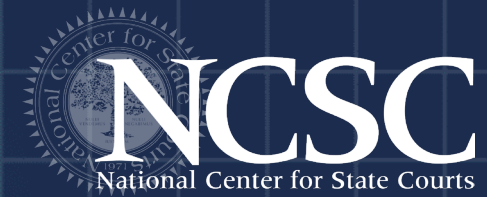


WASHINGTON

Olympia Municipal Court



LOCATION	Olympia, Washington
COURT JURISDICTIONS	Criminal, Traffic, Specialty
PROJECT STATUS	Idea phase

PROJECT VISION

To alleviate visitor navigation challenges due to the original circular design of the building, the project plans to integrate a drive-through window to serve the public which will enhance accessibility and streamline services.

PROJECT DETAILS

Designed by native Olympian architect, Joseph Wohleb, the current Olympia, Washington Municipal Courthouse building was constructed in 1966, originally as Olympia City Hall. Upon opening, it received wide publicity for its innovative round configuration. The complex is comprised of three buildings organized in a wheel shape. At its central core, the round council chambers were originally surrounded by a fish-filled moat. However, in 2011, a new, modern city hall was completed down the street, and the round building transitioned into its current function as the municipal courthouse for the city and named the Lee Creighton Justice Center.

The building's distinctive design has contributed to several challenges in its role as a courthouse. The circular layout creates challenging sightlines, security concerns, and provides minimal separation throughout the building between public, private, and secure circulation. It also lacks required ADA provisions for individuals with disabilities and has insufficient parking for building users.



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Olympia Municipal Court

To correct these functional deficiencies, the project intends to construct an addition which would include courtrooms, offices for court staff, and meeting rooms to support those spaces. To further enhance operations and streamline services, the court has developed an inventive solution which incorporates a drive-through window and kiosk service for the public. The drive-through would be comparable in function to a front service counter typically found in traditional courthouses. At the drive-through, the public would be able to receive information, make payments, submit case filings and records requests, and submit juror summons paperwork.

ENHANCING OPERATIONS AND THE OVERALL BUILDING EXPERIENCE

This project will enhance the public's access to justice and serve as the city's hub for legal help. It will also enhance building security by providing one central entrance point for visitors and direct access from court offices to courtrooms. With the addition of the drive-through window, the Court would increase court users' convenience to the same level of service while alleviating the staff's current security, accessibility, and parking concerns. By creating an entirely new addition, the building will provide improved ADA accessibility, better outreach through the community, and improved service to meet the demand for efficient, effective justice.

