

## **California Courts News Transcript**

Title: Pittsburg Dedication

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The brand new courthouse in Pittsburg, in east Contra Costa County, represents a significant milestone. It's the first new courthouse in the state completely funded by court user fees and assessments. No money from the state's general fund.

Under the direction of the AOC, the Administrative Office of the Courts, construction was completed in less than 2 years, on time and on budget.

Hon. Mary Ann O'Malley, Contra Costa Superior Court Presiding Judge *"This is a great day for the citizens of Contra Costa County."*

The project gave a boost to the local economy.

Hon. Ronald M. George, Chief Justice of California *"We have come to think of our courthouse reconstruction plan as kind of a homegrown stimulus package. These projects could not have come at a better time for the men and women who work in the building trades."*

The courthouse also stands as a monument to a successful partnership that includes the county, the city, the court, and the AOC.

Bill Vickrey, Administrative Director of the Courts *"This will truly be the model for how we proceed on projects in the future. Besides providing a courthouse to conduct the public's work in every day, it in a very important way symbolizes that our government can and does work for the benefit of the public."*

This is a full-service courthouse, 72,000 square feet, with 7 courtrooms – including one that's extra large for traffic cases. Visitors can check electronic message boards for assignments and updates. Plenty of customer service windows, and a take-a-number system that eliminates standing in line.

Lorri Gatto, Deputy Clerk *"So no matter what you're here for, you have to take a ticket."*

Part of the building is open after hours for night court, and it's also available for the community to use for public gatherings.

S. Pearl Freeman, Project Manager, AOC *"So actually in the lobby there are grates that come down and this courtroom is open, the restrooms are open, the entry is available as well as the jury assembly room."*

There's a place to relax, too, with a spectacular view of the Diablo Range.

S. Pearl Freeman, Project Manager, AOC *"People can sit, and look out onto a garden, and see the hills beyond."*

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That garden is actually a green roof, helping to conserve water and cool the building. It's one of the many sustainability features designed to earn this project silver certification by the U.S. Green Building Council.

Nearby is a lovely wall of graceful blossoms under laminated glass.

Hon. Terry Bruiniers, Court of Appeal, First Appellate District *"We had no separate budget for art. We were able to do that within the existing budget for the building. Came out, I think, remarkably well, spectacular."*

In fact, the project has already won design awards. And for Chief Justice Ronald George, it's his last courthouse dedication before retiring, a capstone event.

Hon. Ronald M. George, Chief Justice of California *"To see what was really a poster child for one of the worst facilities in the state be replaced by something that's a flagship for our courthouse efforts, what a great way to bring to a close my career as chief justice."*

I'm Leanne Kozak reporting from Pittsburg for California Courts News.

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