

COURTROOM 2



Originally part of the mail sorting area of the post office, this courtroom has a luminous ceiling separating the room from the original skylight opening. The grid work form of the ceiling is derived from the decorative ceilings that were used in prominent public structures, circa early 1900's. The grid work, glass and faux stone are new construction. Each of the six states of the Tenth Circuit is represented by a State Seal etched into the glass panels above.

The details in this new courtroom are consistent with the original design of the building. Materials include wood and cast plaster. The acoustic panels between the columns are upholstered in a document pattern dating back to the Renaissance.

The new woodwork is based on classical forms and constructed of figured oak veneers. The doors and stone surrounds are also new. Stone was selected to emphasize the portal and the importance of the room. Figured oak and a bronze Greek key motif add ornamentation and detail to the doors. The pendant lights are similar to lights used in public structures in the early 1900's. By contrast, the overhead lights in the Grand Hall along Stout Street are replicas of the original lights, and have a late 1800's Victorian character.

BYRON RAYMOND WHITE



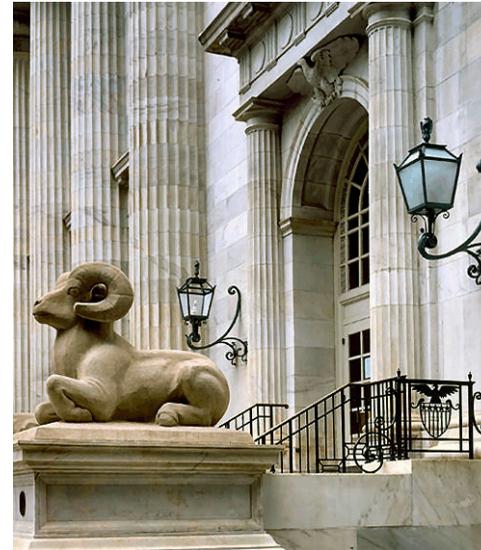
Byron Raymond White, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, was the first Coloradan to have served on the Court. He was born in Fort Collins, Colorado on June 8, 1917, and married Marion Lloyd Stearns of Denver, Colorado. They raised two children.

Justice White attended school in Wellington, Colorado, and graduated from the University of Colorado in 1938. Among his many college activities, he excelled at athletics. He was elected to the All-American Football Team in 1937 and in 1954 was named to the National Football Hall of Fame. He was a Rhodes Scholar and attended Oxford University in England from January 1939 until October 1939, when he returned home because of the outbreak of war in Europe. Justice White played professional football with the Pittsburgh Pirates (now the Pittsburgh Steelers) in 1938 and with the Detroit Lions in 1940 and 1941. He attended Yale Law School for two years, but when the U.S. entered World War II in 1941, he left to volunteer for duty in the United States Navy. Justice White served in the Pacific theater as an intelligence officer.

After the war, Justice White completed his studies at Yale, receiving his LL.B degree magna cum laude in 1946. He then served as law clerk to Fred Vinson, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, from 1946-1947. From 1947 until January 1961, he practiced law with the firm of Lewis, Grant, Newton, Davis and Henry (now Davis, Graham and Stubbs), in Denver. He was appointed Deputy Attorney General of the United States in January 1961. In 1962, he was nominated by President Kennedy as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. Known as a pragmatic justice and insightful questioner from the bench, Justice White served on the Court for more than thirty years, until his retirement on June 28, 1993. He died April 15, 2002.

BYRON WHITE UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

1823 Stout Street
Denver, Colorado



"This building belongs to a type of architecture which might be called Roman, adopted to the practical, ... which [has] stood the test of time. It is stated that there are to be no more of them; ... I hope that this is not true, because I believe that this great nation of ours can afford to appeal to the imagination of its people, and that such structures as this arouse and prove a continuing stimulus to virtue.

T.J. O'Donnell
February 21, 1916

*Brochure funded by the Tenth Circuit Historical Society;
<http://www.10thcircuithistory.org/>
(Brochure published by the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals
History Committee; edited from historic documents on file
in the Circuit library. Ed Leland, Photographer)*

CEREMONIAL COURT ROOM



This room was designed both for ceremonial purposes and to accommodate an *en banc* panel of up to 22 judges.

This space was originally part of the Post Office workroom. The ceiling, composed of faux onyx insets, a cast iron medallion, and wood detail over steel, separates the room from the original opening for the skylight. The Great Seal of the United States is etched in the center of the medallion. The Great Seal is also reflected in the hand knotted carpet inset.

The columns and ornamentation on the walls of the room express the refined Renaissance Revival of the interior light court. The renovation team from Michael Barber Architecture developed a design that reflects the original spirit of the building, reminding the occupants of the federal role and governmental function of the room.

The carpet is an original using the symbol of the crossed olive branch, stars from the flag, and circular shields, together with a decorative medallion.

Although the general shape of the judges' bench is prescribed by the U.S. Court Design Guidelines, the ornamentation and square terminus are unique to this courtroom. The materials consist of figured and quartered oak and oak burl with walnut. The base is Vermont Serpentine marble (green) with domestic black marble. All of the lecterns and public seating benches have the same design. A four-way book match of figured walnut crotch and sapwood provide the dramatic detail on the end panels of the benches.

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.