

## FEDERAL DISTRICT COURTROOM



The federal District Courtroom occupies the north end of the second floor. It is finished in pink-tinged white marble streaked with gray. The ceiling is arched. To minimize sound, the panels are draped in thick, deep blue velvet hangings.

The semicircular recess surrounding the judge's bench is also draped with heavy blue velvet. The entrance to the judge's chambers is through the velvet draperies behind the bench. The black velvet with gold decoration on the ceiling of the apse behind the judge's bench is original. Ornaments of gold catch the draperies; the woodwork is of walnut; the flooring, of cork.

### Four Latin inscriptions are cut in marble of the court room walls:

|                                 |                                  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>Justitia Virtutum Regina</i> | Justice is the Queen of Virtues. |
| <i>Justitia Soror Fides</i>     | Justice is the Sister of Faith.  |
| <i>Nemo Est Supra Leges</i>     | No One is Superior to Laws.      |
| <i>Ita Lex Scripta Est</i>      | Thus is the Law Written.         |



## BYRON WHITE UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

1823 Stout Street  
Denver, Colorado

Constructed between 1910 and 1916, the Courthouse replaced earlier federal buildings in Denver that had grown too small. The Treasury Department was charged with supervising the construction. Through a design competition among twelve invited architects, the Department selected the New York firm of Tracy, Swartwout & Litchfield. The building was originally named the Denver United States Post Office and Courthouse. In January 1994, it was renamed in honor of United States Supreme Court Justice Byron White.

Although not the first neo-classical building in Denver, the final design of the building introduced this style on a grand scale. Early plans to use Georgia marble were changed to native stone through the efforts of local businessmen. The exterior is now clad in Colorado Yule marble, quarried in Marble, Colorado. This is the same stone used for the Lincoln Memorial and Tomb of the Soldier Unknown in Washington, D.C.

Through the years, the building came to be occupied entirely by the U.S. Postal Service with the exception of the one District Courtroom and its ancillary spaces. Ownership for the building has passed from the Treasury Department to the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) to the U.S. Postal Service, and now back to GSA.

The total cost of the renovation and conversion of the building was about 30 million dollars, which is about \$114.00 per square foot. The value of the restored building has been placed at about 200 million dollars, which is about \$760.00 per square foot.

## HISTORIC COURT OF APPEALS COURTROOM



This Court of Appeals Courtroom is designed upon lines similar to those of the District Court. One enters the courtroom between huge gray pillars, which reach from the floor to the ceiling. Similar pillars divide the courtroom from the judges' chambers at the other end of the room. The space between these pillars is filled with draperies of purple velvet. Corinthian columns support the caption, "*Reason is the Soul of All Law.*" The names of noted American judges, legal scholars and noted statesmen advocates are cut upon the walls of the court room itself.

## LIBRARY COURTROOM



The former Law Library, now Courtroom 4, is wholly finished in richly carved oak. In 1916, the appropriation for the building made no provision for books. Now the shelves are filled with books from the Tenth Circuit Library. Carved about the ceiling are the names of great legal authorities, writers and lawgivers from ancient to modern times. The exit, guarded by a resplendent eagle, is illuminated by the Latin aphorism, *Lux et Veritas* ("Light and Truth") and supported by lateral panels depicting two fasces, a Roman symbol of the strength inherent in unity.

