



Court Facilities Capital Review Board

Hon. Norman St. George
Chair of the Board

Tina Fernandez, Esq.

Hon. Charles D. Lavine
NYS Assembly Member

Hon. Willis Stephens Jr.
NYS Assembly Member (Ret.)

Panagiota K. Hyde, Esq.
Counsel to the Board

Court Facilities Capital Review Board Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: The April 21, 2026, Court Facilities Capital Review Board meeting was held via videoconference at:

- Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 4, Albany, NY, 19th floor conference room; and
- Broome County Courthouse, 92 Court Street, Binghamton, New York, Courtroom 6.

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Norman St. George at 12:09 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

- First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Norman St. George (Albany)
- Assemblymember Charles Lavine (Albany)
- Tina Fernandez (Binghamton)
- Willis Stephens Jr. (Albany)

Others in Attendance: Panagiota Hyde, Justin Barry, Jeneen Wunder, Shawn Waterman, Lesley Stefan, Mindy Jeng, Tyler Legge, Maureen McAlary, Will Williams, Howard Vargas, Amnah Dhailia

Agenda Items:

1. Introduction

Judge St. George opened the meeting, and the Board members and other attendees introduced themselves. Judge St. George gave an overview of the purpose of the Board and noted that Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal has been elected as Manhattan Borough President

2. Approval of September 25, 2025 Meeting Minutes (Vote)

Assemblymember Lavine moved to approve the September 25, 2025 meeting minutes. Ms. Fernandez seconded. The Board unanimously voted to approve the September 25, 2025 minutes.

3. City of Schenectady

Judge St. George noted that there have been issues with the court facilities in Schenectady from 1990. He gave an overview of the sequence of events regarding the City of Schenectady. OCA and the Mayor of Schenectady entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Upon the execution

of the MOU and the placing of funds in escrow, the Comptroller's funds were released to the City of Schenectady. Judge St. George stated that the Unified Court System was looking forward to working with the City to provide suitable and sufficient court facilities to the City of Schenectady.

4. Counsel's Report

Update on Capital Plan Solicitations

Counsel Hyde gave an overview of the capital plan solicitations that were sent out by the Office of Court Administration (OCA). Fourteen priority political subdivisions were sent letters in November and December 2024. Sixty-one secondary political subdivisions were also sent letters in February/March 2025. Forty-three political subdivisions were not sent any letters because their court facilities were suitable and sufficient.

City of Albany – OCA had an introductory meeting with the new Administrative Judge for the Third Judicial District and the new mayoral administration. The City is working with Albany County to develop a comprehensive plan to relocate City Court operations to a more appropriate and functional facility.

City of Schenectady – Judge St. George gave the detailed update earlier in the meeting. OCA submitted a space needs assessment to the City. Their first benchmark from the MOU is the end of May—to enter into a contract for the sale or lease of a building.

City of Auburn – OCA has had a couple of meetings with the City of Auburn and Cayuga County. The City Court is housed in a County building. The County is moving forward with improving and expanding the space and HVAC repair. The County confirmed that there will be a resolution before the County Legislature in May regarding the court facility project.

City of Buffalo – The new administration has been much more responsive. They are starting an elevator modernization project. They have set aside \$2 million for emergency critical updates. They have hired an architect, who is an important resource for the Department of Public Works. The City will present a more comprehensive plan after the City issues an RFQ/RFP for planning and programming services.

City of Lackawanna – OCA met with the City of Lackawanna in March and in April. The City is looking at housing the City Court at their new City Hall site. They are exploring potentially expanding the new City Hall to include City Court. The City is optimistic that they can assemble and secure approval for a favorable bond package to make this proposal viable.

City of Rye – OCA met with the City in January. They were looking at a property adjacent to the City Court building or relocating to City Hall. They

communicated that the City Hall building will not work. The City of Rye is continuing to look into moving into the property next to the City Court and potentially exploring new construction to expand the existing City Court building as an alternative option.

City of Poughkeepsie – OCA met with the City of Poughkeepsie multiple times. The City communicated that they are looking at new City Court locations. They believe that there is insufficient space at the current site. The short-term plan is to install a glass barrier as a way to expand the lobby space for security.

Counsel Hyde showed the Board the flowcharts. There are now seventy-eight political subdivisions that are suitable and sufficient, an increase from the forty-three political subdivisions one year ago. Twenty-nine political subdivisions have addressed OCA's concerns. The priority list of political subdivisions has decreased from fourteen to only seven remaining political subdivisions. There are thirty-two secondary political subdivisions that OCA is actively working with to address issues.

5. Board Action Item (Vote)

a. City of Jamestown – Approval of Capital Plan Amendment

Counsel Hyde explained the City of Jamestown's proposed Capital Plan Amendment that is currently before the Board for review and approval. Jamestown submitted a capital plan amendment for a roof and façade project. The work was completed in the winter of 2025.

Assemblymember Lavine moved to approve the capital plan amendment for the City of Jamestown. Ms. Fernandez seconded. The Board unanimously voted to approve the capital plan amendment.

b. City of Ogdensburg – Approval of Capital Plan Amendment

Counsel Hyde explained the City of Ogdensburg's proposed Capital Plan Amendment that is currently before the Board for review and approval. Ogdensburg submitted a capital plan amendment for a window replacement and HVAC upgrade project. The window replacement will cost \$240,500, and the HVAC project will cost \$65,000.

Ms. Fernandez moved to approve the capital plan amendment for the City of Ogdensburg. Assemblymember Lavine seconded. The Board unanimously voted to approve the capital plan amendment.

c. Albany County – Approval of Capital Plan Amendment

Counsel Hyde explained Albany County's proposed Capital Plan Amendment that is currently before the Board for review and approval. Albany County's capital plan amendment offered an additional 10,617 square feet of space for court operations at 16 Eagle Street in Albany. The additional space will be used

to consolidate the clerk's office and for court officer locker rooms.

Ms. Fernandez moved to approve the capital plan amendment for Albany County. Assemblymember Lavine seconded. The Board unanimously voted to approve the capital plan amendment.

d. Cattaraugus County – Approval of Capital Plan Amendment

Counsel Hyde explained Cattaraugus County's proposed Capital Plan Amendment that is currently before the Board for review and approval. Cattaraugus County's capital plan amendment offered an additional 942 square feet of space for court operations in the Little Valley building. The additional space will be used for the Commissioner of Jurors and Chief Clerks.

Assemblymember Lavine moved to approve the capital plan amendment for Cattaraugus County. Ms. Fernandez seconded. The Board unanimously voted to approve the capital plan amendment.

e. Clinton County – Approval of Capital Plan Amendment

Counsel Hyde explained Clinton County's proposed Capital Plan Amendment that is currently before the Board for review and approval. Clinton County's capital plan amendment offered an additional 968 square feet of space for court operations on the second floor of the building at 72 Clinton Street in Plattsburgh. The additional space will be used for office space, potential conference space, and additional support areas.

Assemblymember Lavine moved to approve the capital plan amendment for Clinton County. Ms. Fernandez seconded. The Board unanimously voted to approve the capital plan amendment.

f. Nassau County – Approval of Capital Plan Amendment

Counsel Hyde explained Nassau County submitted two separate capital plan amendments currently before the Board for review and approval. The first amendment documents the completion of the matrimonial center at 101 County Seat Drive. That project is finally complete. The second amendment relates to capital improvements at the Supreme Court. Nassau County is working on parking improvements, loading dock rehabilitation, and elevator rehabilitation and modernization. They also submitted additional projects that are planned.

Ms. Fernandez moved to approve the capital plan amendment for Nassau County. Assemblymember Lavine seconded. The Board unanimously voted to approve the capital plan amendment.

g. Niagara County – Approval of Capital Plan Amendment

Counsel Hyde explained Niagara County's proposed Capital Plan Amendment that is currently before the Board for review and approval. Niagara County's capital plan amendment offered an additional 1,456 square feet of space for

court operations. The additional space will be used for magistrate chambers, courtroom, clerk space, and file storage.

Ms. Fernandez moved to approve the capital plan amendment for Niagara County. Assemblymember Lavine seconded. The Board unanimously voted to approve the capital plan amendment.

h. Sullivan County – Approval of Capital Plan Amendment

Counsel Hyde explained Sullivan County’s proposed Capital Plan Amendment that is currently before the Board for review and approval. Sullivan County’s capital plan amendment offered an additional 4,000 square feet of space for court operations. The additional space will be used for additional conference rooms, properly designed and designated male and female security locker rooms, expanded and more efficient holding areas, and establishment of a dedicated hearing room.

Ms. Fernandez moved to approve the capital plan amendment for Sullivan County. Assemblymember Lavine seconded. The Board unanimously voted to approve the capital plan amendment.

i. Ulster County – Approval of Capital Plan Amendment

Counsel Hyde explained Ulster County’s proposed Capital Plan Amendment that is currently before the Board for review and approval. Sullivan County’s capital plan amendment included two projects. The first is the roof replacement and exterior repair project that was completed in December 2023 and cost \$6,115,000. The second is the parking lot drainage project that was completed in May 2023 and cost \$182,600. Ulster County utilized bonds to fund these projects.

Assemblymember Lavine moved to approve the capital plan amendment for Ulster County. Ms. Fernandez seconded. The Board unanimously voted to approve the capital plan amendment.

Executive Director Justin Barry noted that under the General Construction Law, the Board can vote to approve capital plan amendments unanimously with at least three members.

j. City of New York

Executive Director Justin Barry reported that OCA has had regular meetings with the New York City mayoral administration. OCA met with the Commissioner of DCAS and Director of OMB. OCA has a great relationship with them and anticipates a lot of collaboration with the new administration. Executive Director Justin Barry outlined the following NYC projects:

Harlem Community Justice Center – The Chief Judge has established a working group on the Harlem Community Justice Center. OCA has made progress with

the City by claiming unused space on the first floor of the building. OCA is focusing on renovating the first floor space to provide services for seniors and youth. \$40 million has been allocated to rehabilitation work on the roof and exterior façade, which will most likely begin this summer.

The ceiling restoration of the courtrooms is complete. OCA anticipates getting a preservation-focused architectural space study to see how the first floor can be renovated.

Bronx Family/Criminal Court – The Bronx Family Court is a priority for judicial leadership. OCA is asking the City to consider purchasing 878 Brook Avenue as a new location for the Bronx Family Court.

Staten Island Family Court – The new facility will consolidate all Staten Island family court operations. The projected cost is \$300 million. New site construction is about to begin in May 2026 and will be completed in 2030.

Brooklyn Civil Court – The Brooklyn Civil Court will be moving to a new facility at 210 Joralemon Street in early 2027. The City is completing work on interior finishes. OCA also asked the City to hold on to leased space at 141 Livingston to house additional operations at Brooklyn Supreme Court and Family Court.

New York County Supreme Court – The City is working on rehabilitation of the roof and facade of the building. The estimated cost of the project is \$103 million. Phase 2 of the project includes an upgrade to interior spaces, improving circulation, renovating courtrooms and offices, upgrading mechanical systems, and improving ADA accessibility, which will cost \$390 million.

6. **Old Business** – None
7. **New Business** – None
8. **Next Meeting Date**

First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge St. Goerge indicated that September 9, 2026 is a tentative date for the next meeting.

Assemblymember Lavine moved to adjourn the meeting. Judge St. George seconded. The Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 12:48 pm.