

## Bernalillo County Courthouse and Steve Schiff District Attorney Building

The new Bernalillo County U.S. District Courthouse is the latest landmark building in the city of Albuquerque. An imposing seven stories high, its distinctive design is an L-shaped configuration with wings converging on a cylindrical core with open colonnades adjacent to sidewalks. It has a radiating patterned plaza and a four-story atrium on the upper floors. Detention cells are located in the basement and adjacent to courtrooms on the upper floors.

The 272,284 square foot building rises out of a foundation utilizing augercast piles and is constructed of structural steel. The first two floors have a split-faced limestone veneer. Floors 3-7 are EIFS with punched openings and curtain wall. The building is capped with a bright blue metal, barreled roof that provides an attractive contrast to the cream-colored exterior.

The two-story lobby is accented with split faced stone, polished travertine, ornamental metal and glass railing, woodwork and a patterned terrazzo floor. Innovations include low profile (2 1/2") access flooring and an Integrated Building Management and Control System. The interiors are painted drywall with acoustical ceilings, carpet tiles and extensive architectural millwork.

The site provided certain challenges due to its downtown location. The project required curb-to-curb construction and sheet piling restraint of excavation adjacent to the streets.

Included as part of the same project is the Steve Schiff District Attorney Building. Named for the late United States Representative, this building located just across the street from the courthouse is the new headquarters for the District Attorney and County Attorney offices. The four-story building utilizes the same structural elements as the courthouse and is designed to complement it. The façade is EIFS with punched openings, accented by ribbon windows on the top floor. As in the courthouse, the Schiff building's interior is painted drywall with acoustical ceiling and carpet tiles and the low-profile access flooring and Integrated Building Management and Control system.

The Schiff building also had the site constraint of curb-to-curb construction, and was completed on schedule.

### Project Staff:

**James Carnes,**  
Project manager



**Location** ..... Albuquerque, New Mexico  
**Owner** ..... Bernalillo County  
**Architect**..... Design: FMSM Design Group  
..... Project: Custer Basarich, Ltd.  
**Contractor** ..... Bradbury Stamm  
**Management**..... 3D/I Sundt  
**Cost**..... \$42 million (\$55.9M\*)  
**Area**.....346,240 square feet  
**Completion**..... Courthouse: January, 2001  
..... Schiff Building: August, 2000

*\*Adjusted for Turner Cost Index*