



Court Facilities Capital Review Board

Hon. Norman St. George
Chair of the Board

Tina Fernandez, Esq.

Hon. Brad Hoylman-Sigal
NYS Senator

Hon. Charles D. Lavine
NYS Assembly Member

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

Panagiota K. Hyde, Esq.
Counsel to the Board

Mindy Jeng
Interim Counsel to the Board

Court Facilities Capital Review Board Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: The September 25, 2025, Court Facilities Capital Review Board meeting commencing at 12:00 pm was held via videoconference at:

- 25 Beaver Street, New York, New York, 10th floor conference room; and
- Broome County Courthouse, 92 Court Street, Binghamton, New York, Courtroom 6.

Member Willis Stephens, Jr. appeared via videoconference at a remote location in accordance with Public Officers Law §103-a. The meeting was called to order by Board Chair First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Norman St. George at 12:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

- First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Norman St. George (NYC)
- Assemblymember Charles Lavine (NYC)
- Senior Legislative Counsel Jonathan M. Weinberg (*Board member designee representing Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal*) (NYC)
- Tina Fernandez (Binghamton)
- Willis Stephens Jr. (Remote)

Others in Attendance: Mindy Jeng (OCA, Interim Counsel to the Board); Justin Barry (OCA, Executive Director); David Nocenti (OCA, General Counsel); Shawn Waterman (OCA, Director of Facilities); Panagiota Hyde (OCA, Counsel to the Board)

Agenda Items:

1. Introduction

Judge St. George opened the meeting, and the Board members and other attendees introduced themselves.

2. Approval of April 29, 2025 Meeting Minutes (Vote)

Jonathan Weinberg moved to approve the April 29, 2025 meeting minutes. Assemblymember Lavine seconded. The Board unanimously voted to approve the April 29, 2025 minutes.

3. Introducing Panagiota Hyde – Capital Planning Counsel

Judge St. George introduced the new Capital Planning Counsel to the Board. Panagiota Hyde came from NYS Department of State Office of General Counsel working primarily with the Division of Building Standards and

Codes dealing with the administration and enforcement of the State Building Code and Energy Code. Additionally, Ms. Hyde also had prior experience in private practice with civil litigation and appellate practice.

4. Interim Counsel's Report

Update on Capital Plan Solicitations

14 Priority Political Subdivisions

The Board has approved capital plan amendments for five (5) political subdivisions, and Dutchess County is on the agenda for approval of its capital plan amendment. Ms. Jeng shared that UCS is continuing efforts to follow up with the remaining political subdivisions.

Ms. Jeng stated that UCS has a meeting scheduled with City of Lackawanna next week to discuss the insufficient space and insufficient heating and/or cooling. The Facilities Director in the 9th Judicial District is continuing to engage with the City of Poughkeepsie to discuss the inadequate bathroom facilities; lack of attorney conference room, proper jury room, and videoconferencing; and improper layout. Administrative Judge Taylor in the Seventh Judicial District will be engaging with Cayuga County and the City of Auburn to discuss how to address the need for a new facility. The Auburn City Court is currently housed in a County-owned facility that is an old post office building from the 1880s that needs renovation and repair. With respect to Niagara County, UCS is providing reimbursement for the creation of a magistrate hearing room in the basement. There is an additional need for two additional courtrooms on the second floor for the new Family Court judge, and UCS is continuing to engage with Niagara County to progress this project.

44 Remaining Secondary Political Subdivisions

Eighteen political subdivisions of the original 62 contacted had provided responses and were moved to the list of suitable and sufficient or making progress towards a capital plan amendment. With respect to the remaining 44 political subdivisions, UCS continues to follow up to obtain action plans to address UCS concerns.

60 Political Subdivisions That Are Suitable and Sufficient or Making Progress Towards a Capital Plan Amendment

Forty-two political subdivisions were not provided solicitation letters because they were considered suitable and sufficient. Together with the 18 political subdivisions that have responded and are working towards suitable and sufficient court facilities, there are a total of 60 political subdivisions that are either suitable and sufficient or making progress towards a capital plan amendment.

5. Board Action Item (Vote)

a. Dutchess County – Approval of Capital Plan Amendment

Ms. Jeng explained Dutchess County’s proposed Capital Plan Amendment that is currently before the Board for review and approval. The HVAC project in the Dutchess County Supreme and County Court building commenced construction in June 2024 and is on-going and is anticipated to conclude by August 2028. Dutchess County also already completed elevator modernization, fire alarm modernization, and emergency back-up for the Supreme and County courthouse. Ms. Jeng noted that the HVAC project for the Family Court was not included as part of the capital plan amendment certificate for the Board’s signature because the County will need to submit plans for UCS architects to review as part of the capital plan amendment.

Assemblymember Charles Lavine moved to approve capital plan amendment for Dutchess County. Jonathan Weinberg seconded. The Board unanimously voted to approve the capital plan amendment.

6. Board Discussion Items

a. City of Schenectady

The City of Schenectady chose to engage in mediation over its failure to provide a suitable and sufficient City Court, which was commenced but the mediation ended in an impasse. The City proposed as an alternative for UCS to hold night court, which UCS has repeatedly told the City was not a viable option. A copy of the letter that was sent to the City of Schenectady on 9/3/2025 advising that UCS would move forward with requesting the Office of the State Comptroller to withhold funds was provided to the Board members.

Ms. Jeng outlined the deficiencies at the two Schenectady City Court facilities, including but not limited to insufficient court space for the fourth City Court judge, court staff who are split between two facilities, a shooting range in close vicinity of courtroom which is disruptive to proceedings, insufficient attorney conference space, and lack of appropriate space around the magnetometers. As for the courtrooms in the City Hall building, there is also a lack of attorney/client conference rooms, separate pathways for judges, and public restrooms on the court floor. Due to historic nature of the building, they cannot add more courtrooms in the City Hall building. With respect to the court facility in the police building, there is lack of cooperation from the police department to expand. The City of Schenectady has until 10/3/2025 to respond to UCS’ letter.

b. City of Buffalo

There will be a potential change of leadership in the City of Buffalo’s Mayor’s Office, so UCS is waiting to engage with the new administration. UCS recognizes that the current administration will have a difficult time committing to making changes at this time. Falling debris from the exterior of the building has been a persistent issue that requires scaffolding. First Deputy Chief

Administrative Judge St. George asked if there was anything UCS could do in the interim. Ms. Jeng explained that Administrative Judge Martoche contacted the City of Buffalo, and the City issued an RFP to identify a vendor. However, issues with insurance coverage prevented the City from following through and paying the vendor to erect the scaffolding. Judge St. George advised that UCS should send a letter to the City indicating that UCS will identify the scaffolding vendor, put up the scaffolding for safety reasons, and invoice the City of Buffalo for the cost.

c. City of Albany

There will be a potential change of leadership in the City of Albany's Mayor's Office, so UCS is waiting to engage with the new administration in January. The City of Albany was making progress towards working with Albany County on a new mixed-use facility, but it appears that progress has stalled.

d. City of Rye

Ms. Jeng shared that UCS has raised concerns since 2009 about the need to renovate the City Court facility in Rye. While the City of Rye created plans for renovation of the Rye City Court building, they still do not have a plan for swing space. They planned to utilize trailers which would be insufficient and expensive. The City of Rye communicated to UCS that they are looking to acquire a new location to construct a new City Court building. UCS will continue to engage with them for further updates.

e. City of New York

Executive Director Justin Barry outlined the following New York City projects:

Harlem Community Justice Center: Construction on the façade/roofing project (\$40 million project cost) is scheduled to commence in fall 2025. The second-floor court room ceiling restoration project (\$1.4 million project cost) has been completed. Future projects include: an energy upgrade to convert steam system to heat pump technology and upgrading to LED lighting and installation of new interim boilers (\$20 million project cost); elevator refurbishment (\$3.5 million); and updating the parking lot (\$1.2 million). The Chief Judge's Working Group on the Future of the Harlem Community Justice Center is actively meeting to make recommendations on the use and reconfiguration of the building to include two active courtrooms, related court operations, and programming for senior citizens and youth.

Bronx Family/Criminal Court: UCS is advocating with the Mayor's office to conduct a Capital Plan Scope Development for this top priority. UCS has suggested that the City purchase a decommissioned courthouse (the Old Bronx Courthouse) at the corner of Brook and Third Avenues to use as swing space and new courthouse space. UCS is actively constructing new courtrooms and hearing rooms to accommodate new Family Court judges and jurists.

Staten Island Family Court: The project (\$300 million project cost) is moving forward with construction, including modifications of the Richmond County

Supreme Courthouse to allow for swing space for the Family Court to fully vacate the old Family Courthouse. The new courthouse will include 16 new courtrooms (1 youth part, 7 courtrooms, 8 hearing rooms).

Brooklyn Civil Court: The \$250 million project to house all of Civil Court and Housing Court at 210 Joralemon Street is progressing and will include 34 courtrooms plus a new County Clerk space. The estimated construction completion date is 2027. UCS is exploring the possibility of continuing to lease space at 141 Livingston Street (the current location of the Civil and Housing Court and the Appellate Term) for use by for the Kings Supreme Court - Civil Term and Family Court, which are both outgrowing their current facilities.

New York County Supreme Court-Civil Term: The City is developing a plan for emergency roof repair. Phase 1 of the comprehensive rehabilitation of the roof and façade will begin next year, with the project estimated to cost \$130 million.

f. Website

The new CFCRB website is live and will have information, resources, and sample capital plan amendments for political subdivisions. Ms. Jeng shared that UCS is hoping that website will facilitate a greater understanding among cities and counties of the need to provide suitable and sufficient facilities for UCS.

7. Old Business – None

8. New Business – None

9. Next Meeting Date

First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge St. George indicated that the next board meeting may be at the end of January, about 4 months from now.

10. Miscellaneous – None

First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge St. George adjourned the meeting at 12:32 pm.