

# COMMISSION ACTION

NCPC File No. 6453



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**OLD DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTHOUSE  
ADDITION AND RENOVATION  
400 E Street, NW, Washington, DC**

Submitted by the District of Columbia Courts

April 1, 2004

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***Commission Action Requested by Applicant***

Approval of design concept plans pursuant to D.C. Code § 10-603, 40 U.S.C. § 8722(e), and Section 5 of the National Capital Planning Act (40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1)).

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***Commission Action***

The Commission:

**Waives** the requirement imposed in the Commission's August 7, 2003 action on the Draft Master Plan for Judiciary Square that the National Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial Fund, Inc. and the District of Columbia Courts agree on the design of the plaza area located between the proposed National Law Enforcement Museum pavilions and north of the proposed new entrance to the Old D.C. Courthouse/City Hall, because the parties have not agreed on a design in accordance with the Commission's order and Congress' direction to the parties.

**Approves** the design concept for the addition to and renovation of the Old District of Columbia Courthouse, as shown on NCPC Map File 1.22(08.21)-41341, as being consistent with the principles of the draft Judiciary Square Master Plan and with the historic setting of the buildings and open space of Judiciary Square.

**Approves** the concept design of the site plan, both the portions adjacent to the building which will be a permanent site plan, and the portions above the future museum construction, which will be an interim site plan, as shown on NCPC Map File 1.22(08.21)-41341.

**Requests** that the applicant study further, and revise accordingly, the massing of the pavilion in order to ensure that the spatial relationships of the pavilion to the Courthouse, the adjacent court buildings, and the entrance-level plaza are compatible.

**Recommends** that this be achieved by:

- **Reducing** the depth of the projection of the pavilion.

- **Raising** the height of the pavilion, possibly incorporating the third story windows above the pavilion.

**Requests** that the applicant incorporate as much grass lawn as is feasible throughout the site plan, in the character of Judiciary Square.

**Requests** that the applicant develop additional visual analysis of the massing of the revised pavilion, including a model, so that the proportions of the pavilion can be further assessed in the context not only of the Courthouse but of the open space and the adjacent buildings of Judiciary Square.

**Directs** the D.C. Courts to work with the National Law Enforcement Museum to ensure that the permanent design for the lower plaza area, the connecting elements between the lower and upper plazas, and the upper plaza are complementary and result in a unified vision for Judiciary Square.

**Directs** the D.C. Courts to work with the National Law Enforcement Museum and the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces to develop a plan for perimeter security that complies with the National Capital Urban Design and Security Plan as well as the Judiciary Square Master Plan.

**Requests** that the D.C. Courts explore the feasibility of allowing the museum underground access to the Courthouse's service entry from 4<sup>th</sup> Street, NW.

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Deborah B. Young  
Secretary to the National Capital Planning Commission