

# SUPERIOR COURTS REACH A SUPERIOR LEVEL



## COUNTY-CITY BUILDING REMODEL

Welcome. The floor you are standing on has greatly changed since the grand opening of the County-City Building on April 10, 1959. At that time, the third floor held the mayor and city attorney offices, city council chambers, and the planning commission office. The fourth floor was home to city engineers and the public reception counter for Public Works. Just prior to the remodel, the Tacoma Police Department was located on both floors.

The new design is the result of a cooperative effort by architects, engineers, Pierce County Superior Court and Facilities Management. Experts collaborated to ensure all areas were in compliance with current codes and A.D.A. requirements. The renovation of the 50 year old building also included various enhancements in the areas of safety and energy conservation. This is the first of four phases of remodel projects involving the County-City Building.

Phase one provides five new courtrooms for the Superior Court allowing the wheels of justice to move more smoothly, safely and efficiently.

The courtrooms on the third floor will benefit the public with larger rooms to hold more jury pools for high profile cases, as well as a greater amount of seating for high publicity proceedings.

A number of security features were also installed during construction, including a hallway in the back of the courtrooms to safely transport inmates from the jail directly to court.

In addition to courtrooms, the remodel project provides Superior Court with something that was in very short supply: administration space. The larger office on the third floor will provide a quieter environment, more room for records and a larger work area.

The remodel project also provides new space for the Tacoma city attorney offices. The city attorney is relocating to make room for the phase two remodel of the second floor.

Upgrades to the building systems were also completed.

- New insulation to reduce heating and cooling costs
- Light controls to save energy by shutting off lights automatically when spaces are empty
- Sensor operated plumbing fixtures to reduce the amount of water consumed
- A solar protective coating on window panels to reduce glare and warm air from entering work spaces



**FUTURE PLANS:** The four phases will be the largest remodel of the County-City Building in a decade and involves nearly 60,000 square feet on five floors. Shortly, work will begin on the second floor in the north wing of the building. The estimated completion for all projects is October 2009.

### Phase 2 (*Remodel of the second floor north wing*)

- Two Superior Court Criminal Division courtrooms
- One Superior Court Criminal Division Presiding Judge courtroom
- New Superior Court administration office space
- Inmate transport connection to existing jail building

### Phase 3 (*Remodel of a portion of the fifth floor central wing*)

- Three District Court courtrooms
- Associated office spaces

### Phase 4 (*Partial remodel of ninth floor*)

- Office space for the County Prosecuting Attorney



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