

## Principles to Guide Courthouse Design

The Courthouse Design principles provide a framework for comprehensive court space master planning, facilities programming and architectural design. The principles should be considered in conjunction with applicable court space planning guidelines, provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED) guidelines and other relevant facility design requirements. As such guidelines and technical requirements will necessarily evolve over time, the guiding principles serve as a broad-scoped, enduring foundation for long-range court facilities planning.

**Principle #1:** Those who design and build new and remodeled courthouse space should engage the public and members of the community in addressing and determining courthouse locations and space utilization.

**Principle #2:** Principal stakeholders and user groups should actively participate in addressing and determining courthouse locations, space adjacencies and best practices.

**Principle #3:** Programming for courthouse design, and the number of courtrooms and support space should be based on the best data available, opportunities for efficiency and cost effectiveness, and maximum flexibility in design for long-term use.

**Principle #4:** Courthouses should be designed to provide specific types of courtrooms or hearing spaces based upon the nature of the proceedings.

**Principle #5:** Courthouses should be designed to provide space for non-adversarial proceedings.

**Principle #6:** New or remodeled courthouses, courtrooms, and support spaces should be designed with the capacity to adopt and leverage technologies that develop and evolve over time.

**Principle #7:** Prior to planning for a new facility, courts should conduct a business process study to define the business processes anticipated in the future.

**Principle #8:** All courthouse design should balance face-to-face facilities and services with remote or virtual services.

**Principle #9:** Courthouse should be designed to serve as a public symbol of fairness, impartiality and the integrity of the judicial branch.

**Principle #10:** In courthouse design, there is a need to provide safety and security for those who visit or work in the courthouse, while at the same time promoting an open and transparent forum for dispute resolution.

**Principle #11**: Courthouses should be designed to promote sustainability and the efficient use of resources/space, bearing in mind long term maintenance and operational costs, while also providing a healthy environment for those who work in and visit a courthouse.

**Principle #12**: Those who design and build new or remodeled courthouses should collaborate at the earlier stages of a project to actively explore potential creative but realistic alternative sources of funding.