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FACT SHEET

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Office of Court Construction and Management

The Office of Court Construction and Management (OCCM) was established in August 2003 in order to oversee the transfer of California's trial courthouses from county to state governance. As a division of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), OCCM was created in response to the Trial Court Facilities Act of 2002 (Sen. Bill 1732; Stats. 2002, ch. 1082), which mandated this change in responsibility for the state's trial court facilities. OCCM's stewardship of the Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal, and superior courts statewide includes master planning; real estate management, design, and construction; and facilities management. In this stewardship role, OCCM is the strategic planner for future capital outlays, including funding for new and renovated courthouses.

Mission

To create and maintain court buildings that reflect the highest standards of excellence.

Current Programs

Transfer of court facilities

OCCM is responsible for the transfer of responsibility and title for more than 450 court facilities from the counties to the state, mandated by SB 1732. OCCM represents the judicial branch in all aspects of transfer negotiations, assumes responsibility for the administration and maintenance of court facilities following transfer, and administers all court construction and improvement projects.

Contact: Burt Hirschfeld, Assistant Director for Real Estate and Asset Management, 415-865-4040

Consultation and advocacy

OCCM directly supports the trial courts' facility planning initiatives. Because the counties are responsible for providing the trial courts with "necessary and suitable" facilities until the transfers are executed, OCCM assists courts in identifying their facility needs and advocating for their positions with the counties.

Contact: Robert Emerson, Assistant Director for Business and Planning, 415-865-4061

Capital outlay planning

Trial court and county leaders collaborated with OCCM to develop a 20-year facility master plan for each of the 58 superior courts in California, which is included in the AOC's 2004 *Trial Courts Five-Year Capital Outlay Plan*. The plan ranks 201 court facility projects statewide and includes at least one project in for each county. It includes critical security, and health/life safety, improvements in California's court buildings, many of which are in a state of significant disrepair. Long-term funding in the form of a general obligation bond is necessary to fund the plan.

Contact: Kelly Popejoy, Senior Manager for Planning Services, 818-558-3078

Design and construction

Each year OCCM creates a Five-Year Infrastructure Plan, which includes a strategy for addressing the space requirements of both appellate and trial courts based on their current and projected workload. Currently OCCM is overseeing the design and construction of new courthouses for the Superior Courts of Contra Costa, Fresno, Merced, Mono, Plumas, and Sierra Counties, as well as the Santa Ana Court of Appeal in the Fourth Appellate District.

Contact: Lee Willoughby, Assistant Director for Design and Construction Services, 916-263-1493

Operations and maintenance

OCCM provides innovative operations and maintenance (O&M) services to courts following transfer. The office maintains a call center for court staff to report facilities problems and is implementing Computer-Aided Facilities Management (CAFM), a Web-based system that houses data, documentation, and processes related to the design, construction, operations, and maintenance of court buildings.

Contact: Fred Stetson, Senior Manager of Facilities Management, 916-263-1368

Acquisition and development

As a part of the strategic plan for the judicial branch, OCCM is responsible for the acquisition and disposition of owned and leased real estate assets for the AOC. This oversight of regulatory and land use compliance includes all applicable laws, rules, and regulations, such as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Clean Air Act, and the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA).

Contact: Burt Hirschfeld, Assistant Director for Real Estate and Asset Management, 415-865-4040

Additional resources:

Programs and publications, including the *Trial Courts Five-Year Capital Outlay Plan*,
www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/