

Court of Appeals of Maryland
Robert C. Murphy Courts of Appeal Building
361 Rowe Boulevard
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1699



MARY ELLEN BARBERA
Chief Judge

CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST
FISCAL YEAR 2020
CAPITAL BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS RESPONSE
DE0211

Summary of Recommended Actions

1. Washington County District Courthouse

The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) recommends the approval of \$385,000 in general obligation bonds for the addition to the Washington County District Court.

JUDICIARY RESPONSE:

The Judiciary concurs with the analysis.

2. Shillman Building Conversion

DLS recommends the approval of \$2,080,000 in general obligation bonds for the Shillman Building conversion.

JUDICIARY RESPONSE:

The Judiciary concurs with the analysis.

Issues

1. Judiciary Pushes for Acceleration of Courts of Appeal Building Replacement

“While DLS agrees with the assessment that the current building is deficient and that its replacement is well-justified, caution is warranted...”

JUDICIARY RESPONSE:

The numerous, pervasive, and significant structural and operating issues confronting the Courts of

Appeal building, are reflections of the many ongoing issues emanating from the initial poor construction, followed by decades of neglect. The need for a new Courts of Appeal building has been established indisputably for more than 15 years, yet planning and design have been repeatedly pushed out for years at a time. In the meantime, the existing facility, long past its intended useful life, has deteriorated, so much so that the many issues may now present health and safety concerns on multiple fronts. Decades of neglect have, unfortunately, placed the appellate courts in the position of needing to relocate with due speed, but with no place to go. Capital funds have yet again been moved to the out years. Due to the urgency of the situation, and the repeated removal of Capital funds, the Judiciary placed design money, not construction money, in its operating budget to begin the planning of the much-needed new Courts of Appeal building.

The Judiciary agreed to the removal of the funding in the Judiciary's operating budget and is requesting that the General Assembly adjust the Capital Budget and make design funding for this critical need available in 2020 and 2021 and construction funding available in 2022 and 2023.