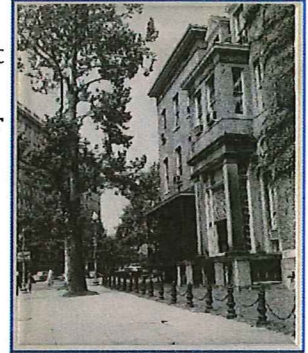
- ◆ The Cosmos Club was founded in 1878 to promote advancement of its all-male members in science, literature, and art.
- ◆ Moved to this location in 1886.
- ◆ Purchased by the government in 1939 for \$1M, but WWII kept the government too busy to do anything with the property, so the club leased this space until moving to their current location on Massachusetts Avenue in 1952.
- ◆ At a meeting of the club here in December 1941, informal discussions were held that laid the foundation for the Manhattan Project, the government's top-secret effort to build an atomic bomb (which, of course, was used in August 1945).

Tayloe House

- ◆ Benjamin Ogle Tayloe was a Harvard graduate, and a successful DC lawyer who lived on the banks of the Potomac near Fredericksburg. He married Julia Dickinson in 1824, and his new wife preferred city life to country life, so the Tayloe House was built on land given to Mr. Tayloe by Julia's father, Congressman John Dickinson.
- ◆ Built in 1828.
- ◆ Presidents Adams, Jackson, Harrison, Tyler, and Millard Fillmore, as well as and Chief Justice John Marshall, Daniel Webster, and Henry Clay were frequent visitors of the Tayloe House.

Federal/D.C. Circuit—Continued . . .

- ◆ Home to one of President McKinley's advisors from 1900-1902. President McKinley visited so often it was referred to as "The Little White House."
- ◆ In 1915, the National Women's Party leased the house and several "Votes for Women" marches originated here before heading to the White House.



The Little White House



Lafayette Square

- ◆ Named after Marquis de Lafayette, a very young French general who befriended George Washington and fought in the Revolutionary War.
- ◆ Home to a Rochambeau statue, another General who fought in the Revolutionary War.
- ◆ Home to a Kosciuszko statue, a Polish Colonel who fought in the Revolutionary War.
- ◆ Home to a Friedrich Von Steuben statue, a German Army Officer who also served in the Revolutionary War.
- ◆ "Temporarily insane" – Congressman Daniel Sickles learned his wife was having an affair with Phillip Barton Key, the son of the guy who wrote the Star-Spangled Banner. Sickles shot him as he walked along Madison Place in Lafayette Square.

***Fun Facts compiled by
Aimee L. Snow, COFC Curator***



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• The Federal Judicial Assistants Association (FJAA) was formed in 2002, as a result of a merger between the Federal Judges Secretaries Association (which was formed in 1972) and the Federal Magistrate Judges Secretaries Association (which was formed in 1995). In 2009, the Federal Judges Secretaries Association officially changed its name to the Federal Judicial Assistants Association.

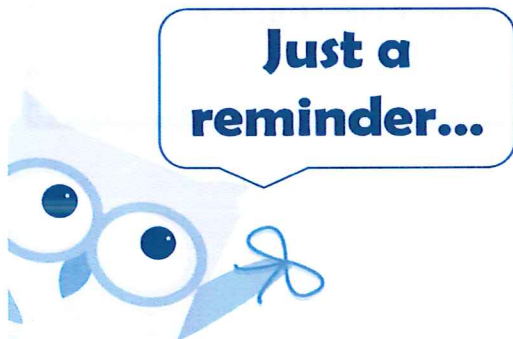
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• The Federal Judicial Assistants Association has held annual conferences since 1973, in Washington, D.C., Denver, Las Vegas, Seattle, St. Louis, Memphis, and San Francisco, as well as many other wonderful locations. The Federal Magistrate Judges Secretaries Association (FMJSA) held its first meeting in 1995 in San Francisco as a joint conference with The Federal Judges Secretaries Association. Subsequent joint meetings in Philadelphia (1998), Reno (1999), and Boston (2000) led to the formation of an Ad Hoc Merger Committee for the two organizations. In 2001 the new by-laws were written and the merger of both organizations was proposed to the membership and approved by formal vote. The two organizations became one effective October 12, 2002.

The goals of FJAA are:

- To promote the general welfare of its members,
- To encourage the highest ethical standards of conduct among its members,
- To promote continuing education and professional development of its members,
- To further the exchange of ideas and practical information relating to judicial support, and
- To foster among its member a feeling of camaraderie and mutual confidence.

FROM MY DESK TO YOU: TIPS FOR THE OFFICE

Let your Circuit Representative know if you would like to share tips with your fellow FJAA members. We will be more than happy to include them in the our next newsletter! Thank you all for your participation!



**SEND YOUR ENTRIES TO YOUR
CIRCUIT REPRESENTATIVE BY
June 15, 2022
THANK YOU!**



CIRCUIT REPRESENTATIVES

Please stay in touch with your circuit representative with newsworthy items for the next issue of the newsletter.

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