

Fort Myers Division



The first federal courthouse started as a U.S. Post Office built in 1932 during the Great Depression. Constructed of coral rock and coquina shell, it was designed by Florida architect Nat Gaillard Walker and is listed on the National Historic Landmark Registry. In 1983 it was renamed the George Whitehurst United States Courthouse in memory of Judge George W. Whitehurst, a native of Hardee County, appointed to the federal bench in 1949. Judge Whitehurst traveled between southern and mid-Florida during the 1950s and 1960s serving multiple courts as a “circuit rider.”

In 1998 a new federal courthouse was built a few blocks from the old one. Prominently featured on the exterior of the new building is a mural by Barbara Jo Revelle entitled “An Alternative History of Fort Myers” depicting historic photographs. In July 2006, the building was awarded the International Office Building of the Year Award in the Government Building category. The old courthouse, now owned by the City of Fort Myers, is slated to become a cultural center operated by a non-profit organization.



For more information, you may wish to visit the following websites:

Middle District of Florida, U.S. District Court:
www.flmd.uscourts.gov

Middle District of Florida, U.S. Bankruptcy Court:
www.flmb.uscourts.gov

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit:
www.ca11.uscourts.gov

Supreme Court of the United States:
www.supremecourtus.gov

Florida Supreme Court:
www.floridasupremecourt.org

Administrative Office of the United States Courts:
www.uscourts.gov/outreach/index.html

Federal Judicial Center:
www.fjc.gov/history/home.nsf

The National Archives:
www.archives.gov/judicial
www.archives.gov/southeast

Federal Bar Association: www.fedbar.org
(Click “Chapters” for Jacksonville, Orlando and Tampa pages)

The Florida Bar: www.floridabar.org
(useful “Links” section)

Bar Associations with websites where the Court sits:
www.colliercountybar.org
www.leebar.org
www.jaxbar.org
www.orangecountybar.org
www.hillsbar.org

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www.mdflhistoricalcommittee.com

United States District Court

Middle District of Florida



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