

Coeur d'Alene's Federal Courthouses



Coeur d'Alene's federal courthouse, 1928.
(National Archives)

state-of-the-art 65,000-square-foot federal courthouse opened in 2009. The old courthouse became the Kootenai County Juvenile Justice Center.

At its dedication in 2009, the new courthouse's art display included 150 historical photographs featuring northern Idaho, and a large etching of the preamble to the U.S. Constitution hung near the first floor entry. The new building housed U.S. District and Bankruptcy Court, Probation and Pretrial Services, U.S. Attorney's Office,

Planning began for a dedicated federal courthouse at Coeur d'Alene in 1910/1911 when Congress passed a bill creating a new federal judicial district and appropriated funding of \$100,000 for a new building. A site was purchased in 1912 for about \$13,000, however, due to local and national issues, it would be more than fifteen years before the courthouse was actually constructed.

The imposing structure was built over a two-year period from 1927 to 1928 in the Georgian Classical Revival style with Palladian windows and fan-light transoms. It was remodeled in 1967, including adding a staircase.

The old courthouse served

for about eighty years before a new



**Ornate transom window, 1928
Coeur d'Alene federal building.**

U.S. Marshals Service and
U.S. Trustees.



2009 Coeur d'Alene courthouse.
(U.S. Courts)

Sources:

"Former Federal Building, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho," U.S. General Services Administration Center for Historic Buildings.

Idaho Legal History Society (ILHS) Annual Report, 2009.

Links:

U.S. General Services Administration:
www.gsa.gov/portal/ext/html/site/hb/category/25431/acti
onParameter/exploreByBuilding/buildingId/831#

Federal Judicial Center History of the Federal Judiciary:
www.fjc.gov/history/courthouses.nsf