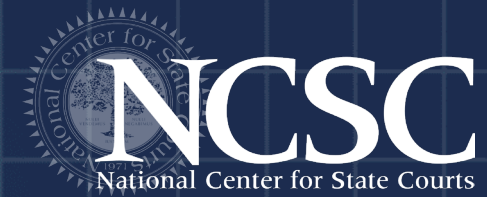


# INDIANA

## Adams County Circuit and Superior Courts Adams County Judicial Center



LOCATION	Decatur, Indiana
COURT JURISDICTIONS	Criminal, Civil, Domestic/Family, Juvenile, Small Claims, Traffic, Probate
PROJECT STATUS	Planning and Idea phase

### PROJECT VISION

The design solution endeavors to pair a new building alongside the existing historic courthouse with the goal of improving security, circulation, and overall court functionality.

### PROJECT DETAILS

The existing facilities of the Adams County Circuit and Superior Courts are currently located in four separate buildings which creates inefficiencies and security concerns for the court staff and public. The objective of this project is to consolidate these currently dispersed offices into a single structure or campus, thereby alleviating concerns of logistics and accessibility associated with their current facilities. Several solutions were considered, including retrofitting a historic gymnasium for court use, renovating the existing historic courthouse building, moving the location of the court to the nearby county detention center located out of town, or constructing a new building on a nearby site. Throughout the planning process, the stakeholders envisioned long-term needs and explored various options for the project's development. Ultimately, the decision was made to build a new building across the street from the existing courthouse and construct a connection between the two buildings which will require the closure of a street between the two buildings.

This project is currently in its planning phase which will include elements of remodeling adjudication space for hybrid and remote hearings, court and court-related office spaces, and public service spaces. There are plans for two courtrooms for daily use and a small courtroom for auxiliary use, a separate chamber for both judges, an office for court administrators, and an



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office for court reporters. The full project will include space for probation services and their staff of 10, community corrections and their staff of eight, a clerk's office and their staff of nine, a prosecutor/Title IV-D (child support) office and their staff of nine, and possibly a public defenders' office and their staff of five. For public service spaces, computer terminals will be placed in or near the clerk's office, and a Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) kiosk will be placed in the lobby area. Another function of this project will be a large conference room to be used for training by all departments.

### ENHANCING OPERATIONS AND THE OVERALL BUILDING EXPERIENCE

While several possible options were considered, the final comprehensive design solution meets all the circulation, security, and amenity needs the current facility lacks. The final concept entails a unified security checkpoint serving both courts and two buildings, enabling consolidation of all justice entities within one campus. Expanding the courthouse incorporates green spaces for public use while fostering connectivity with Madison Plaza. This concept integrates public restrooms for the Courthouse Green and Madison Plaza, strategically minimizing alterations to the historic courthouse's exterior architecture and interior renovation to maintain its integrity.

The benefits of the project include improved security, efficiency, and convenience for court operations as all offices will be located in one building. The consolidation of offices will promote collaboration and coordination among different departments enhancing overall communication and services provided to the public. In addition, the need to traverse between multiple buildings for court-related business will be minimized. Innovative solutions for technology are planned, such as a Webex system for remote hearings and connectivity between different court offices. This will modernize operations, streamline communication, and improve accessibility for attorneys, staff, and participants. This integration of multiple buildings into a consolated design not only optimizes operational efficiency but also brings about enhancements which will serve the functional needs of both the legal community and public.

