



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Architectural Firm NBBJ
Selected for New Criminal Courthouse**

The Sacramento County Superior Court today announced an important step toward construction of Sacramento County's new Criminal Courthouse in the selection of the NBBJ architectural firm to design the courthouse.

Sacramento's new Criminal Courthouse will handle cases currently heard in the courthouse at 720 9th Street. The new Criminal Courthouse, which will be located between 5th and 6th Streets and G and H Streets in the Sacramento Railyard, will provide 44 courtrooms, totaling some 405,000 square feet. The new Criminal Courthouse will improve security, cost-efficiency and convenience for jurors, victims, and the attorneys and parties for the over 1,000 criminal cases heard each year in Sacramento County. It will also consolidate court operations currently housed in seven different buildings.

Presiding Judge Robert C. Hight said, "Our current courthouse was built over half a century ago and never designed for the volume or nature of the criminal cases our court handles today. For example, there are no waiting areas to separate victims and jurors from the defendants and witnesses. Many courtrooms do not have adequate security for transporting in-custody defendants and are not equipped to handle multiple-defendant trials. Every year the sheriff transports some 18,000 prisoners to court in antiquated, inefficient facilities. Each year we summon 120,000 jurors from our community, who endure inadequate parking, an overcrowded jury reception area, 1960's technology and outdated deliberation rooms.

Sacramento County's new Criminal Courthouse will provide state-of-the-art facilities for jurors, victims, lawyers, litigants and our Sherriff. It will improve access to justice for all, increase safety and save operational costs for taxpayers. It will also be the first large project in the redevelopment of the Sacramento Railyard. Our court looks forward to working with the community on this important and challenging project."

The new Criminal Courthouse project, with an estimated construction cost of \$303.0 million, ranked as an "Immediate Need" in the judicial branch's capital-outlay plan and is among the judicial branch's highest-priority infrastructure projects. Funding for continued progress on the project was provided in Governor Brown's 2014-15 Budget. Construction of the new courthouse, scheduled to begin in fall of 2017, will create up to 1,800 construction jobs in Sacramento. Presiding Judge Hight said, "Today we have taken an important step toward construction by hiring NBBJ, a well-respected architectural firm, with the latest experience in designing courthouses."

Founded in 1943, NBBJ has locations in Beijing, Boston, Columbus, London, Los Angeles, New York, Pune, San Francisco, Seattle and Shanghai. Their global network includes more than 700 researchers, strategists, nurses, architects, anthropologists, planners, and interior designers. NBBJ has been named among the top 10 most innovative architecture firms by *Fast Company* and have partnered with companies including Google, Amazon, Samsung, Microsoft and Tencent. NBBJ is the architect of the New Stockton Courthouse for the San Joaquin Superior Court and the New Redding Courthouse for the Shasta Superior Court.