

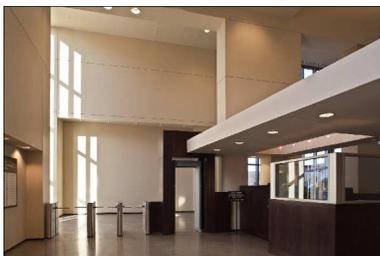


A journey of a 1000 days ended for the United States District Court for the District of New Mexico, as the newly completed Las Cruces Courthouse opened its doors for business on Tuesday, March 16, 2010. As the last sign was installed and the last piece of furniture was placed, court was called to order in the Guadalupe courtroom at 9:00 a.m. before the Honorable Robert C. Brack, United States District Judge. All who witnessed the construction of the courthouse drew a sigh of relief and stood back in awe of a building whose future was uncertain only four years earlier.

The original project design for the new Las Cruces Courthouse was completed under a project delivery partnership comprised of Antoine Predock Associates as the design architect and BPLW as the executive architect of record - both Albuquerque-based firms. Planned as a much needed replacement for the existing Harold Runnels Federal Building, the courthouse was one of only a few in the United States moving forward as judicial space emergency projects. Unfortunately, the bid on January 5, 2006, came in nearly twice the advertised project budget and the future of the planned courthouse was in jeopardy.



However, in the few months immediately following the “bid bust,” the Court worked with the General Services Administration (GSA) to evaluate and select a new project delivery method that could meet the budget constraints. To satisfy the project goals, GSA decided to modify the project delivery approach from traditional design/bid/build to the more aggressive approach known as design/build. In this new “bridging” design/build approach, the contractor delivers an agreed-to building design with the architect as part of the construction team. With this new approach, the new Las Cruces Courthouse was awarded for construction in January 2007 to White Construction Company of Austin, Texas and Carter-Burgess Architects/Engineers of Fort Worth, Texas.





As construction began, newly appointed U.S. District Judge Brack took on a leadership role to ensure the court's needs were met. With a bird's eye view from his chambers at the Runnels building, he watched as the cranes rolled into place and followed the construction from the pouring of the concrete to the laying of the carpet. As a result, a standard of excellence was established that guaranteed the courthouse would be a landmark in downtown Las Cruces.

