

# NEW YORK

## Columbia County Supreme Court Courtroom 212 Remodel



LOCATION	Hudson, New York
COURT JURISDICTION	Supreme Court
PROJECT STATUS	Completed October 2022

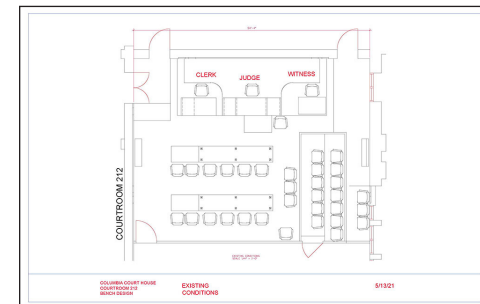
### PROJECT VISION

This renovation preserved the historic essence of the ceremonial courtroom while enhancing its acoustical properties and seamlessly integrating modern technology, harmonizing its traditional character with contemporary operational functionality.

### PROJECT DETAILS

The primary objective of the project was to improve and enhance the functionality of Ceremonial Courtroom 212 while maintaining its historic character. The existing courtroom was classically finished with stone floors, plaster walls and ceiling, and multiple curved surfaces. While these materials contributed to the overall refinement of the space, they also provided poor acoustical properties. To address the poor acoustics, one-inch-thick acoustic panels were installed throughout the room. These panels were constructed onsite to fit seamlessly with the existing courtroom elements and were wrapped in fabric matching the courtroom's historic color scheme. Once the panels were completed, the original light fixtures, judicial portraits, court seal, and new speakers were installed over them. White acoustical panels were installed on the flat surfaces of the ceiling and integrated seamlessly with the existing features of the room.

Another feature of the renovation was the redesign of the judge's bench. The previous arrangement consisted of three individual desks which were decades old and had been pushed together to form the bench. These were replaced with a single modern judicial bench.



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This new bench was designed to incorporate a bullet-resistant panel for judge's protection, accommodate electronic devices, and conceal all the necessary wiring. To hide the power and data lines, a slim-line Connectrac system was installed on the courtroom well's floor, providing a streamlined and organized wire management solution. The project also addressed the need for flexibility in courtroom configurations and the inclusion of devices required for electronic court appearances.

### ENHANCING OPERATIONS AND THE OVERALL BUILDING EXPERIENCE

The benefits of the project were immediately noted by the building's users. At the courtroom's soft opening, people remarked on the substantial improvements in acoustics, eliminating the need for repeated speech clarification. The renovation has also provided a safer environment, preventing potential hazards related to unsecured wiring. The inclusion of large flatscreens, cameras, and adjustable power/data locations has enhanced the courtroom's functionality for both in-person and virtual court appearances.

The project successfully facilitated the preservation of the ceremonial courtroom's integrity while seamlessly integrating essential technological advancements. The use of networked 55-inch flatscreens specially ordered for the project represented a technological innovation within the court system. These screens, operating with low power consumption and utilizing CAT6A cabling, were strategically integrated without compromising the aesthetics of the courtroom.

