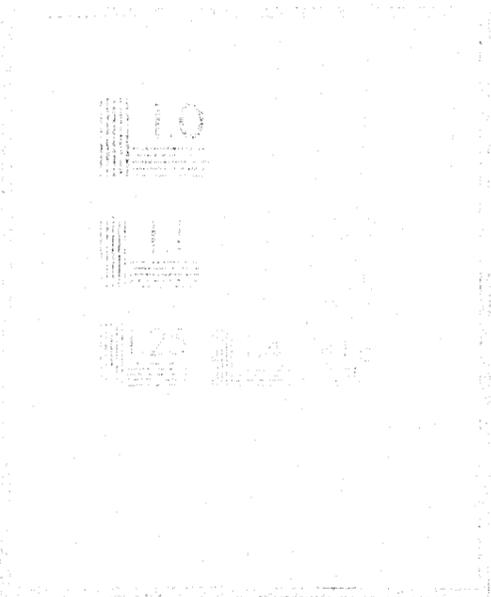


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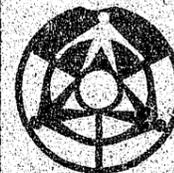
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ANALYSIS OF EVIDENT PLANT AND
LAW ENFORCEMENT FACTS OF THE
KING COUNTY DISTRICT,
WASHINGTON STATE, 1970



THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

Criminal Courts Technical Assistance Project
Institute for Advanced Studies in Justice
The American University Law School
Washington, D.C.



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Washington College of Law
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This report was prepared in conjunction with The American University Law School Criminal Courts Technical Assistance Project, under a contract with the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Organizations undertaking such projects under Federal Government sponsorship are encouraged to express their own judgment freely. Therefore, points of view or opinions stated in this report do not necessarily represent the official position of the Department of Justice. The American University is solely responsible for the factual accuracy of all material presented in this publication.

NOTICE TO THE READER

Because of a September 30, 1976 contract deadline for completion of all technical assistance assignments conducted under the auspices of The American University Criminal Courts Technical Assistance Project, assignment reports received after September 1, 1976 have not undergone the comprehensive review which is our usual procedure. The present report is one of those for which our time constraints permitted only minimal editing. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause the reader.

Joseph A. Trotter, Jr.
Director
Criminal Courts Technical Assistance Project

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Honorable Warren Chan	Presiding Judge
Lewis P. Stephenson	Superior Court Administrator
Robert G. Wagner	Superior Court Controller and Deputy Court Administrator
Alice Thomas	Supervisor of Family Court Services
Pat Jensen	Administrative Supervisor, Judicial Section, Juvenile Court Youth Center
David Mehus	Deputy Director, Department of Re- habilitative Services
Michael Graham	Department of Rehabilitative Services
Wanda Thompson	Director, Building Management Services
Robert Osbun	Building Management Department
Patrick Moyer	Capital Improvement Budget Section, County Budget Division
James Anshutz	County Budget Division
David J. Smith	Department of Community Development

The consultants are especially grateful to Lewis P. Stephenson, Superior Court Administrator and Project Coordinator, for coordinating the consultants' site visits; for arranging meetings with key county and court personnel, and for providing pertinent information and data needed for analysis. A special thanks also to Wanda Thompson and Robert Osbun for providing the consultants with some insights into the facility problems and deficiencies within the King County Courthouse, and the County's approach and direction towards facility improvements for both County and Court departments.

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Background

In response to a request for technical assistance from Mr. Lewis P. Stephenson, Superior Court Administrator of King County, Washington, Space Management Consultants, Inc. was asked by LEAA's Criminal Courts Technical Assistance Project at The American University, to provide professional space management assistance to the King County Superior Court in the following areas:

1) Recommend how and where five to ten additional courtrooms/hearing rooms and ancillary facilities could be accommodated within the existing King County Courthouse. In particular, the third, ninth and tenth floors of the courthouse should be studied in order to develop maximum usage of them, given available funds.

2) Investigate the short-term renovation and expansion needs of the Superior Court and to develop minimum-cost and maximum-effective solutions to accommodate these needs.

3) Conduct a brief study of the entire courthouse in order to make preliminary narrative recommendations on medium and long-term Superior Court facility expansion needs.

The purpose of this technical assistance project is to make recommendations to improve facility problems existing in the King County Courthouse. Faced with both the likelihood that necessary additional judicial positions would be created in the near future and increasing competition for available County funds and facilities, King County Superior Court Administrator Lewis P. Stephenson requested professional space management assistance through LEAA technical assistance channels. Several phone conversations were made between SMC project staff and Mr. Stephenson regarding the work scope and final product of this project. Dates were set for SMC's on-site visit to survey the King County Courthouse and to compile the necessary information, data and statistics for the project.

Dr. Michael Wong, SMC President and principal consultant, and Rodney Wong, Senior Planning Consultant, visited the courthouse on July 22 and 23, 1976. Meetings were conducted with Mr. Stephenson, Presiding Judge Warren Chan, staff members of the Court Administrator's Office, David Mehus,

Deputy Director and Mike Graham of the Department of Rehabilitative Services, Wanda Thompson and Robert Osbun of the Building Management Department, Pat Moyer and Jim Anshutz of the Capital Improvement Budget Section of the County Budget Division, Dave J. Smith of the Department of Community Development in King County, Alice Thomas, Supervisor of Family Court Services, and Pat Jensen, Administrative Supervisor, Judicial Section of Juvenile Court at the Juvenile Court Youth Center.

A tour of the Superior Court facilities in the King County Courthouse was conducted to acquaint the consultants with the specific facility problems on the third, ninth and tenth floor. The consultants investigated, in some detail, the existing conditions and use of spaces on these floors. Discussions were conducted with Lew Stephenson and Robert Wagner, Deputy Court Administer, on the short-term needs of the Superior Court. Meetings with Wanda Thompson, Robert Osbun, Pat Moyer and James Anshutz were held to ascertain the direction of the County in relation to the future development of both County and Court facilities. The need for practical and optimum solutions to facility problems in the King County Courthouse were emphasized. A productive meeting with Dave Smith acquainted SMC project staff with population and economic needs and projections for King County, which were essential to the preliminary analysis of future Superior Court personnel and facility requirements.

While the Juvenile Court Youth Center at 12th and Alder Streets was not included in the original project scope, SMC project staff made a brief visit to observe the relatively new juvenile court facilities with innovative courtroom and ancillary facility design. The purpose of meeting with the Deputy Director of the Department of Rehabilitative Services was to determine whether a new jail was to be constructed in the near future, and, if it was, what prisoner holding functions would likely remain in the courthouse. A survey was made of the jail on the tenth, eleventh and twelfth floors to determine whether the tenth floor could be converted into Superior Court facilities. A visit was also made to the Family Court facilities on the third floor of the courthouse. The meeting with Alice Thomas enabled the consultants to learn more about family court operations and to observe the utilization of existing Family Court facilities. Photographs were taken of both internal and external views of the

courthouse for identification and analysis of space conditions and utilization.

The compiled information and data were organized and analyzed in SMC's Hawaii office. Short-term facility needs of Superior Court were evaluated. Available space occupied by and assigned to the Superior Court was analyzed for suitability and adequacy. Functional and spatial requirements of the Court were established and applied to the planning and analysis process. Floor plans of the third, ninth and tenth floors were prepared at suitable scale, and proposed alternative methods of adding several courtrooms and ancillary facilities were developed. Analysis was made of the Administrative Office space, the large Presiding Judge's courtroom and ancillary facilities, the jury assembly facilities, the court commissioners' hearing rooms and offices on the sixth floor, the Family and District Court facilities on the third floor, and the vacant space on the tenth floor. This report contains SMC's analysis of these areas, and recommendations on improving the use of existing spaces.

While it is very tempting to develop an "ideal" long-term space use plan without consideration of budgetary and planning constraints, SMC's approach has always been to recommend long-term solutions that are economical and feasible for implementation. To accomplish this, boundaries of budgetary and planning constraints had to be defined, and the ideas and opinions of the County legislative and executive branches of government had to be analyzed and understood before long-term recommendations could be made.

B. Existing Space Use of the King County Courthouse

The King County Courthouse is a mammoth structure with twelve floors and a basement. It occupies an entire city block in downtown Seattle, flanked by Third and Fourth Avenues, and James and Jefferson Streets. The main public entrances are from Third and Fourth Avenues. The Third Avenue entrance is on the first floor, while the Fourth Avenue entrance is on the second floor level. Two separate private entrances and the driveway into the basement parking and security area are located on the south side of the building on Jefferson Street.

The basement of the Courthouse contains major building equipment and services, as well as considerable storage rooms for county and court records and supplies. There is limited parking at the center of this level, and a secured prisoner loading and unloading area at the rear.

The first floor is the main public entrance level and the Department of Rehabilitative Services occupies most of this floor. The southeast corner houses the computer and communications equipment of the Department of Rehabilitative Services, which includes the Sheriff's Office. The other parts of this floor are subdivided into numerous offices, storage and public areas. There are ten passenger elevators grouped in two banks of five and arranged around an oval-shaped public elevator lobby centrally located in the building. An information and access control booth is located at the center of this lobby. All persons using the elevators to the upper floors have to go through this central information and control point. There are two enclosed fire stairs and public toilets for men and women in the central building core area. Due to the size of the building, four other enclosed fire stairs are in the building, one in each quadrant of the building. Each fire staircase opens onto the appropriate street level, two on the north side (at mezzanine and second floor levels) and two on the south side (on the first floor and mezzanine levels).

The first floor mezzanine contains the main storage area of the Office of Property Management, the crime lab of the County Police and some general office space. The second floor, with a main entrance from Fourth Avenue,

houses the data processing unit of King County, as well as County offices for the Department of Land Use Management and of Parks and Recreation.

The major occupants of the third floor are the District Court, which is the court of limited jurisdiction, and the Family Court, which is part of the Superior Court. The District Court has five courtrooms with adjoining secretarial and judge's chamber spaces. There is a central filing room with a fireproof vault. The Family Court has one courtroom, a court commissioner office and hearing room, and a group of offices used by marriage counselors and social workers within the Family Court Services division. The remaining space on the third floor is occupied by the Credit Union, which is scheduled to be relocated, and the Building Management Unit.

The fourth floor houses the administrative offices and chambers of the County executive and legislative functions. The council hearing room is centrally located along the west wall, surrounded by council offices and open secretaries' areas on the north side, and administrative, auditor and legislative staff on the south side. The County Executive's Office and support offices are located in the east wing. Meeting rooms and the accounts and payroll section are centrally located in this wing.

The fifth floor houses the County Prosecutor's Office and offices for his deputies and support personnel. An employee lunch room and law library are located in the west wing. County offices, including County Property and Purchasing, are housed in the east wing of this floor.

The sixth floor has two major occupants. The County Clerk's Office occupies the entire east wing and part of the west wing. The remainder of the west wing is occupied by a law library. Two Superior Court court commissioners occupy a suite of rooms between the building service core and the exhibits room of the Clerk's Office at the south-east corner of the west wing. This suite consists of an office/hearing room for each commissioner to hear ex parte motions, a central space between the two commissioners' offices in which two assistants are located, and a long public waiting area accessible from the public lobby. The law library is opened in the evening; consequently, there is public access to this floor after regular work hours.

The seventh and the eighth floors have practically identical layouts. Both of these floors are occupied by the Superior Court and house twenty

courtrooms and ancillary facilities, ten on each floor. Each wing has five jury trial courtrooms, each equipped with an adjoining judge's chamber, judge's conference room and a jury deliberation room with private toilets for male and female jurors. Consequently, there are ten jury trial courtrooms, ten judges' chambers and conference rooms and ten jury deliberation rooms on each floor. All jury deliberation rooms are only accessible from the respective courtrooms, which means that they cannot be used for other functions while the courtroom is in session. Each judge's chamber is attached to a courtroom, and is accessible from the bench area in the courtroom as well as from the public corridor via the judge's conference room.

In addition, there are seven attorneys' conference rooms on each of the two floors, six of which are extremely small interview rooms, and are not conducive to attorneys' conferences or witness waiting. In certain areas, these small rooms are used for storage. In addition, there are twelve offices, six on each side of the passenger elevator core, for court reporters. These offices are spacious private offices, more than adequate in size for a court reporter in each office. At each end of the east and west wing corridor is a multi-purpose room. These four rooms on each floor are also used as court reporters' offices.

The west wing of the ninth floor is identical to those of the seventh and eighth floors. It has five jury trial courtrooms and the same ancillary facilities as on the lower floors. There are four small attorneys' conference rooms, two of which are presently used for storage by the Court Administrator's Office. The two multi-purpose offices at each end of the corridor in this wing are assigned to court reporters. The central building service core and the east wing of this floor, however, are used quite differently from the seventh and eighth floors. Behind the two banks of public elevators are the judges' conference and dining room on the north side, and the Court Administrator's Office on the south side. The size of the judges' conference room is equivalent to the five court reporter offices on the floor below. Since the room is not utilized to full capacity, two folding partitions have been installed so that the kitchen area could be partitioned off during judges' meetings, and that the room could be divided into two spaces for multiple use. The east end of the room could and has been used as a hearing room by the use of movable furniture.

On the south side of the passenger elevator bank are the Offices of the Court Administrator and his staff. The space directly above the larger attorneys' conference room on the lower floor is used as an employees lunch room and Xerox room. It is connected to an open space equivalent in size to the five court reporters' offices on the lower floor. There are private and semi-private low-partitioned offices in this space which presently accommodate six persons, including the Court Administrator.

The major portion of the east wing contains two major spaces: the Presiding Judge's courtroom and ancillary facilities; and the jury assembly facilities. The Presiding Judge's courtroom is approximately 92 feet x 45 feet, and is seldom used to capacity. The present seating capacity of the courtroom is around 250, but can be increased to 300 by adding more seats at the rear, and to 350 by adding more seating in the front of the spectator area by rearranging the layout of the wooden pews. Behind the courtroom is the regular judge's chamber and judge's conference room. Separated from the courtroom by the public corridor is a suite of offices presently occupied by the calendar clerk of the Clerk's Office and by the case assignment officer of the Court Administrator's Office. The offices, previously occupied by the court commissioners, who are now located in more adequate offices on the sixth floor, are presently unused.

Adjoining the Presiding Judge's courtroom along the east wall are jury assembly facilities. The size of the jury assembly room is approximately 110 feet x 32 feet, with the width reduced at the rear of the room by the provision of jurors' toilets and small conference rooms. Between the courtroom and jury assembly room is the jury coordinator's office. It is a large office with glazed separation between it and the jury assembly room. The two walls enclosing this office are movable, soundproof folding partitions which, if necessary, could be opened so that the courtroom and jury assembly room could be combined into a very large and very lengthy room.

Across the public corridor from the jury assembly room in the east wing is another Superior Court jury trial courtroom and ancillary facilities, including a judge's chamber, conference room and a multi-purpose room for the court reporter on the south side, and the jury deliberation room on the

north side. Adjoining this jury room on the north side is a room that used to be a hearing room, but has not been used because the freight elevator opens directly into it. A jail elevator adjoins the freight elevator. This jail elevator is used for the transfer of prisoners between the loading and unloading area in the basement and the jail on the tenth to the twelfth floors, and between the jail and the courtrooms on the seventh, eighth and ninth floors, as well as on the third floor.

The tenth floor is shared by the Superior Court and the Department of Rehabilitative Services which has jurisdiction over the jail presently housed in the east wings of the ninth and tenth floors and on the entire twelfth floor. The Superior Court presently occupies the southern half of the west wing. The offices of the Department of Rehabilitative Services occupy the northwest corner of the west wing. The remaining space adjoining the Superior Court courtroom and ancillary facilities along the west wall is vacant and has been assigned as expansion space for the Superior Court. There are a table tennis table, pool table and weight-lifting equipment placed in the space by the Department of Rehabilitative Services for prisoners' use on a temporary basis. This vacant space is one of the available areas that SMC was asked to evaluate for the feasibility of adding courtrooms and ancillary facilities.

Adjoining the other existing trial courtroom at the southeast corner of the west wing is a small arraignment courtroom which has direct and secured prisoner access from the jail, and which is used in the morning by the Superior Court and in the afternoon by the District Court for hearing arraignments. Since the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court hears arraignment early in the morning, after which he returns to his courtroom and chamber on the ninth floor, he does not need the chamber adjoining the arraignment courtroom, and the chamber is very seldom used. Adjoining the arraignment courtroom in the center of the building next to the visitation area of the jail is a large space that was previously used as the arraignment courtroom. It is now used as a meeting/training room for the Department of Rehabilitative Services.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SHORT-TERM IMPROVEMENTS

A. Analysis and Recommendations

Because of the design of the existing courtroom floors and the spatial relationships between courtrooms and ancillary facilities, each Superior Court judge is assigned a "courtroom unit" consisting of the courtroom, the judge's chamber and conference room, and the jury deliberation room. There is a basic floor plan to this design. Not every judge uses his courtroom and ancillary facilities to their full capacity and potential. However, because of the layout in courtroom units, each judge considers the courtroom unit his own, and is usually reluctant to share it with other judges. Another misconception inherent in this design is that every courtroom would have a jury at the same time and that all juries would deliberate in all the jury deliberation rooms at the same time. This, of course, is far from the norm. Experience in more than thirty states has shown that no more than five or six jury deliberation rooms are ever used simultaneously for ten trial courtrooms. Consequently, if the jury deliberation rooms were planned in such a manner that any jury from any courtroom could use any jury deliberation room, then no more than six jury deliberation rooms are needed for every ten trial courtrooms. In some locations, this ratio could be as low as four for ten. However, the planning of courtroom units in the King County Courthouse would not permit such a degree of space use flexibility. Each courtroom has a jury deliberation room adjoining the public spectator area of the courtroom. The only way that a jury from another courtroom could use the jury deliberation room is through the public spectator area of the courtroom. When the court is in session, such movement in and out of the public spectator area of the courtroom would not be tolerated. Consequently, the use of each jury room is restricted to the jury assigned to that courtroom. Because it cannot be easily assigned to other uses, the jury room serving a courtroom with few jury cases can remain idle for long periods of time. Unfortunately, the structural design of this building locates major columns along the two sides of the central access corridor, making it logical to have a double-loaded central corridor but extremely difficult to plan courtrooms in the

center of each wing, with public access from the elevator lobby and private judge's and jurors' access from a private corridor separating internal trial courtrooms from the judges' chambers, secretaries' offices and jury deliberation rooms along the perimeter walls.

Since the County over the past few years has expended considerable funds on the renovation and upgrading of Superior Court facilities, further expenditure to correct the mistakes made in the design would not be viewed favorably. Consequently, it is likely that, in spite of their inefficient layout and design, existing courtrooms and ancillary facilities will remain as they are for the time being. However, in planning major renovation or new courthouse construction, established functional and spatial relationships should be suitably and economically satisfied. The reduction of each jury deliberation room for 12-member juries is equivalent to a reduction of 450 sq. ft. net or 600 sq. ft. gross, which, if based on a \$55 per sq. ft. construction cost, would be \$33,000 per jury deliberation room. A saving of four jury deliberation rooms in a ten-courtroom courthouse would mean a cost saving of over \$120,000.

Because of the likelihood that at least three, and perhaps five new Superior Court judges might be appointed during the next legislative session, and because there are normally visiting judges from outlying areas sitting in the King County Courthouse, it is fairly certain that a shortage of courtrooms and hearing rooms in the near future will be experienced. One of the major tasks performed by SMC is the plan for additional courtrooms and ancillary facilities which could be provided at reasonably minimal costs. The following are the areas investigated in some detail by the SMC project team, and for which recommendations will be made:

Tenth Floor: the existing Superior Court courtrooms and ancillary facilities, and the adjoining vacant space along the west wall at the northwest corner of the floor. A visit was made also to the offices of the Department of Rehabilitative Services located at the northeast corner of this wing.

Ninth Floor: the Presiding Judge's courtroom and ancillary facilities, the offices occupied by the assignment officer and the calendar clerk's office, the jury assembly facilities, the judges' meeting room and the Court Administrator's Office. A general tour was also made of the

five trial courtrooms and ancillary facilities on the west wing of this floor. The layout of courtrooms and ancillary facilities on the seventh and eighth floors is essentially the same as the ninth floor. Sixth Floor: The Clerk's Office, the law library, and the court commissioners' facilities.

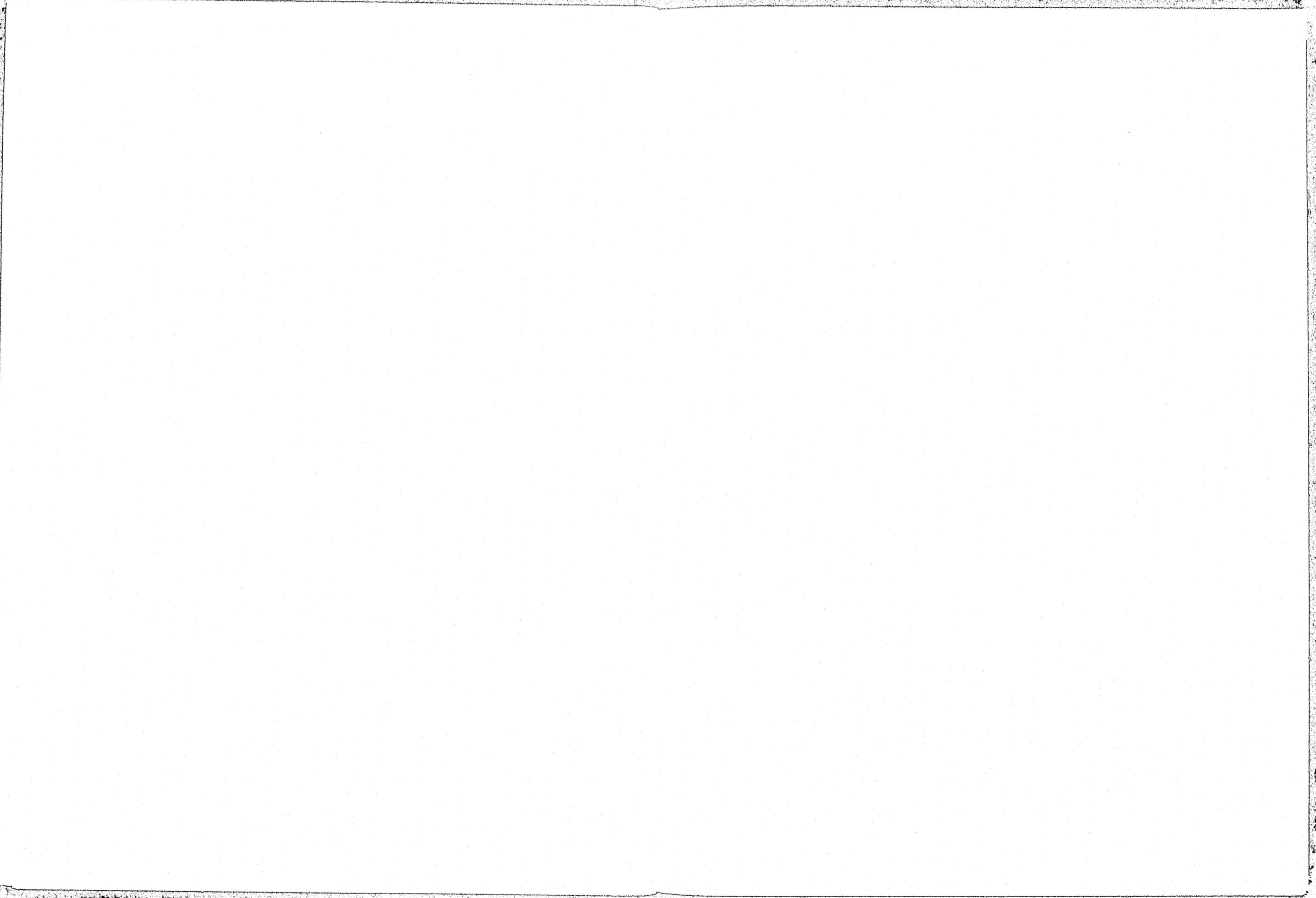
Third Floor: Family Court facilities in the west wing and District Court facilities in the east wing.

A brief tour was made of the remaining spaces in the King County Courthouse to enable the consultants to become familiar with the overall space uses in the building. Discussions with various county officials provided the consultants with some insight into the possible uses as well as the limitations of this building.

In anticipation of the increase in the number of Superior Court judges and, as a result, in the need for more courtrooms and ancillary facilities, SMC offers the following short-term recommendations which should be compatible with long-range goals to be discussed in the next section of this report:

Tenth Floor: the available vacant space adjoining present Superior Court courtrooms and ancillary facilities should be converted, as soon as practicable, into additional Superior Court courtrooms and ancillary facilities. There is adequate space for two jury trial courtrooms, a motions courtroom and a hearing room, and ancillary facilities including judges' chambers, secretaries' offices and a jury deliberation room. At present, the criminal and civil motions courtroom locations change each month as new judges are assigned to criminal and civil motions. As a result, the location by attorneys of the motions judges' courtrooms at the beginning of each month always creates a confusing situation. By assigning a specific courtroom/hearing room to hear motions, any judge assigned as a motions judge would simply use the motions courtroom for that month. The judge would maintain his chambers on one of the courtroom floors. Consequently, a full-chamber-conference room adjoining the motions courtroom is not necessary. An office for temporary use by any judge, and large enough to be used as a visiting judge's chamber when the motions courtroom is used for other hearings or non-jury trial, is sufficient.

Since there does not seem to be any real benefit in having both criminal and civil motions courtroom/hearing rooms adjacent to each other,



arraignment sessions and cannot be used for other judicial uses other than motions hearings. By improving and enlarging this courtroom, and by providing a separate secured prisoner corridor along the window wall, the arraignment courtroom could be more flexibly used for conducting criminal trials, and prisoners could be escorted into the adjoining trial courtroom without going through the arraignment courtroom. It is SMC's opinion that this improvement be made as part of short-term recommendations.

. Ninth Floor: Several ninth floor spaces are not utilized optimally. The Presiding Judge's courtroom is far too large for normal use. The adjoining offices presently used by the case assignment officer and the calendar clerks are underutilized. The space occupied by the Court Administrator's Office is also underutilized and could be easily converted into courtrooms/hearing rooms.

One of the reasons for providing a courtroom the size of the Presiding Judge's courtroom (approximately 92 feet x 45 feet or 4,140 sq. ft.) was no doubt the anticipated use of at least one large courtroom for ceremonial functions such as Bar Admissions ceremonies or the swearing-in of a newly appointed judge to the Court. These functions occur maybe two or three times each year, at most. During most of the time that such large courtrooms are used for judicial functions, much of the courtroom is unoccupied and unused. There are two ways of overcoming this deficiency. The first is to reduce the large courtroom by partitioning off portions of it for other uses, on a permanent basis. This would mean holding ceremonial functions outside the courthouse in a rented hall or auditorium. The second way is to reduce the large courtroom by partitioning off portions of it for use as a courtroom/hearing room, using soundproof folding or movable partitions which could be opened or removed for the occasional ceremonial functions requiring a large space for a limited time period. This is only feasible if the partitioned area is used as an open space such as a courtroom/hearing room so that no major relocation of furniture is necessary when the space is used as part of the larger space. For example, it cannot be used as offices as furniture would have to be moved to another location, and then returned to this space after the ceremonial function is over. Another consideration is that even if this second method were adopted, there could be occasions when the combined

seating capacity of the present Presiding Judge's courtroom is not adequate to accommodate large ceremonial functions, in which case a hall or auditorium outside the courthouse would still have to be rented for such functions. The decision to be made by the court and the county is whether the number of occasions that a large space with seating capacity of 250 to 300 during a year would warrant the trouble of manually opening up the partitioned space and of closing the partitions after each such occasion, or should all such occasions be held in larger and better-equipped halls or auditoriums that are suited to accommodate large numbers of people.

SMC recommends the reduction of the Presiding Judge's courtroom by about 50%. This would enable an additional trial courtroom and ancillary facilities to be constructed. This courtroom could also be used as a motions courtroom, if desirable, so that cases assigned in the Presiding Judge's courtroom could go directly to the adjoining courtroom for motion hearings or trials. SMC recommends further, in view of the use of part of the present courtroom for another courtroom, that the partition between the two courtrooms be of the soundproof movable or folding partition similar to the ones used to separate the jury assembly room from the jury coordinator's office and from the courtroom. By using movable or folding partitions, it is possible to combine the two courtrooms into a large ceremonial type of space should such a space be needed. It would provide a better degree of flexibility in space use than if the partition between the two courtrooms is of permanent construction. The judge's chamber and conference facilities adjoining the jury coordinator's office, of course, would be of permanent construction. It is neither likely nor desirable to open up the jury assembly space and combine it with the present Presiding Judge's courtroom. The combined space becomes far too elongated, and as the space is not designed for public gathering, it would be very difficult for the people in the jury assembly area to see, as the speakers are located at the judge's bench at the far end of the courtroom. With the permanent construction of the judges' chamber and conference room, the combined space of the courtrooms would be reduced by only one structural bay, and the seating capacity would remain at around 200 to 250.

The space occupied by the Court Administrator's Office on the south side of the building service core can be suitably planned for two courtrooms/hearing rooms, each approximately 40 feet x 20 feet or 800 sq. ft.

in net area. The two corridors leading into this space from the public lobby could be used as the public entrances into these two courtroom/hearing rooms. SMC has developed designs for a jury trial courtroom within the 40 feet x 20 feet dimensions, so that if these two rooms were to be designed according to SMC recommendations, they could serve both as hearing rooms as well as jury trial courtrooms when the need arises. In future planning of courthouse space use, a higher degree of flexibility will be needed in order to maximize the potential use of existing space. By being able to handle jury trials, these two courtrooms could be assigned jury trials when the other larger courtrooms are not available.

On the east side of the present Court Administrator's Office is an unused room presently filled with unused furniture. This room was previously used as a hearing room until the noise of the freight elevator, which opens directly into this room, made it impossible to conduct hearings. It should be realized that this is the rear door of the freight elevator, and that there is no apparent reason why there should be a rear elevator door on this floor. All furniture, equipment and freight could just as easily be unloaded or loaded through the front door of the elevator which opens into a small loading area and into the public corridor. By blocking up the elevator door opening in that room and by programming the freight elevator not to open the rear door on the ninth floor, that room could be expanded slightly into the public corridor and renovated into a judge's chamber and conference room to serve all of the two new courtrooms/hearing rooms. It could also be used as a visiting or pro tem judge's chamber until more permanent judges are appointed and more chambers and conference rooms are needed.

On the west side of the second proposed courtroom/hearing room is the present Xerox and employee's lunch room and two small attorneys' conference rooms being used as storage rooms by the Court Administrator's Office. Minor renovation of this space would provide adequate space for the judge's chamber and conference room serving the second courtroom/hearing room.

Another advantage to locating these two courtrooms/hearing rooms in the Court Administrator's Office is the presence of the jury deliberation rooms adjoining the two proposed judges' chambers and conference rooms. A separate jurors' entrance into each of those jury deliberation rooms could

be used by the juries from the two new courtrooms if they are not already occupied. This would increase the use of these jury rooms which are presently accessible from their respective courtrooms.

The only disadvantage of this arrangement is that of private circulation. Because of the location of the public corridor entrances to these proposed courtrooms, the judicial area has to be at the far end from the proposed judges' chambers and the existing jury deliberation room. This means that the judge and jurors would have to walk through the public area when moving between judge's chambers, jury deliberation room and the judge's bench and jury box in the judicial area of the courtroom. In view of the advantage of gaining two additional courtrooms, this disadvantage is not considered critical.

Since the Court Administrator's Office is so well-suited to providing two additional courtrooms/hearing rooms and ancillary facilities, the Court Administrator's Office would have to be relocated to another space. SMC recommends its relocation to the office space adjoining the Presiding Judge's chamber, conference room and courtroom. Part of this space is presently occupied by the case assignment officer, who is part of the Court Administrator's staff, and by the calendar clerks responsible for the preparation of court calendars for the King County Courthouse. These calendar clerks are under the supervision of the Clerk's Office, and while they serve a useful court-related function, they could easily be located in the Clerk's Office on the sixth floor. On the other hand, there is a close working relationship between the Court Administrator and the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, and the closer proximity of their offices would improve this working relationship. There are several private offices as well as a larger secretarial office which would be suited to the staffing pattern of the Court Administrator's Office. The Court Administrator could occupy the vacated Court Commissioner's Office. The case assignment officer could be located in the adjoining office, with the Court Administrator's secretary occupying the outer office presently occupied by the case assignment officer. The Deputy Court Administrator and other staff members could occupy the remaining offices. The prisoner holding room should remain in case criminal cases are heard in the Presiding Judge's courtroom or in the proposed new courtroom. There is also adequate

space for a staff/conference/xerox room and a private staff toilet with access from the larger general office.

As part of a previous renovation project, most of the windows along the west wall of this space proposed for the Court Administrator's Office have been blocked off with painted sheetrock or similar material internally to match the other wall finishes and with metal panels externally. These large metal panels extend from the building cornice above the ninth floor to the second floor. Windows do exist within the structure of these metal panels on the lower floor. The existing rooms on the ninth floor, with the exception of two end windows, on the west wall, are internal rooms. To improve the working environment for the staff of the Court Administrator's Office, SMC strongly recommends the provision of windows where they are now blocked off, similar to and consistent with those installed on the lower floors.

SMC also recommends that the environmental conditions of interior, as well as perimeter, rooms be improved by the use of inexpensive wall paper murals of external views and by more appropriate types of lighting and light fixtures.

On the ninth as well as on the seventh and eighth floors, SMC recommends the provision of an access from the public corridor into as many of the jury deliberation rooms as possible so that they could be used by juries from other courtrooms or for other-court related functions. There should be a small soundlock with two doors where possible between the public area and the jury deliberation room proper to prevent any sound transmission between the two spaces. By reducing the size of the toilet closet to the proposed soundlock, it is possible to create a door width between the existing column and that toilet so that such a soundlock could be created. The advantages gained in making these rooms multiple purpose rooms should more than justify renovation costs incurred.

• Third Floor: The Family Court, which is an integral part of the Superior Court, occupies more than half of the space in the west wing of this floor. There is one courtroom and an adoption hearing room used by the court commissioner. A nursery and an adjoining staff lunch room are accessible directly from the reception/waiting area. The remaining offices along the northwest corner and the west wall are occupied by marriage counselors and social workers working on domestic relations, adoption and other family-related cases. There are a number of vacant rooms, especially towards

the southern portion of this area. In view of the shortage of court reporters' offices on the upper courtroom floors, and the lack of adequate facilities for visiting and pro temp judges, SMC recommends that these vacant offices be suitably furnished and equipped for temporary use by court reporters and visiting pro tem judges. SMC suggests that all marriage counselors and social workers be consolidated and occupy all offices towards the north end of this area so that the vacant offices could be grouped towards the south end for other court uses. Since there is a separate entrance into the south end offices from the public area, court reporters and judges entering this space would not have to go through the reception area of the Family Court, and therefore would not disturb Family Court operations.

This arrangement could be made on a temporary basis. As the number of courtrooms and ancillary facilities are increased over the short-term planning period, additional offices for court reporters and judges will also be provided. As the Family Court services grow in responsibilities and increase in number of personnel, marriage counselors and social workers would occupy more of the offices assigned to court reporters and visiting and pro temp judges. As Superior Court facilities on the upper floors become more adequate, the offices could be returned to the Family Court for its expanding use. This would maximize the use of these available offices, and at the same time provide the flexibility for the future expansion of the Family Court.

B. Response to Comment from the Court

Based on comments received from the Superior Court after the submission of the draft report, SMC offers the following space use alternatives and recommendations:

TENTH FLOOR

One comment was that the proposed non-jury motions hearing room is too small and that there would be resistance against using it to full capacity by the judges. Since the proposed plan to accommodate three courtrooms and a motions hearing room in the available space is extremely tight, and as no space is allowed within this plan for attorneys' conference/witness rooms, resulting in a suggestion to acquire a room across the corridor (presently used by the Department of Rehabilitative Services) for such purpose, SMC welcomes this comment as justification to eliminate the inadequate hearing room and to design the available space into three adequate jury courtrooms and ancillary facilities. With three courtrooms, there would be enough space to accommodate two attorneys' conference/witness rooms without having to acquire space from another agency. The size of the courtrooms remains minimal, each courtroom being two-window bays in length as compared to the 2½ bays occupied by the adjoining existing trial courtrooms. Also, all jury deliberation rooms are planned as multi-purpose rooms, each sandwiched between and shared by two trial courtrooms. They are designed with an access from public-accessible space so that a jury from any courtroom could have access into and use any jury deliberation room that is not in use. Where possible, there should be a soundlock between this room and public spaces, or the openings would have to be fitted with soundproofed double doors.

NINTH FLOOR

The comment on SMC's plan for this floor was that judges would object to walking through the public spectators area from their chambers in order to reach the judge's bench in the two courtrooms proposed for the space presently occupied by the Superior Court Administrator's Office south of the passenger elevator bank. The consultants were cognizant of this problem during the

development of the proposed space use plan. However, severe existing structural constraints and fixed locations of the two entrances one at each end of the elevator bank, dictated the courtroom layout that would have provided the necessary security and decorum within these courtrooms. If the judge's bench were to be located at the other end adjoining the judge's chamber, the judge would have direct access to and from the bench. However, public entering the courtroom, restricted by the location of the entrance corridor, would have to enter at the judicial area of the courtroom and walk through part of it to reach the front row of the public spectator area. This would certainly disrupt trial proceedings as public entering the courtroom would have to walk by the attorneys' stations in order to reach the spectator area. An adequate passageway would also have to be provided within the narrow width of these proposed courtrooms to allow for this access. In addition, the location of the jury box would be directly opposite the public entrance which would expose jurors to higher security risks as well as to distractions and intimidation.

On the balance, SMC's opinion was that the lesser of two evils is to have the judge walk through the public area to get to the bench rather than to tolerate frequent disruptions to courtroom operations. The jurors would also have to walk through one side of the public area in order to reach the existing jury deliberation room which SMC proposed to be shared by two courtrooms. Since jurors would be escorted to the jury deliberation room by bailiffs, SMC does not see this as an important deficiency.

In view of this comment, SMC has prepared an alternative plan for the ninth floor to illustrate the problem of accessibility. The planning of the judge's chambers serving the west courtroom has been changed slightly by moving the wall separating the chamber from the courtroom westward so as to increase the depth of the judicial area beyond the entrance corridor by several feet. This would improve the design of the judicial area in relation to the public entrance. This improvement, however, cannot be duplicated in the eastern courtroom due to the existing toilet separating the proposed judge's chamber from the courtroom. By retaining the toilet for use by the judge, there by eliminating the need to provide another private toilet at a different location, minimum renovation work needs to be done in the chamber area. The revised layout of this courtroom clearly demonstrates the problems encountered in locating the judge's bench and the judicial areas as a whole

adjoining the judge's chamber.

An alternative to using this space for the two proposed courtrooms is to retain the Superior Court Administrator's Office in its present location, and to convert the proposed Administrative Office space adjoining the Presiding Judge's Chambers and courtroom into a jury courtroom unit, consisting of a jury courtroom, a jury deliberation room with two existing toilets and adequate space for the judge's chambers. However, there would be more demolition and renovation work in converting this office space for courtroom use than to convert the open space of the present Court Administrator's Office into two courtrooms. Instead of gaining two trial courtrooms, with adequate shared jury deliberation rooms, this alternative would provide only one trial courtroom.

III. LONG-TERM COURT FACILITIES PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The short-term needs of the King County Superior Court have been evaluated, as much as possible, as an integral part of long-term comprehensive plans for Superior Court facilities development. The work scope and time limitation of this project did not lend themselves to detailed evaluation of Superior Court needs based on projection of future growth, but rather, called only for a brief preliminary assessment of how Superior Court facilities could be expanded within the King County Courthouse over the long-term period of say 20 to 25 years.

To develop practical and feasible long-term planning concepts for Superior Court facilities expansion within constraints of time and effort requires a definition of the boundaries of planning possibilities, and an establishment of space allocation priorities. Long-term space management solutions must be geared towards practical and economic implementation. Discussions with Senior County officials in Program Budget, Planning and Building Management Divisions yielded the basis for formulation of such boundaries and priorities without which long-term planning concepts and solutions could easily be outside the realm of possible implementation.

From the cursory survey of the entire King County Courthouse, it became obvious, even without detailed investigation and analysis, that with few exceptions, the building is fully allocated and utilized. The layout of each floor, conditioned to a great extent by the shape of the building and the existing structural systems (structural column locations and spacings, ceiling height, etc.), determines the degree of optimum and maximum utilization. For example, due to the design of a jury room attached to each courtroom, and the inaccessibility of this jury room other than from the public area of the courtroom, the jury room is grossly underutilized but cannot be productively used by other functions without disrupting courtroom operations. Another example is the existing double-loaded central public corridor, flanked by structural columns, requiring courtrooms and ancillary facilities to be housed on both sides of the corridor, making it practically impossible to introduce a private circu-

lation corridor for judges, court staff and jurors behind the courtrooms. The centralized banks of public passenger elevators at the center of the building, without any special provision for private judges' or jurors' elevators, contributes to the deficient and conflicting circulation systems within the King County Courthouse.

Since the existing courthouse building is becoming fully occupied, action should be taken soon to alleviate the space shortage problem already experienced in some departments. While the addition of several courtrooms and hearing rooms on the ninth and tenth floors over the short-term will be sufficient to take care of the anticipated increase in the number of Superior Court judges, any further increase beyond the next few years would require the expansion of Superior Court facilities to lower floors. When this need arises, the question of space use priority in the courthouse would have to be answered. In SMC's discussion with county officials, there was a general consensus of opinion that the Superior Court would have a higher priority in expanding within the courthouse than any other departments. In addition to the consideration that the King County Courthouse should be a courthouse first and county office functions second, there is a much more significant economic factor in the county's decision on how the courthouse is to be used. It is considerably more costly to construct a new courthouse or to renovate an existing building for court use (providing the existing building has a high rehabilitation potential for Superior Court use), than to construct a new county office building or renovate an existing office building for county office use. With the existence of close to thirty Superior Court courtroom units in the King County Courthouse, it would certainly be more logical to expand the Superior Court within the courthouse, and eventually relocate county functions to another building. The existing ceiling heights of the lower floors of the courthouse are quite adequate for accommodating courtrooms and ancillary facilities. The construction of new office space would not require ceiling height greater than the regular 8 ft. 6 in. to 9 ft. which would be considerably cheaper to construct than spaces with floor to ceiling heights of 12 feet or more.

Having arrived at this priority concept, the next logical step is the future location of county functions. The County Administration Building across the street from the courthouse was originally designed to accommodate an addi-

tional six stories. The construction cost of adding the six floors today is considerably more than that of a decade ago when the building was constructed. County officials have expressed that the construction of the six floors in the near future is inevitable and should be considered as part of any long-range planning of county and court facilities.

If the county were to construct the additional six floors above the present County Administration Building, SMC would suggest the following sequence of moves:

1. Assuming that the Department of Rehabilitative Services is important to the operation of the Superior Court, and that the jail, or at least part of it, will continue to remain in the tenth, eleventh and twelfth floors of the courthouse, it would not be likely that the department would be relocated. SMC also considers the computer center and communications center at the rear of the first floor, the cost of which would be prohibitive to relocate and replace, and probably unnecessary. With this consideration, SMC suggests that the county offices on the second floor and first floor mezzanine (other than that occupied by the Department of Public Safety) should be the first to relocate. SMC is of the opinion that the Clerk's Office and the law library on the sixth floor are poorly situated and that the second floor, with a main public access from Fourth Avenue, would be much more appropriate for the high volume public traffic to the Clerk's Office and for the law library which operates after regular working hours. Expansion space could be provided for these two departments on the first floor mezzanine.
2. By relocating the Clerk's Office and law library to the second floor, the sixth floor would become vacant for Superior Court expansion. Based on SMC facility standards and design guidelines for courts of general jurisdiction, it should be possible to plan between 14 and 16 courtrooms/hearing rooms and ancillary facilities on each floor of the King County Courthouse. Considering the anticipated population projections for King County over the next 20 years, an addition of 16 courtrooms, plus the seven or eight courtrooms/hearing rooms in SMC's short-term recommendation, should

adequately accommodate the needs of the Superior Court over the next 15 to 20 years.

3. With the increase in the number of courtrooms and ancillary facilities, SMC foresees a substantial increase in the staffing of the County Prosecutor's Office and other court-related offices. To accommodate such expansion needs, SMC recommends that the county offices located on the fifth floor be the next to move out of the courthouse. This would enable the County Prosecutor's Office to expand into contiguous space on the fifth floor, and at the same time provide some space for other related departmental offices.
4. The next move, which could also be simultaneous to moves 1 and 3, would be the relocation of county offices from the third floor. The major part of the third floor is presently occupied by the District Court and Family Court. The District Court is the court of limited jurisdiction, while the Family Court is part of the Superior Court. The District Court also uses the present arraignment courtroom on the tenth floor in the afternoon (at 3 p.m.) to hear arraignment cases. If the King County Courthouse has adequate space in the courthouse to accommodate both Superior and District Court operations, then SMC would recommend both courts remaining in the courthouse. However, if the Superior Court has to expand into District Court facilities, then the Superior Court should have a higher space use priority than the District Court. With proper planning of court facilities on the third and eventually the fourth floors, SMC does not foresee the need for the District Court to relocate over the next 15 to 20 years. Should the District Court be relocated, the existing District Court courtrooms and ancillary facilities could easily be converted to Superior Court use.
5. The remaining floor occupied by King County Departments after move 4 would be the fourth floor which presently houses the County Executive Office as well as the County Council and support offices. Since the fourth floor has been planned quite recently to specifically house those functions, SMC recommends their remaining in the Courthouse until such time that the fourth floor is needed

for Superior Court expansion. With the relocation of the County functions from the fourth floor, at least half of the floor could be converted into seven or eight courtrooms/hearing rooms with appropriate ancillary facilities for Superior Court or District Court use. It is anticipated, with the continual increase in the number of judges and courtrooms, that more support staff offices will also be needed. Part of the fourth floor should be used to accommodate expansion needs of court-related departments.

With this broad schedule of relocation of county functions from the courthouse into the expanded County Administration Building or other available county buildings in the future, it is SMC's assumption that in the long-term the Superior Court, with or without the District Court, would occupy the entire King County Courthouse. Of course, the relocation of county departments does not require implementation in the sequence outlined above if the six floors were to be added on the County Administration Building, and if there is adequate and suitable space to accommodate all county functions presently housed in the courthouse, then all county functions could be relocated at the same time and the moves of the Clerk's Office and law library to the second floor and first floor mezzanine, the expansion of the Superior Court on the sixth floor, the expansion of the County Prosecutor's Office and other court-related departmental offices on the fifth floor, and the expansion of the District Court and Family Court facilities on the third floor, could be expedited, and some moves could be made simultaneously.

In addition to the long-term expansion of Superior Court facilities, there are improvements that should be made to existing court and court-related facilities if and when funds are available. In recommending these improvements for implementation, SMC also considered the cost effectiveness of these improvements. In other words, SMC would have analyzed the benefits of improvements to the court and county in relation to the amount of funds to be expended. For example, one suggestion to the consultants was the possible conversion of the jail facilities on the tenth, eleventh and twelfth floors for court use. While the concept is feasible from the standpoint of the possibility of the jail moving to a new facility, the cost of rehabilitating the jail facility for court or office use would be

prohibitive. Also the ceiling height of the major jail sections is only about 7 feet 6 inches which is not sufficient for office or court use. The removal of steel bars and jail equipment on these three levels would require major renovation efforts. The entire twelfth floor may have to be removed in order to provide space with adequate ceiling height for court or office use. The changing levels of the cell blocks, accessible by means of ramps, would further complicate the suitability of this jail facility for conversion into court and court-related facilities. In other words, court and related facilities on these floors would require major expenditure of funds for rehabilitation. Even with such major expenditure, it is unlikely that the jail facility could be made adequate and suitable for design of court facilities. Circulation and accessibility to the eleventh and twelfth floors would be extremely costly to provide, since none of the public elevators, for obvious reasons, penetrate those floors. This means that several of the passenger elevators would have to be extended into these two uppermost floors, or new elevators would have to be installed. Either means would require major construction or renovation work at high costs. The benefits that could be derived by the Superior Court would be considerably less than if the lower floors, such as the sixth floor, could be made available for renovation for court use. The major structural and circulation problems existing in the jail floor do not exist on the lower floors which could be more easily converted for court use at considerably lower costs. SMC suggests that the cell blocks in the jail continue to serve as prisoner holding facilities. Even if a new correctional facility were to be built remote from the courthouse, some prisoner holding facilities would still be needed in the courthouse. The jail facility, over the long-term could be upgraded according to more recent jail standards. Unused portions of the jail, if adequately separated from the used portion of the jail, could be used as records and other storage facilities. This would minimize the use of prime office space in the courthouse for records, supplies, furniture and equipment storage. Spaces that are not habitable by court employees should be utilized to the maximum extent for storage and other non-personnel functions.

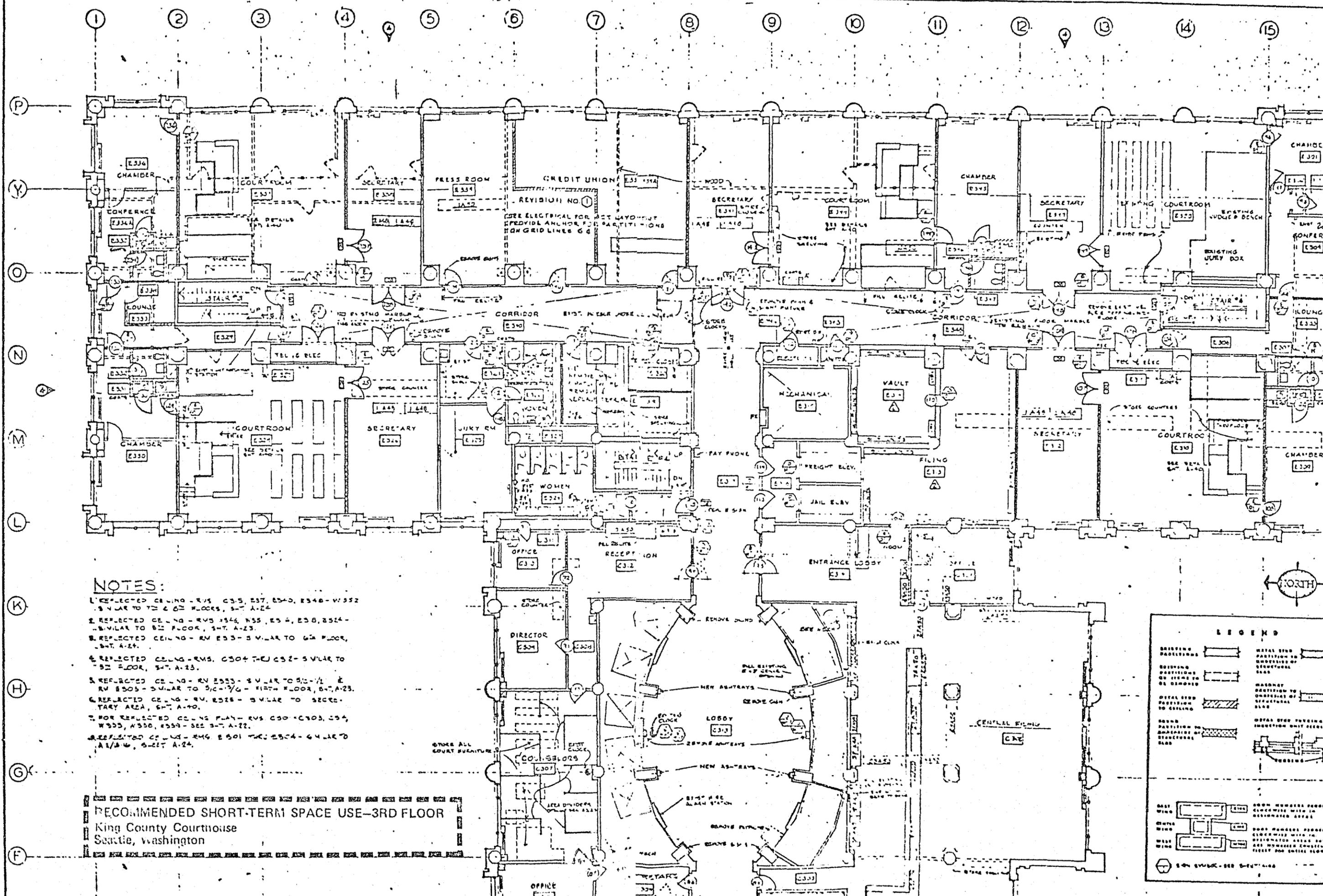
On the courtroom floors, existing layout of courtrooms and ancillary facilities leaves much to be desired. While the cost of renovating court-

rooms and ancillary facilities so soon after the renovation of these facilities would not be likely to be acceptable to the County Council, there are major planning deficiencies among these facilities that should be corrected when funds are available in the future.

One area of improvement that has already been discussed is the underutilization of jury deliberation rooms which are accessible only from courtrooms. By providing access from public corridors, and equipping them with soundlocks to minimize sound transmission, these rooms could be much better utilized for hearings, attorney's conferences with clients, witness waiting and isolation, and for deliberation by juries from other courtrooms which, in future planning, would have to share jury deliberation rooms.

The locating of existing jury rooms in relation to the courtroom they service is also very poor. Jury rooms are invariably located adjacent to the public spectator area at the rear of the courtrooms. This means that the jurors have to walk through the spectator area in order to reach the jury deliberation room. While the design of the jury room could have allowed for a small soundlock between the courtroom and the jury room proper, this was not provided. Consequently, jury deliberation with loud voices could easily be heard in the public area of the courtroom, which could be a valid basis for requesting a mistrial. In the provision of a separate entrance from the public corridor, a soundlock should be provided so that no sound is transmitted to any space outside the jury deliberation room. To relocate the present jury room to a more suitable location in relation to courtroom would require major relocation of other ancillary facilities, and would be prohibitive in cost. Consequently, SMC does not recommend the future relocation or major replanning of courtrooms and ancillary facilities on the seventh, eighth and ninth floors. Such an improvement would not be cost effective.

If more of the jury deliberation rooms could be used for attorneys' conferences and witness waiting, then there would not be the need for the tiny attorneys' conference rooms presently scattered throughout the courtroom floors. There could be fewer but more adequate attorneys' conference rooms. With the possible relocation of large storage facilities from the courtroom floor, these rooms could be made productively useful as court reporters' offices or other court-related facilities.



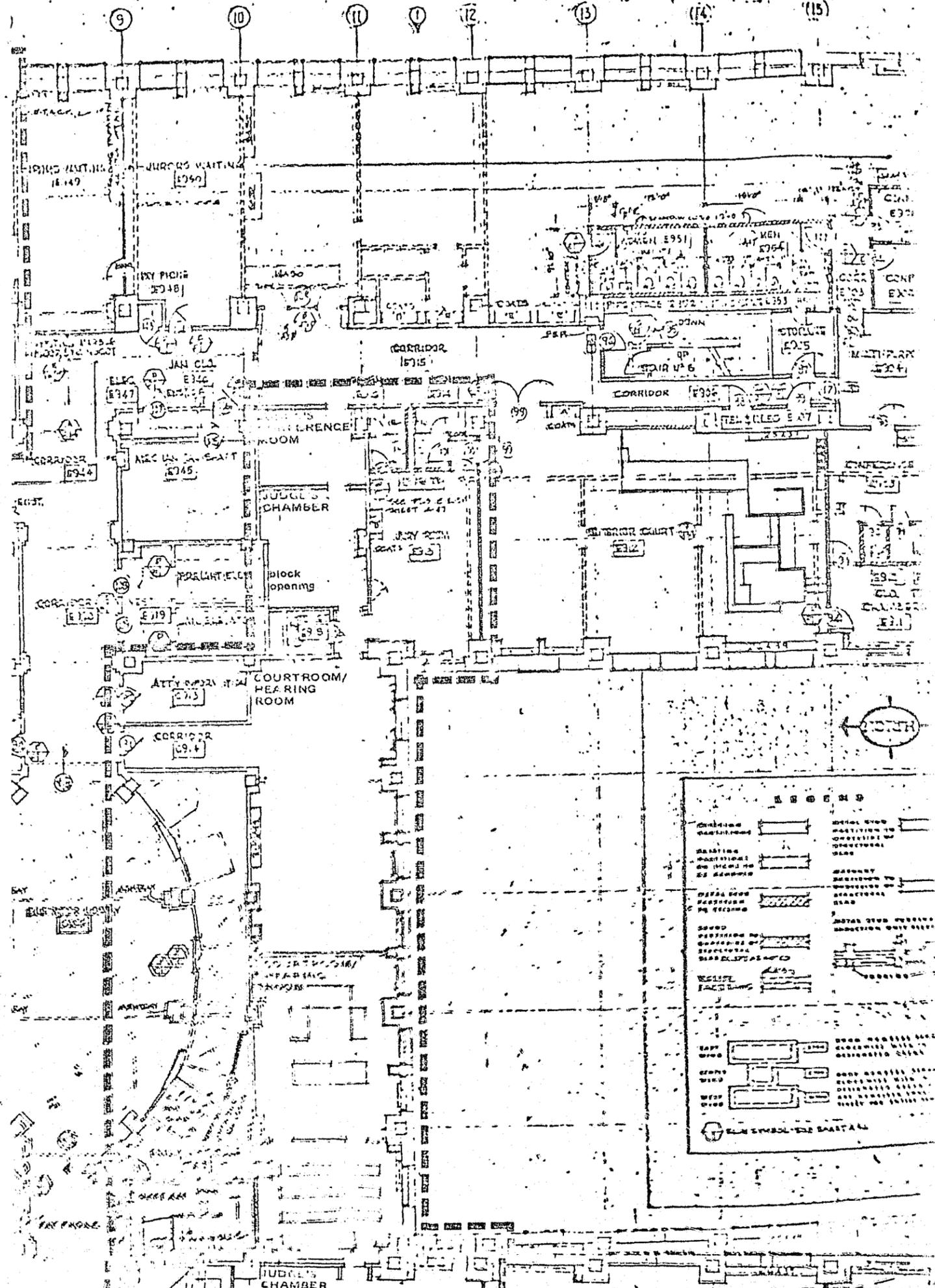
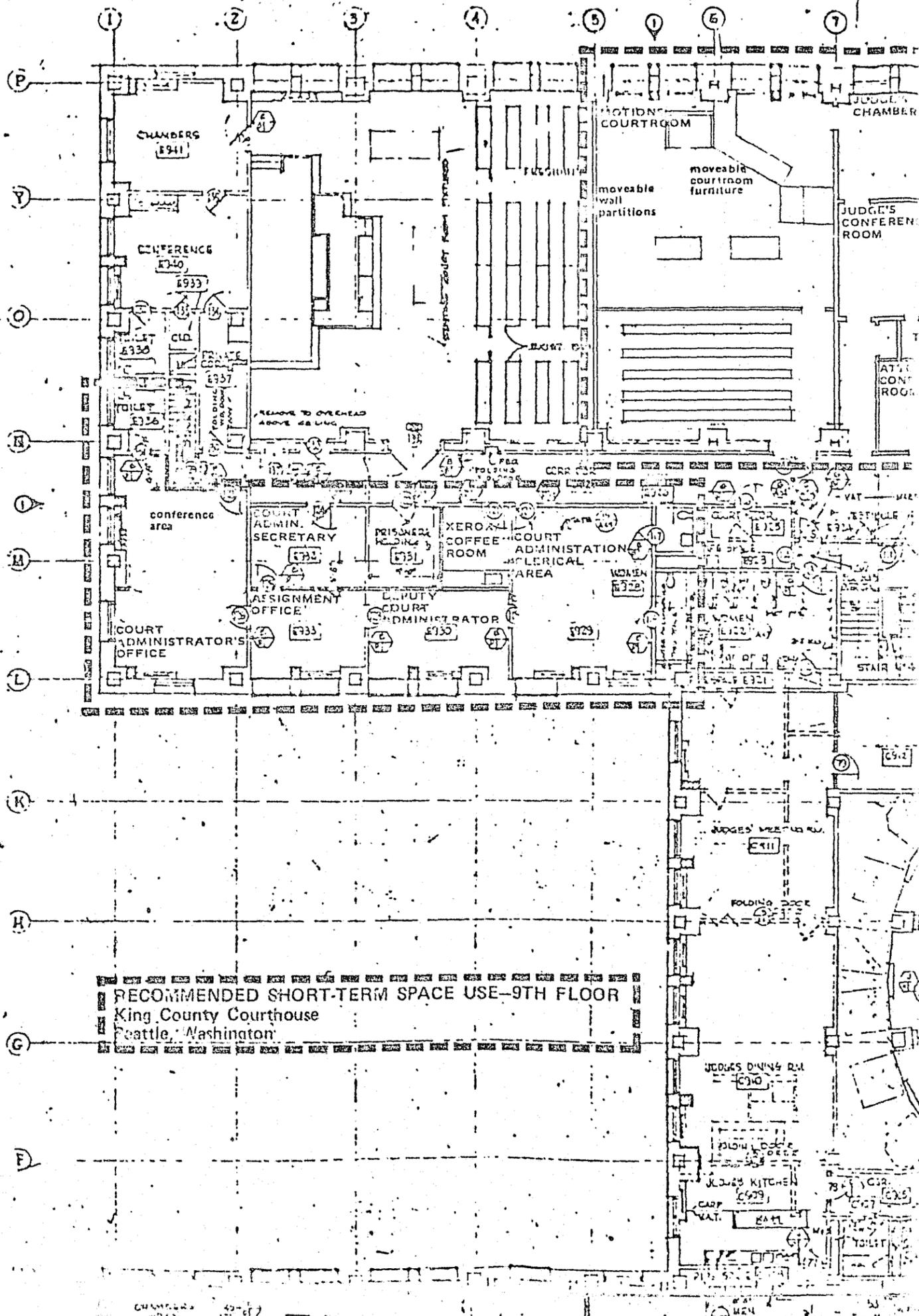
NOTES:

- 1. REFLECTED CEILING - RVS. C35, E37, E340, E348 - W352 - 5'4" HIGHER TO 2' 6" FLOOR, 5-T A-24.
- 2. REFLECTED CEILING - RVS. E34, W35, E39, E38, E324 - SIMILAR TO 8TH FLOOR, 5-T A-23.
- 3. REFLECTED CEILING - RM. E33 - SIMILAR TO 6TH FLOOR, 5-T A-24.
- 4. REFLECTED CEILING - RMS. C304 - E32 - SIMILAR TO 5TH FLOOR, 5-T A-23.
- 5. REFLECTED CEILING - RM. E353 - SIMILAR TO 5TH FLOOR, 5-T A-23.
- 6. REFLECTED CEILING - RM. E328 - SIMILAR TO SECRETARY AREA, 5-T A-20.
- 7. FOR REFLECTED CEILING PLAN - RVS. C30 - C303, C34, W353, W350, E354 - SEE 3-T A-22.
- 8. REFLECTED CEILING - RM. E301 - E304 - 6'4" HIGHER TO 11' 6" FLOOR, 5-T A-24.

RECOMMENDED SHORT-TERM SPACE USE-3RD FLOOR
 King County Courthouse
 Seattle, Washington

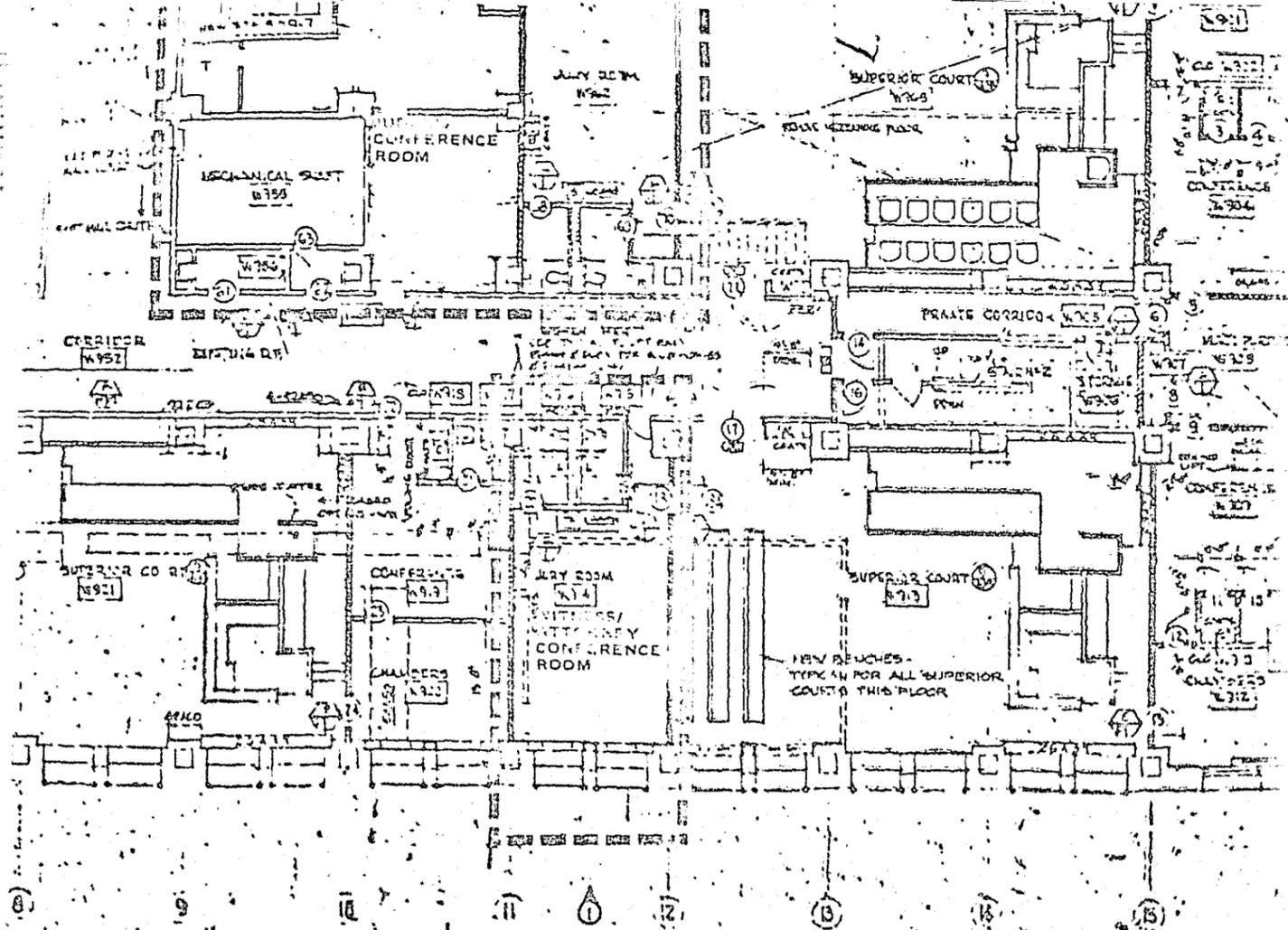
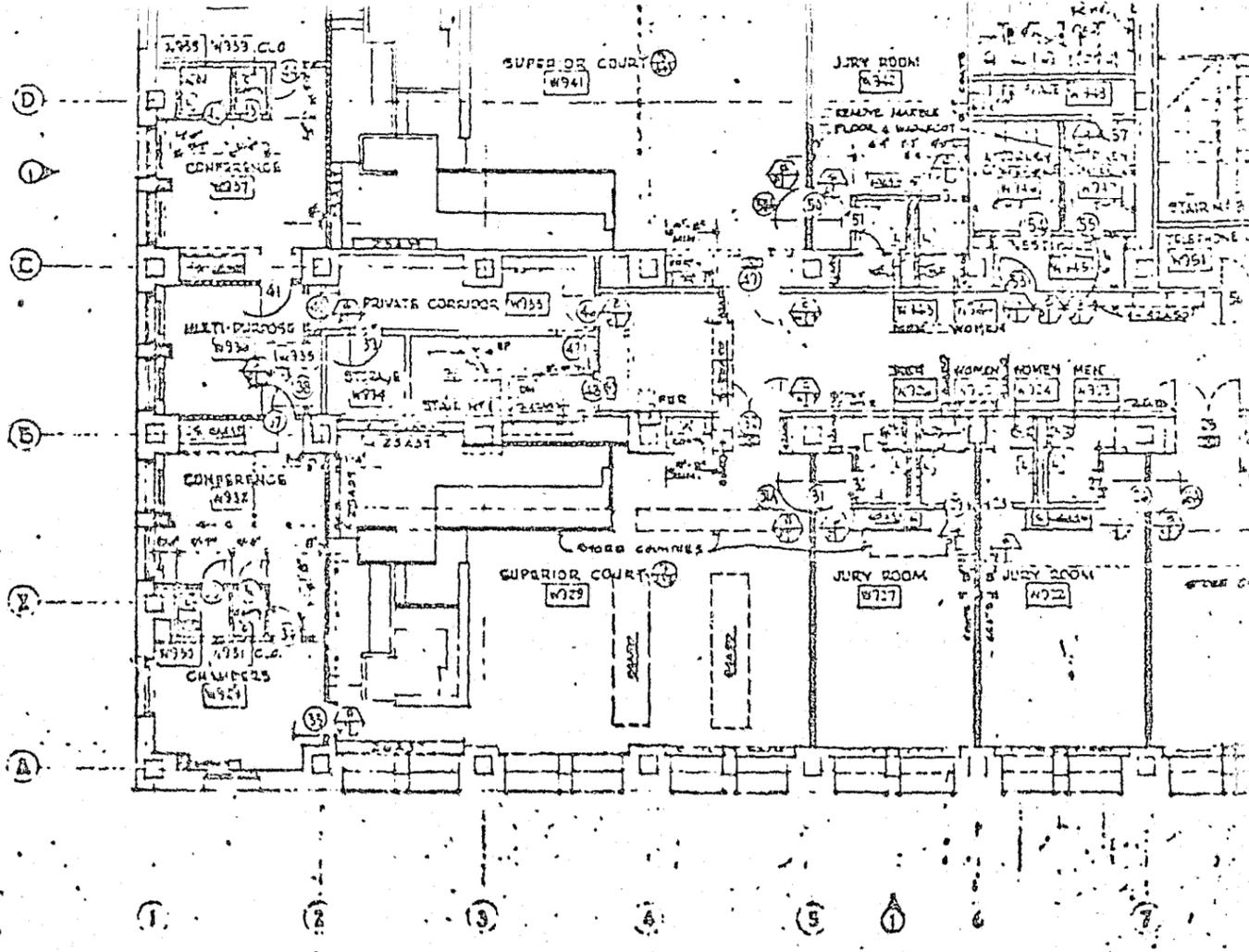
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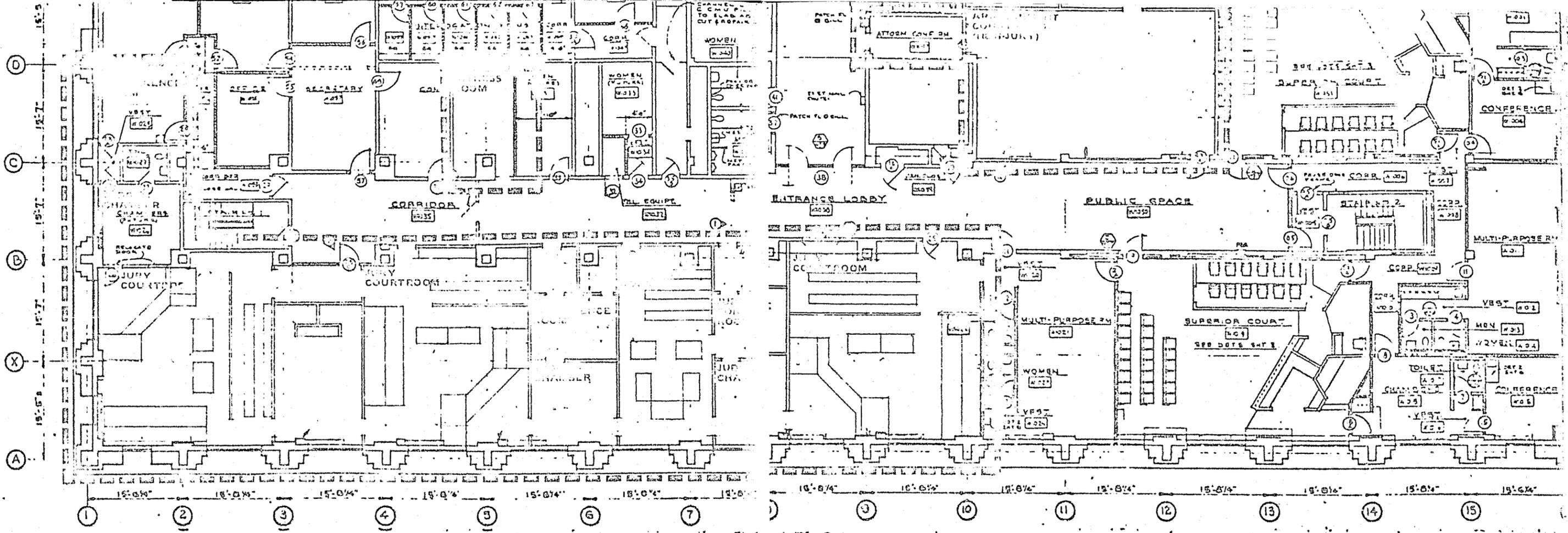
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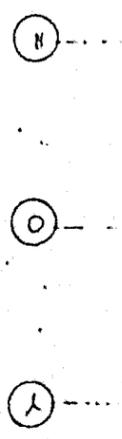
RECOMMENDED SHORT-TERM SPACE USE-9TH FLOOR
King County Courthouse
Seattle, Washington

LEGEND	
	CHAMBER
	WAITING ROOM
	JURY ROOM
	COURTROOM
	JUDGE'S CHAMBER
	JUDGE'S CONFERENCE ROOM
	JUDGE'S DINING ROOM
	COURT ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE
	COURT ADMINISTRATOR'S SECRETARY
	PRISONER READING ROOM
	XEROX/COFFEE ROOM
	COURT ADMINISTRATION/MERICAL AREA
	DEPUTY COURT ADMINISTRATOR
	WOMEN
	MEN
	MOTION COURTROOM
	JUDGE'S CHAMBER
	JURY WAITING
	JURY ROOM
	JANITOR
	ROOM NO.
	CORRIDOR
	STAIR
	RESTROOM
	TOILET
	STORAGE
	MAIL ROOM
	COPY ROOM
	RECEPTION
	WAITING AREA
	OFFICE
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	COURTROOM
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	JUDGE'S CHAMBER
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	JURY ROOM
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	STAIR
	RESTROOM
	TOILET
	STORAGE
	MAIL ROOM





HOUSE
 REHABILITATION &
 PHASE II
 COMMISSIONERS
 JOHN O'BRIEN
 ED MUNRO
 JOHN STELMAN
 BUILDING
 SUPERINTENDENT
 R. A. RICHARDSON



END