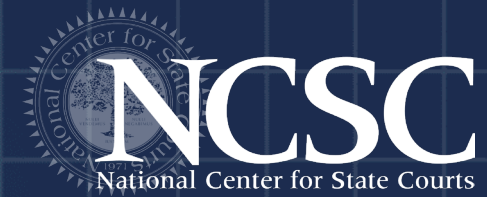


ALASKA

Fourth Judicial District Rabinowitz Courthouse



LOCATION	Fairbanks, Alaska
COURT JURISDICTIONS	Criminal, Civil, Domestic/Family, Small Claims, Traffic, Probate, Specialty
PROJECT STATUS	Idea phase, anticipated completion October 2024

PROJECT VISION

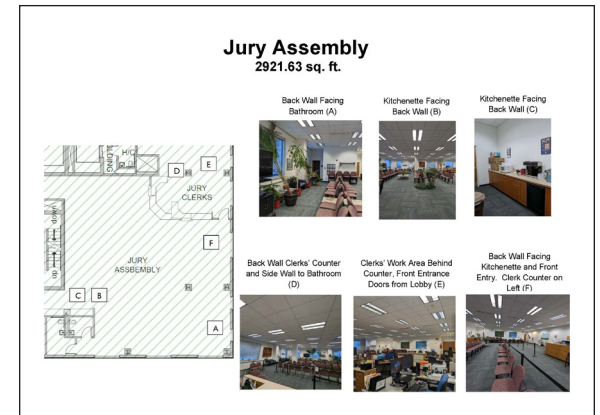
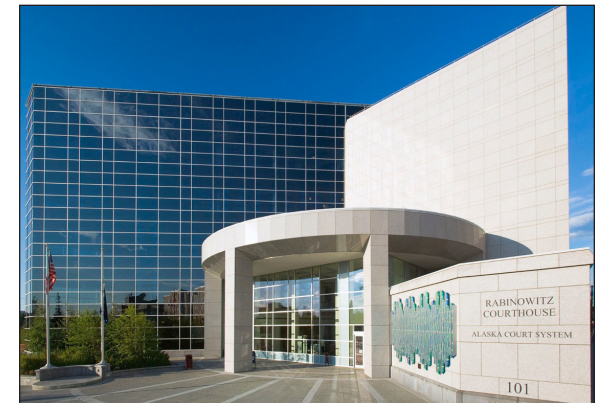
Through reconceptualizing the existing Jury Assembly and Law Library spaces, the project aims to not only create larger, stronger department teams and collegial relationships for the staff, but also to provide the public with a more convenient and intuitive experience.

PROJECT DETAILS

The main focus of the space reconceptualization project is the utilization of the former jury assembly room. The room is a large space no longer needed for its original purpose. It is flooded with an abundance of natural light and is a highly accessible space with multiple entry points. The room allows for easy reconfiguration to allow for public and court staff circulation. The project plan for the space allows for a mix of touch-down courtroom staff workstations (where they can sit down and work quickly) and focus workstations.

The opportunity to reconceptualize the use of the existing jury assembly space is a product of recent changes in how the Court operates. For example, the availability of space only came about because of the potential for utilizing space currently occupied by a law library which sees very little traffic as most legal research is conducted online. The project will involve moving the existing jury assembly function to the space formerly occupied by the law library on the courthouse's first floor near the public entrance, creating easier wayfinding for jurors within the courthouse.

The Court is also in the process of reorganizing (both organizationally and physically) their domestic violence office. It is being relocated from the third floor in the probate department



ALASKA

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to the first floor in the Parenting Plan Resolution Office where all meetings are now scheduled remotely. This will vastly improve attendance and create available space. This move will also allow for a separate room for petitioner privacy and safety and allow the court to better follow trauma-informed best practices.

ENHANCING OPERATIONS AND THE OVERALL BUILDING EXPERIENCE

This interior reorganization will improve operational efficiency and elevate the building experience by optimizing space allocation and facilitating easier access to resources. Uniting staff in larger workspace environments with colleagues will enhance court operations by providing more staff resources to conduct case management services within existing departments. This will increase rapport and support cross-collaboration, decrease disparity among workstations for an entire department spread across three floors, and create modern and less congested workspaces for employees. All of these enhancements could promote the physical and mental health of employees and potentially increase efficiency and productivity.

With the implementation of this project, most services will be located on the first floor of the building to enhance the court's effectiveness in serving the public, allowing for easier building navigation and access to services. Also, the relocated jury assembly area will be more functional and welcoming for waiting jurors. Finally, recreating the Parenting Plan Resolution Office space into a domestic violence service counter will align with this Court's goals of being more trauma-informed and responsive by providing a separate waiting area for domestic violence petitioners while waiting for court, as well as a conference room with a hybrid hearing option for participants who do not wish to be physically present in the courtroom for domestic violence or Child in Need of Assistance (CINA) hearings.

