**http://www.access-board.gov/caac/mock-up.htm**

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| Courtroom mock-ups play a key role in the planning and design of courthouses. They provide a “test-run” of courtroom designs so that problems can be identified and refinements made before construction. Details of courtroom features, including the elevation of raised spaces and sight lines, can be tested and verified, before designs are finalized. Basic construction materials, such as plywood and drywall, are typically used.  On November 14th, members of the Board and the Courthouse Access Advisory Committee toured a full-scale courtroom mock-up prepared by the General Services Administration (GSA) with support from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (AOC). The mock-up represented a standard Federal district courtroom design that incorporated access recommendations adopted by the Committee. It provided an opportunity to validate and improve the Committee’s design recommendations. This mock-up was reconfigured to represent a special proceedings courtroom, which Committee members reviewed the following day.  The Board and Committee are thankful to GSA and AOC staff for preparing these mock-ups, including Robert Andrukonis, GSA’s representative on the Committee, Brian Gifford of GSA, Gate Lew, AOC’s representative on the Committee, and Kathleen Desmond and Ray Heath of AOC. | | |
| The mock-up design featured:   * access by ramps to all raised spaces, including the judge's bench, witness stand, jury box, and clerk stations * ample wheelchair maneuvering and turning space within all raised areas * traditional vertical separation for the bench and other raised areas |  | judge's bench, clerk and court reporter stations in front, and witness stand |
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| **Ramp to Jury Box and Witness Stand**  Both the witness stand and the jury box are raised, with one ramp providing access to both locations. | | |
| ramp between witness stand and jury box serves both locations |  | close-up of ramp serving witness stand and jury box |
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| **Jury Box**  The first tier of the jury box, which is raised one level above the court floor, provides wheelchair space in proximity to the ramp. The wheelchair space is 5 feet deep, which facilitates entry from the side. Available turning space also allows easier wheelchair maneuvering into and out of the jury box. | | |
| jury box (front view) |  | jury box (side view) |
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| **Witness Stand**  The witness stand is also sized and configured to provide easy wheelchair maneuvering to and from the ramp. | | |
| witness stand (front view) |  | witness stand (back view) |
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| **Ramp Access from Jury Box**  A ramp immediately outside the courtroom provides a continuous accessible route from the jury box to other spaces, such as jury deliberation suites. |  | ramp outside courtroom that provides access from the jury box |
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| **Judge's Bench**  The judge's bench is raised 18 inches and is served by a ramp located outside the courtroom in the secured corridor. Locating ramps outside the courtroom, as recommended by the Committee, allows judges with disabilities to enter and exit courtrooms at the level at which they preside, affording them equivalent decorum and security. | | |
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| judge's bench |  | ramp serving judge's bench located in secured corridor |
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| **Sight Lines** Designs are often refined as a result of mock-ups. In this mock-up, it was determined that the line of sight from the bench to the witness stand would be enhanced by a lower side rail. This modification was made during the review to verify that the resulting sightline was sufficient. | | |
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| A contractor cuts off the top of the side rail separating the judge's bench and the witness stand |  | View of judge's bench side rail with top portion removed |
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| **Clerk Stations**  A ramp provides access to a clerk station located next to the bench. It also provides an accessible route attorneys can use to approach the bench for sidebars. The clerk station, like the witness stand, provides sufficient wheelchair maneuvering space. | | |
| ramp and clerk station (front view) |  | clerk station (back view) |
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| **Clerk and Court Reporter Stations** The same ramp also serves additional clerk and court reporter stations located in front of the bench. | | |
| clerk and court reporter stations in fron of the bench (side view) |  | clerk and court reporter stations in front of the bench (back view) |
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| **Spectator Seating** The mock-up included the spectator area and a rail with no gate, as recommended by the Committee. |  | **Lectern** The Committee's recommendations also address lecterns that are adjustable and that provide knee and toe clearances for wheelchair access. |
| spectator area and rail with no gate |  | lectern with lower height and knee/ toe clearances for wheelchair access |
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| **Design Modification** The design plans were revised based on the mock-up review. |  | **Feedback** Board and Committee members discussed comments and feedback on the mock-up, which were very favorable. |
| partipants review and modify design drawings |  | Board and Committee members discuss comments on the mock-up |
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**Courthouse Access Advisory Committee Courtroom Mock-Up**