

State of New Mexico Metropolitan Courthouse

The new courthouse features 24 courtrooms, a basement and 9 floors above grade. The first floor of the courthouse contains the customer service division, the second floor has facilities for jurors, the probations division, and the educational services division. Third floor has four courtrooms designed specifically for hearing traffic cases. Escalators run between the first, second and third floors. The third through seventh floors contain courtrooms and judge's chambers with administrative offices on the eighth floor. The ninth floor has courtrooms which are somewhat larger than average and take advantage of the building to provide more striking ambience.

Firearms are not allowed in the courthouse. A room of gun lockers is located at the security station by the main entrance, and all firearms must be checked there.

The courthouse was designed with three distinct circulations. One for the public, one for the court staff, and one for those in custody of the jail.

There is a holding area in the basement for those in jail custody. From there the inmates are transported via dedicated elevators to antechambers for the courtroom they are to appear in. The only time the inmates mix with the public and the court staff is when they are brought out from the antechamber for their appearance in the courtroom. Similarly, the court staff and public have separate elevators, hallways, rest rooms, etc.

The courthouse also features the largest HVAC unit in the state of New Mexico, placed on the roof with one of the largest construction cranes in the US.

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Location..... Albuquerque, NM
Owner Bernalillo County
Architect..... DCSW Architects (Now Studio SW)
Size245,000 sf
Cost.....\$39M
Completed..... January 2004