Located behind the existing Frank E. Moss Courthouse, the new ten-story, 410,000 sq. ft. district courthouse rests on a raised landscaped plaza. Surrounded by trees, it includes an informal public garden and gathering space between the two buildings. The building features nine district and five magistrate courtrooms, fourteen judges’ chambers, U.S. attorney suite, ceremonial courtrooms and probation pretrial offices. It also has two underground parking levels. The new building also meets new perimeter security standards required in all new federal buildings as well as blast protection. The building is set back 50 feet from the street. The courthouse addresses a few concerns of the old building, including the need for space, technology and security.

The design allows copious amounts of day lighting to assist in energy saving standards. The ten-story atrium contains a piece of contemporary artwork of suspended hexagonal metal tubes on cables which helps reflect light. The daylight harvesting adds an additional savings to the overall energy usage of the building. And the building’s electrical system is 34% more efficient than a comparable building. The structure was designed and constructed to achieve LEED Gold certification. There were 6,500 cubic yards of structural lightweight concrete used in the construction to reduce footing and foundation work, reduced dead loads to the steel structure and to improve fire ratings.
GREEN FEATURES

- Targeted to be a Gold LEED certified building.
- The facility will be able to surpass industry standards by using 36% less energy than comparable buildings.
- By using low flow plumbing fixtures the building achieves a 29% water savings, estimated to save over 150,000 gallons per year.
- The project is using 20% recycled content and at least 20% local building materials.
- The building uses innovative energy-saving technologies such as advanced mechanical systems, high-performance exterior building enclosure and natural daylight harvesting.
- The daylight harvesting alone is projected to save an additional 4% of energy on top of the current 32% savings.
- Almost half of the site for the new courthouse will consist of green and pedestrian-friendly open space with walkable access to more than 400 bus or train trips per day.
- The historically significant Odd Fellows Building was relocated across the street, saving the structure and avoiding almost 2,616 tons of building material from potentially being sent to the landfill.

Photo Gallery