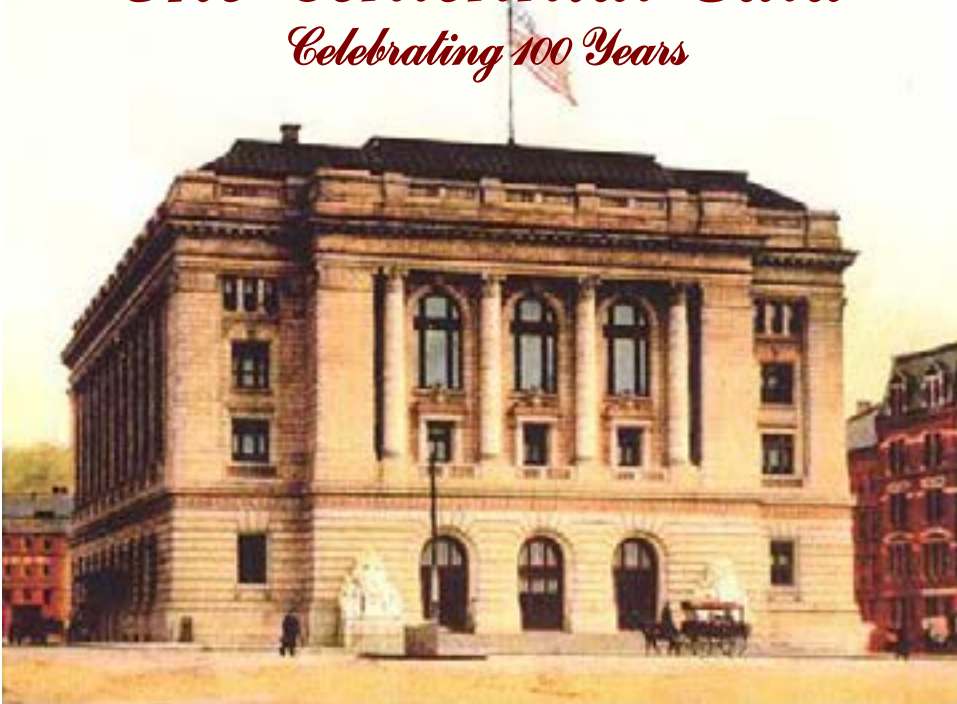


GSA



The Centennial Gala
Celebrating 100 Years



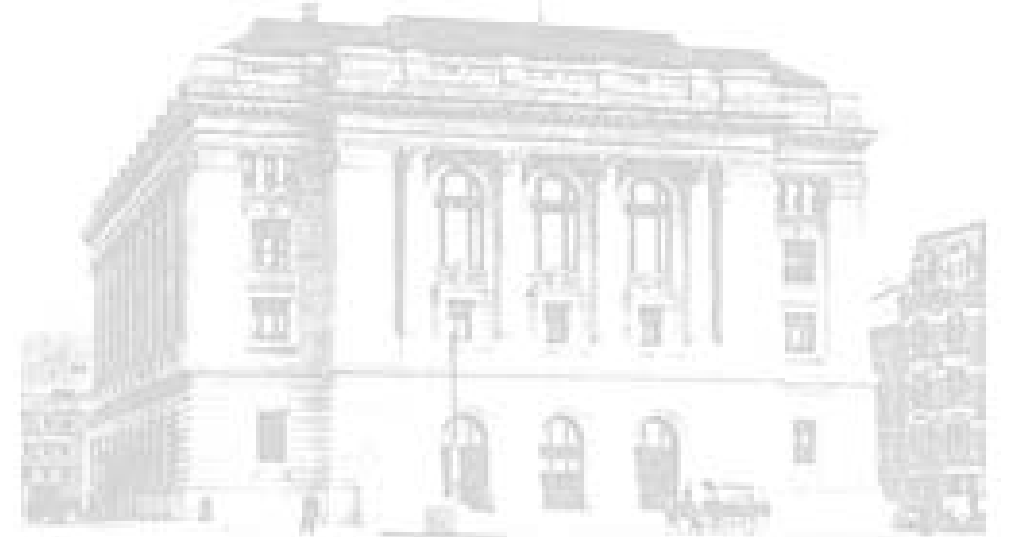
United States Courthouse
Providence, Rhode Island
November 21, 2008

GSA



The Centennial Gala

Celebrating 100 Years



United States Courthouse

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History of the United States Courthouse in Providence

The Providence Post Office, Court House and Custom House was constructed in 1904 - 08 as the city's third federal building. Designed by the local architectural firm of Clarke & Howe, it was one of the few Federal buildings of the period to be contracted to a private firm under the provisions of the Tarnsey Act. It is an exceptionally well-conceived example of the classical Beaux Arts design favored for monumental public buildings at the turn of the 20th century. In its day, it was considered one of the finest Federal buildings to be found outside of Washington, D.C. Its design and its siting are also noteworthy for their impact on the urban expression of Exchange Place as the civic center for the City of Providence.

The building was turned over to the GSA in January of 1961, following completion of the nation's first automated post office. At that time, the building was devoted primarily to judicial functions, and was renamed the Providence Federal Building and Courthouse. Reconfiguring of some interior spaces, most notably the former postal workroom, was accomplished at that time. The building was listed in the National Register in 1972, and subsequent work has respected that status.

A Year In Review . . .

It has been an exciting year of events, honoring the Centennial of our historic Courthouse building. Throughout 2008, the United States Courthouse has been a place of educational opportunity, new beginnings and celebration for the bar, the public, educational institutions, the media, dignitaries of the State of Rhode Island, and other government agencies; all in honor of the building's 100th birthday.

January brought with it the first of three Access to Justice Symposia. The interactive lecture entitled "Civil Gideon" explored the controversial topic of whether the constitutional right to counsel in criminal cases should be expanded to also include indigent parties in civil cases.

GSA and the U.S. District Court joined together to kick off the official beginning of the Centennial Celebration, which commenced in February. Helping to make this event even more special was Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. His visit to Rhode Island marked the first time in over two centuries that a sitting Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court was in the Courthouse on official business. February also included the admission of 99 attorneys to the Rhode Island Federal Bar and the second Access to Justice symposium "Rights of Victims and Witnesses."

Highlighting the planning, design and construction of the Courthouse was the "Courthouse Architecture" symposium. The last in the Access to Justice series, this lecture explored the distinctive architectural features of the building and addressed the cultural, political and economic factors leading to the building's design. Areas of the Courthouse not normally navigable to the public were opened up for all to appreciate.

To commemorate the June holiday Flag Day, the Courthouse held a special naturalization ceremony. In the courtroom where so many had taken the oath before, approximately 100 individuals were welcomed as new citizens.

With September came a unique educational experience for members of the U.S. District Court Bar. The 2008 District Conference offered bar members the opportunity to participate in a series of programs centered around federal practice in the State of Rhode Island.

Chief Judge Sandra L. Lynch, Circuit Judge Kermit V. Lipez, and Senior Circuit Judge Bruce M. Selya convened a session of the 1st Circuit Court of Appeals on October 8 in Courtroom 1. A total of five cases were on the day's docket. Some of these cases emanated from the U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island.

The Centennial Gala serves at the grand finale to this celebration. Timed almost to the day of the building's official opening in 1908, the Gala commemorates not only the events of 2008 but serves to acknowledge all those who have occupied the building and the rich and wonderful history created as a result.

Welcome by Master of Ceremonies

The Honorable Dennis R. Smith
Regional Administrator
United States General Services Administration

Presentation of Colors

Rhode Island State Police

National Anthem

Michele Hill
Program Assistant
United States General Services Administration

Pledge of Allegiance

James E. Webb
Courtroom Technology & Facilities Specialist
United States District Court, District of Rhode Island
Veteran, U.S. Navy, Vietnam Era

Remarks

The Honorable Dennis R. Smith

The Honorable Mary M. Lisi
Chief Judge
United States District Court
District of Rhode Island

Remarks

The Honorable Sandra L. Lynch
Chief Judge
First Circuit Court of Appeals

God Bless America

Federal Chorale

Remarks

The Honorable Jack Reed
United States Senator

Historical Perspective

Glenn C. Rotondo
Assistant Regional Administrator
Public Buildings Service
United States General Services Administration

A Retrospective

Video Presentation

My Country 'Tis of Thee

Federal Chorale

Retirement of Colors

Reception

United States Courts

United States Supreme Court

John G. Roberts, Jr., Chief Justice ▪ John Paul Stevens
Antonin Scalia ▪ Anthony M. Kennedy ▪ David H. Souter
Clarence Thomas ▪ Ruth Bader Ginsburg
Stephen G. Breyer ▪ Samuel A. Alito, Jr.

United States Judges for the First Circuit Court of Appeals

Sandra L. Lynch, Chief Judge ▪ Juan R. Torruella
Michael Boudin ▪ Kermit V. Lipez ▪ Jeffrey R. Howard
Levin H. Campbell, Senior Judge
Bruce M. Selya, Senior Judge ▪ Norman H. Stahl, Senior Judge

United States Judges for the District of Rhode Island

Mary M. Lisi, Chief Judge ▪ William E. Smith
Ronald R. Lagueur, Senior Judge ▪ Ernest C. Torres, Senior Judge

United States Magistrate Judges for the District of Rhode Island

David L. Martin ▪ Lincoln D. Almond
Jacob Hagopian, Senior Judge ▪ Robert W. Lovegreen, Recalled Judge

United States Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Rhode Island

Arthur N. Votolato, Bankruptcy Judge

Acknowledgements

Rhode Island State Police

Bagpiper

Trooper Michael J. Capone

Honor Guard

Trooper Mark D. McGehearty
Trooper James M. Pardington, Jr.
Trooper Charles G. LeValley
Corporal Robert S. Wall

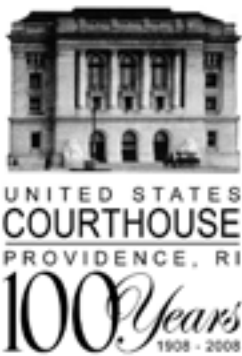
Federal Choral

Director
Karen Madsen, GSA

Chuck Kadis, GSA
David Grandy, SSA
Denise Taylor, EBSA
Dennis Brady, IRS
Dennis Smith, GSA
Herb Lurio, GSA
Janine Kurth, GSA
Juanita Upshaw, HUD
Judy Agnes, IRS
Kevin Brown, CBP
Leslie Colello, IRS
Rosemary Russo, GSA

Providence Journal

Sandor Bodo, Photographer
Bill Murphy, Photographer



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www.gsa.gov/r1courthouse100



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