



News Release
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GSA Breaks Ground for New United States Courthouse at Niagara Square

BUFFALO – Ground will be broken today for a new United States Courthouse that will rise on Niagara Square in downtown Buffalo, announced the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA). This \$137 million facility is a further example of the federal government’s ongoing commitment to one of New York State’s largest cities.

"Buffalo is about to get a secure, world-class facility that will meet the needs of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York for years to come," said GSA Administrator Lurita Doan. "This is the largest project GSA has ever undertaken in Buffalo. All of us hope it generates a wave of development that yields tremendous returns for this wonderful city."

Among the federal, state, and local officials expected to celebrate the occasion are Senator Charles Schumer, Representative Brian Higgins, Mayor Byron Brown and U.S. District Court Chief Judge Richard Arcara. Also participating in the event will be GSA Administrator Lurita Doan, Commissioner of the GSA Public Buildings Service, David Winstead, and Regional Administrator Emily R. Baker.

“The groundbreaking for this new courthouse is an auspicious day for Buffalo,” said GSA Regional Administrator Emily Baker. “The positive aspects of this project are many. This courthouse serves to benefit the federal judiciary in Buffalo by providing much needed space. It also serves to benefit the citizens of Buffalo by enhancing Niagara Square through noble architecture and contributing to the local economy.”

The new U.S. Courthouse in Buffalo will be a 10-story tower located on approximately 1 ¾ acres in the northwest corner of Niagara Square. The 265,000 gross square foot structure was designed by the architectural firm of Kohn Pederson Fox of New York to express the dignity and transparency of the federal judicial system, while providing the U.S. District Court in Buffalo with 9 new courtrooms and 11 chambers, as well as 54 enclosed parking spaces. The building will also feature a work, consisting of large-scale translucent colored glass panels, by artist Robert Mangold, who was raised in Buffalo. The project is expected to be completed in 2010.

Mascaro Construction Company LLP, the general contractor for the project, plans to subcontract approximately 40% of the project to small, disadvantaged, woman-owned, service-disabled veteran-owned and HUBZone small

businesses and has already held two pre-bid conferences for sub-contractors and suppliers in Buffalo during March and April of 2007.

The construction of this new U.S. Courthouse will continue GSA's commitment to the city of Buffalo. The project will increase contracts with local businesses and provide jobs within the community. The federal government occupies close to 1 million square feet of space in downtown Buffalo housing over 2,500 employees in the existing Dillon Courthouse as well as a number of leases. During the past several years new buildings have been constructed downtown to accommodate space needs for many of the federal agencies relocated from the former Dulski federal building which was sold for \$6.1 million last fall. This has not only added to the Buffalo tax rolls, but has also provided economic stimulus for future growth. In all, GSA has added approximately \$10 million in additional rentals to downtown Buffalo.

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Founded in 1949, GSA serves as a centralized procurement and property management agency for the federal government. GSA manages more than one-fourth of the government's total procurement dollars and influences the management of \$500 billion in federal assets, including 8,300 government-owned or leased buildings and 170,000 vehicles. GSA helps preserve our past and define our future, as a steward of more than 420 historic properties, and as manager of **USA.gov**, the official portal to federal government information and services. GSA's mission to provide superior workplaces, expert technology solutions, acquisition services, purchasing and e-travel solutions and management policies, at best value, allows federal agencies to focus on their core missions.

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