



Administrative Office of the Courts

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For Immediate Release

Henry County to break ground for courthouse addition, renovation April 29 in New Castle

State and local officials, public invited to groundbreaking ceremony

FRANKFORT, Ky., April 26, 2019 – The public is invited to a groundbreaking ceremony for the planned addition and renovation at the Henry County Courthouse at 12:30 p.m. ET Monday, April 29. The event will take place at the construction site at 30 N. Main St. in New Castle. The courthouse is being renamed the Henry County Judicial Center as part of the project.

“The courthouse has always been the hallmark building of the county,” Henry County Judge-Executive John Logan Brent said. “It is our architectural centerpiece and a long-standing source of pride for our citizens. I am pleased to see this historic structure be preserved and improved in a manner that will serve our citizens long into the future.”

The Kentucky General Assembly authorized the Henry County project in 2014 and approved funding in 2016. The project cost is \$13.2 million. The 22,175-square-foot addition will include two stories and a basement and allow for a new District Courtroom on the first floor and for the offices of the Drug Court, Pretrial Services and Court Designated Worker programs to move into the facility, among other changes. After the addition, the building will be a total of 36,271 square feet.

The existing facility will be renovated. New and updated judicial centers improve upon older, inadequate facilities, greatly enhancing the delivery of court services. The renovated Henry County Judicial Center will support the latest data, computer, video and networking technology. The facility will also provide the highest level of Kentucky court security through a single-point entry with magnetometers and security personnel.

Chief Justice of Kentucky John D. Minton Jr. said he appreciates the legislators and county officials who support the improvements for Henry County. “Kentucky citizens generate about 900,000 court cases each year. It’s important to provide safe, efficient facilities where citizens can seek justice before the courts.”

JRA Architects architectural firm of Louisville designed the addition and renovation. Wehr Constructors in Louisville is the construction manager for the project and Ross, Sinclair & Associates, which serves Kentucky and six other states, is the financial agent.

Chief Justice Minton and Judge-Executive Brent will be among the speakers at the ceremony. Other state and local officials expected to attend include judges, attorneys and the Henry County circuit court clerk. For more information, contact Judge-Executive Brent at 502-845-5707.

Process for Constructing Judicial Facilities

The Administrative Office of the Courts oversees the construction and maintenance of Kentucky court facilities in accordance with House Bill 734, which was passed by the 2000 General Assembly. As a result of this legislation, the AOC created a process that would fairly and objectively determine court facility needs.

Once funding is authorized, the AOC Division of Facilities works with local communities to assemble a Project Development Board. This board ensures that county and court officials have input on all aspects of the project, including decisions on the site, architect and contractor. The PDB is composed of the county judge-executive, a fiscal court representative, the chief circuit judge, the chief district judge, the circuit court clerk, a citizen-at-large, the AOC director or designee and a Kentucky Bar Association designee.

As the operations arm for the state court system, the [AOC](#) in Frankfort supports the activities of more than 3,400 court system employees and 406 elected justices, judges and circuit court clerks. The AOC also executes the Judicial Branch budget.

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