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June 1, 2009

The Honorable Kurt P. Klein
Judge, 16th Judicial Circuit
DeKalb County Courthouse
133 West State St.
Sycamore, IL 60178

Dear Judge Klein:

In September 2008 you requested that I form a committee for the purpose of recommending a way that the current DeKalb County Courthouse might be expanded without detracting from the historical integrity of the current structure. You further stated that it was your desire that a recommendation be made as to an addition that might be added to the courthouse which would take care of current and future needs of the DeKalb County judicial system for the next 50 years. You indicated that it might eventually require an additional five courtrooms plus the additional space that would be needed in conjunction with additional courtrooms such as judicial chambers, jury assembly room and additional space that might be required by the other court related services. Thereafter I asked ten members of our community to serve on this committee, the idea being that the County would be widely represented geographically as well as in terms of the background and knowledge of the individual committee members. Accordingly a committee was formed consisting of Robert Becker, an attorney from Genoa, Illinois; Stephen Bigolin, a local historian; The Honorable John Countryman, currently a sitting judge in the 16th Judicial Circuit; Mr. Robert Hutcheson, from the northern end of the County who served for many years on the DeKalb County Board; Mr. Steve Irving, President of Irving Construction Company, Inc., who previously worked on the reconstruction of the courthouse approximately 25 years ago; Mr. James Johnson, from Shabbona, Illinois, an architect; Mrs. Maureen Josh, Circuit Clerk of DeKalb County; Mr. Charles Marshall, an attorney from Somonauk, Illinois; Mr. Bill Nicklas, the City Manager of Sycamore, Illinois; and Mr. Tom Thomas, the Mayor of Sandwich, Illinois.

Our Committee met on nine occasions. Mr. Stephen Bigolin served as recording secretary.

At our second meeting in November, 2008 the Committee toured the present DeKalb County

Courthouse. In January 2009 the Committee toured the new Ogle County Courthouse. On two occasions Mr. Daniel R. Atilano and Mr. James M. Matarelli, both of the PSA Dewberry Architectural Group, met with the Committee as well as Mr. Charles M. Hanlon of Land Vision, Inc. They are currently engaged in a project to renovate and remodel the Livingston County Courthouse.

One of the first things that the Committee did was seek input from the DeKalb County Public Defender, the DeKalb County State's Attorney, the DeKalb County Circuit Clerk, the DeKalb County Sheriff, and from yourself as to the current needs as each of those public officials felt were essential. Regina M. Harris, the DeKalb County Public Defender, in her letter of February 2, 2009 (see Exhibit A attached hereto) indicated, among other things, that she felt we have an immediate need within the next two years for one additional courtroom just to handle criminal/juvenile cases. She stated that her current space (in the basement of the courthouse), while not ideal, is adequate. She stated that every assistant has a private office. She stated that the support staff and the court interpreter are housed in a fairly large, though congested, common work area. She went on to say that ideally she would currently have two additional private offices and a conference/file room. She stated that if three additional courtrooms handling criminal/juvenile cases were to be added over the next 50 years, that at the current average rate of increase she would anticipate the need for increasing attorney staff by 150% and support staff by at least 100%. She added that moving the State's Attorney's office back into the courthouse so that all of the participants in the criminal courts are together in the building with easy access to one another, would be highly desirable.

Mr. Ronald G. Matekatis, the DeKalb County State's Attorney, in his letter of February 16, 2009 (see Exhibit B attached hereto) stated that the existing space for the current workload of the State's Attorney is not adequate. He pointed out the growth in domestic violence related cases has been significant and has resulted in the assistant responsible for those cases having a caseload of more than 300 files including nearly 70 felony case files. He said that he believed that the current needs would require the hiring of five positions and at present there is no space for any new additional employees. He pointed out that there would be substantial growth in his office over the coming years requiring more specialization and perhaps the creation of a full-time grand jury. He stated he would bring the law library back into the courthouse. I might add at this point that the Committee was unanimous in its feeling that the State's Attorney's offices should also be brought back in the courthouse.

In her letter of February 2, 2009 (see Exhibit C attached hereto) Maureen Josh, the Circuit Clerk, felt that, conservatively, three to four more courtrooms would be needed in the coming years, in addition to some type of conference area or room. She pointed out that the current work space for the Circuit Clerk personnel is lacking and that they would need additional space including a separate file room, an area for public access computers for the public, and she pointed out that all Circuit Clerk employees should be in one area to allow for cross training, less office equipment, more use of resources, etc. She stated that they also need a significantly sized storage area for office supplies, new case files, court forms and other miscellaneous supplies. She added that there should be a waiting area for juveniles separate and apart from the courtroom and a jury gathering room with accommodations for reading matter, coffee and a private bathroom.

In their letter of November 6, 2008 (see Exhibit D attached hereto), Sheriff Roger Scott and Lt. Joyce Klein made the following recommendations: That there be one entrance for the public to enter so that only one security station is need although it may have multiple walk through metal detectors, enough space for the public entering the courthouse to stand in line in a weather protected environment, a separate entrance for employees to enter into the courthouse, a clear entry path into the courthouse separate from the public for inmates, a holding area/holding cell should be considered for each courtroom with a secure place for inmates to sit while waiting to go before the Court, and a secure hallway to escort inmates through rather than a public hallway,

In your letter of December 10, 2008, Judge Klein, you pointed out that “of the planned five additional courtrooms, three should be built to accommodate a jury. Also the jury gathering room would be able to hold 100 people.”

The Committee also reviewed and considered the “Minimum Courtroom Standards in the State of Illinois” adopted by the Supreme Court of Illinois in 1993.

Early in our deliberations the Committee unanimously reached several conclusions: 1) Any proposed addition to the Courthouse should be attached to the present structure and that there should not be a separate building housing a portion of the courthouse functions. 2) All court related services, including the Circuit Clerk’s office, the State’s Attorney’s office and the Public Defender’s office, should be in the main courthouse building. The present situation of having the State’s Attorney, for example, across the street in a separate structure, is highly inconvenient for the State’s Attorney in that it requires that they bring all of their files back and forth across the street for every hearing that they conduct and makes it difficult for them to interact with other courthouse offices. 3) All members of the Committee unanimously agreed that the present courthouse is a beautiful structure and that it and many of its outstanding features should continue to be preserved as closely as possible in its present form. Some of the features include the two original courtrooms on the second and third floor, the beautiful open stairway, the stained glass window on the north side of the building, as well as the original architectural features of the building. Any addition should insofar as possible, match the external features of the current building with similar types of colors and building materials with every effort made to conform to the other architectural features of the current structure. The Committee unanimously felt that the existing courthouse should continue to be fully utilized.

The Committee considered a number of factors in reaching its ultimate decision. They included not only utilizing the existing courthouse, the desirability of keeping the judicial offices together, retaining the current grandeur of the building, addressing security issues, the freedom of layout, the restrictions placed upon expansion by the current land available, cost, having sufficient area in any expansion to meet future needs, energy efficiency, ample future expansion opportunities, proximity to the County campus, minimizing disruption of the judicial system during any expansion, maintenance of the courthouse square, and minimizing water table issues that might arise.

Based on some general estimations made by the Committee without the benefit of paid architectural input, the Committee concluded that the expansion should include at least 20,000 and perhaps as much as 30,000 square feet to accommodate future needs for the next 50 years. All of the space would not have to be finished internally at this time but should be designed in such a way that future expansion could occur within the addition.

A number of possible plans were considered including adding wings on each side of the courthouse (which could be two or three stories in height), an addition on the north side of the courthouse (which would be two or three stories high), and connected to the present structure by some type of atrium, building an addition underground around the courthouse, and various variations of the above three general ideas.

After much discussion it became clear that the Committee had eliminated all of the various suggestions but two. The first suggestion, which was ultimately the choice of over two-thirds of the Committee, was to add wings to the east and west sides of the courthouse. Enclosed with this report are renderings of how these wings might look (see Exhibit E attached hereto). Everyone felt that if this concept was adopted, that both wings should be built at the same time rather than building one wing and later the second wing. To do otherwise would substantially compromise the historical integrity of the courthouse. Attached hereto as Exhibit F is a summary of the arguments in favor of this approach prepared by Committee member Steve Irving.

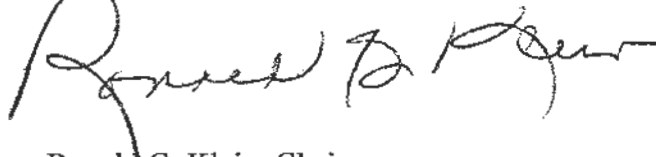
Three members of the Committee favored an addition to the north side of the present courthouse. The arguments in favor of this approach are summarized by Committee member John W. Countryman in Exhibit G attached hereto. This structure would be connected to the current courthouse with an atrium arrangement of some sort and would probably require removing the parking on Exchange Street adjacent to the courthouse and perhaps changing that to a one-way street.

A final exhibit attached to this report, Exhibit H, is an aerial view of the area in which the courthouse is located showing the various utilities that service the area and their location.

In conclusion, the Committee wishes to state very strongly that every member of the Committee feels that the present courthouse is a jewel that needs to be preserved in our community. It is a very beautiful and functional structure. Whatever approach is used in enlarging it should take this into account so that we continue to have a structure that benefits the community. DeKalb

County is very fortunate to have all of the facilities serving its court system located in close proximity to each other, and the Committee sincerely hopes that this concept will continue into the future.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald G. Klein". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Ronald G. Klein, Chairman

RGK/dla
Enclosures

DeKalb County Public Defender

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Sycamore, Illinois 60178

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PUBLIC DEFENDER
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INVESTIGATOR
CRYSTAL HARROLLE

February 2, 2009

Mr. Ronald Klein
Chairman, Courthouse Expansion Committee
Klein, Stoddard, Buck, Waller & Lewis, LLC
2045 Aberdeen Court, Suite A
Sycamore, Illinois 60178

Dear Mr. Klein:

I am writing in response to your request for input on space needs for the courthouse projected out for the next 50 years. I will address each of your paragraphs, in turn. I should probably tell you that my answers are affected by the fact that I have previously been through this process in Kane County. We utterly failed there to accurately predict our space needs, because we never anticipated the amount of growth in the county population or the increase in cases in all areas of the courts. Because of that experience, I believe DeKalb would be better off to over-predict need and end up with some unused space that remains available into the far future, than to under-predict and be in the same predicament again that we find ourselves in at present. I also start with the assumption that the County would prefer to build once to fulfill the future needs.

1. Because I do not handle civil or family law cases, I cannot speak to the need for the future courtroom space which would be needed for those matters, and defer to Judge Klein's and the civil bar's assessment. I believe we will have an immediate need within the next two years for one additional courtroom just to handle criminal/juvenile cases. Over the next 50 years, I think we could see a need for two to three additional courtrooms JUST for criminal/juvenile.
2. My current space, while not ideal, is adequate. Every assistant has a private office, my part-time investigator has a private office which is also used by law clerks on days she is not here, and the support staff and the Court Interpreter are

housed in a fairly large, though congested, common work area. We have a break room that also serves partly as juvenile file room, law clerk space, law library space and conference room. We have a storage closet for office supplies that is at full utilization, and a clothes closet for providing trial clothes for clients, which is also at full utilization. Our office law library is on bookshelves dispersed among several locations, including the break room, the hallway and attorney offices. All available space is in full use, and there is no room for expansion of staff. If I have to add an attorney next year, I anticipate that there will be two assistants sharing an office. If I had to add a support staff, I frankly do not know where I would put that person—fortunately, I don't see that as an immediate need.

Ideally, I would currently have two additional private offices—one larger one to house my interns and law clerks and a second for housing another attorney, and a conference/file room. I would use the conference/file room as dedicated space for meeting with clients, witnesses and family members, holding trainings, and conducting TASC and psychological evaluations (which currently take place in our break room). Our juvenile files and some of our other in-office file storage could also be located there in order to relieve congestion in the space where my support staff is housed (this would also create some available space for adding a support staff if that became necessary).

3. Staffing needs for the Public Defender's Office are driven by three things: actual caseloads for each attorney, the nature of the cases themselves, the number of courtrooms and the courtroom schedules. If we added one courtroom right now, and it was designated for criminal/juvenile cases even part of the time, it is possible I might not have any need for space for additional staff as long as the *scheduling* of cases for the courtroom could be accommodated by my current staff. However, because I already accommodated the addition of a judge without increasing staff by means of reallocating work among my assistants, it is more likely that I would need one additional attorney, and therefore ideally an additional office, if we add one courtroom. If we add two courtrooms and both have criminal cases even part of the time, I will definitely need one additional attorney. This all assumes current per-assistant caseloads remain somewhat stable at current numbers. If caseloads also increased with the additional courtrooms, then I would need two more assistants.
4. If three additional courtrooms handling criminal/juvenile cases were to be added over the next 50 years, at the current average annual rate of increase in appointments, I would anticipate the need for increasing attorney staff by 150%, (9 additional attorneys—we currently have six, including myself), support staff by at least 100% (from 2 to 4) and investigative staff from one part-time investigator to two full-time investigators. With a much larger staff to train and supervise, I would anticipate that the future Public Defender probably would not carry anything like a full caseload as I currently do, thus there will be a need for another assistant for a total of 10 additional assistants. This assumes that current caseloads increase at a constant average annual rate consistent with what has been

happening over the last five years, and that the nature of the caseload also remains somewhat consistent with the present day.

However, if the county sees a significant increase in population in the next 50 years (if there should for instance be a building boom such as Kane or Kendall saw in the last 15 years, or if we should continue to see a significant migration of population from Chicago and the suburbs combined with an increase in our Hispanic immigrant population), then we should plan on attorney staff going as high as 25, just based on those numbers. There is also a legislative trend towards criminalizing what has traditionally been considered civil tort behavior. Should this trend continue, it may dramatically affect the makeup of the cases we see in our criminal courts and staffing and space needs will be concomitantly affected. To be safe, I would plan on a minimum 10% increase in annual overall filings over the time span, just to accommodate these types of legislative changes. Additionally, if the trend toward more violent crimes being committed in the county continues to hold true and follows the trends that have occurred in other counties with population growth, the numbers of cases the assistants can effectively handle will decrease, because a greater percentage of our overall caseload will consist of much more serious offenses, which are more time consuming for the assistants.

I believe the worst-case scenario in 50 years would be an office consisting of the Public Defender, 35 assistants, 10 support staff, and 4 full-time investigators. The best-case scenario would likely be an office consisting of the Public Defender, 11 assistants, 4 support staff and 2 full-time investigators. I would anticipate that of the 11 assistants in our best-case scenario, 6 would handle misdemeanor or juvenile cases and the other 5 would handle felonies.

Ideally, each attorney and each investigator should have a private office, but it is acceptable to “double-bunk” misdemeanor assistants and juvenile assistants, as well as investigators, as long as these common offices are large enough to give them some distinct work space. Cubicles are not acceptable because they do not protect attorney-client privilege. Felony assistants really must have private offices to function optimally, unless they are very large offices. The law clerks and interns can share space. The support staff actually functions best with a large common work area, preferably with sufficient space to comfortably contain whatever equipment they need to do their work—fax machine, copy machine, printers, current files, etc.

Thus the best-case scenario office, ideally provided for, would have the following: 14 private offices for attorneys and investigators, a large common office for law clerks and interns, a common open support staff area, a conference room/law library, a file room, a break room, an office supply storage closet, and a client clothing closet. A waiting area for clients large enough to accommodate up to 10 people at a time is also advisable. If misdemeanor and juvenile attorneys and investigators are “double-bunked” in offices, then we’d need 10 private

offices rather than 14. My recommendation would be to build 15 offices, and make them large enough and designed in such a manner as to be easily subdivided later if something more like the worst-case scenario should occur. While the space is unused for people, it can be used by the office or by others in the building for storage, meetings or other purposes.

5. Other items that I think should be addressed in the expansion would include:
 - a. Move the State's Attorney's Office back into the courthouse so that all the participants in the criminal courts are together in the building with easy access to one another for conducting the Court's business.
 - b. Add more small conference rooms in more places for attorney-client consultations like the ones on the third floor.
 - c. Create a bigger children's waiting room.
 - d. Add at least one additional elevator.
 - e. Make sure any new courtrooms contain enough seating for both parties and attorneys.
 - f. Create a larger attorney lounge to accommodate the growing bar.
 - g. Put Wi-Fi capacity in the new part of the building (I've been given to understand that it is not possible in the existing structure).
 - h. Create a reasonably comfortable space for the jurors to convene and wait to be called to the courtrooms.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input to your committee. I am happy to provide any additional information you may require as you go through this process.

Sincerely,

Regina M. Harris
DeKalb County Public Defender



**DEKALB COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY
RONALD G. MATEKAITIS**

John Beardsley, Assistant State's Attorney
Keith Doherty, Assistant State's Attorney
Victor Escarcida, Assistant State's Attorney
Jessica Finley, Assistant State's Attorney
Stephanie Klein, Assistant State's Attorney
Rachel McIntyre, Assistant State's Attorney
Catherine Monro, Assistant State's Attorney
Philip Montgomery, Assistant State's Attorney
Julie Trevarthen, Assistant State's Attorney
Randy Yedinak, Assistant State's Attorney

William Engerman, First Assistant
John Farrell, Chief Civil Assistant

Jolene Dodson, Operations Manager

February 16, 2009

Mr. Ron Klein, Esquire
Klein, Stoddard, Buck, Waller & Lewis, LLC
2045 Aberdeen Court, Suite A
Sycamore, Illinois 60178

Dear Mr. Klein:

Thank you for affording me the opportunity to share my thoughts with you and the committee regarding the possible expansion of the courthouse. I apologize for the delay in my response and would welcome any opportunity to discuss my opinions with you or the committee in person.

1. I believe Judge Klein is in the best position to assess the big picture needs that encompass not only the demands of the criminal justice component of our court system, but the civil component as well. I would defer to his best judgment on this issue. I would only say that the nature and type of the growth of our population over the next 50 years would have significant impacts on the needs for our justice system. If our communities had crime issues similar to Naperville or similar to Aurora and Elgin would impact the needs of our justice system in DeKalb County.

2. The existing space for our current workload is not adequate. All our offices were filled the day we moved into our offices after relocating from the courthouse. Since that time we have divided up our conference room into two offices and used the remaining space at the courthouse for our juvenile division. Our operations are split over two locations which poses operational difficulties, separates the 'team' and inhibits routine oversight and communication.

Operationally, there is currently a demonstrated need for removing the child support enforcement responsibilities from the civil assistant and allowing that person to concentrate full time on the civil law responsibilities of the position. A new assistant would be hired to exclusively handle child support enforcement which occupies at least 75% of the civil assistant's time.

Grant requirements have been revised to add more time intensive responsibilities to our victim/witness advocate's workload which has negatively affected our ability to respond to the full range of victim and witness responsibilities of the office.

The growth in domestic violence related cases has been significant and has resulted in the assistant responsible for those cases having a caseload of more than 300 files, including nearly 70 felony files.

We are in the process of establishing a diversion program for certain non-violent misdemeanor and felony cases. Because of staff shortages and space limitations, I will provide the staff time to support this important initiative. A successful diversion program will free up some court time and allow the court to spend more time on more serious cases or repeat offenders.

We have one secretary supporting all five felony assistant state's attorneys. That is the same staffing level when we had two felony assistants and 400 felonies each year compared to five felony assistants and 800 felonies each year. We have made adjustments to stretch those staffing levels by having the attorneys pull their own files for each court call, but it is becoming untenable for one person to support five positions

Accordingly, I believe to meet current needs would require the hiring of five positions: an attorney for child support collections, an attorney for domestic violence cases, a secretary to assist the victim/witness assistant half time and support general operations half time, a secretary to support the diversion initiatives and an additional secretary to support the felony assistants. At present there is no space for any new additional employees.

In the very near future, I would also anticipate that that if we have a stand alone civil assistant that a half time secretary position would be needed since the secretary that assist in the child support collection responsibilities could not support both the civil assistant and the child support assistant.

Finally, the legislature has changed the law effective January 1, 2010 that raises the age for individuals to be treated as adults for misdemeanor criminal activity from 17 to 18. The impact of that will mean hundreds of more cases being added to the juvenile assistant's case load and increasing the amount of time it requires to resolve those cases compared to their treatment in adult court. Accordingly, another juvenile assistant position would be required to handle that additional caseload.

3. Depending on planned uses for the courtrooms, the impact could vary significantly. If a courtroom expansion was intended for primarily civil matters, then the impact on our office would be negligible. Assuming the expansion was intended for one or more criminal or juvenile related calls, then our office would be affected.

There is an increasing need to schedule more jury trials. There are roughly 24 jury weeks each year. In most instances only one criminal jury trial will go forward each jury week, sometime two and sometimes zero. In order for contested cases to proceed more efficiently through the system, there needs to be more jury time available. If a courtroom were devoted to doing more jury trials our staffing needs would probably require the hiring of two additional attorneys and one support staff member. Almost all felony jury trials will be staffed by two attorneys and occasionally misdemeanor trials as well.

As with any new criminal courtroom, the demands on our office only increase. The hearing, status and plea calls that happen virtually every day of the week will still continue with new courtrooms handling additional criminal matters.

The staffing levels to support two more courtrooms would likely be four additional attorneys and two secretaries and an additional victim/witness assistant.

4. For purposes of answering this scenario, I will assume that the primary purpose of those courtrooms would affect our office. I must also assume that the addition of those courtrooms would be necessitated by demand beyond current levels and not simply dividing our current caseload into more courtrooms.

A courthouse of 10 active courtrooms would probably mean reaching a threshold of where specialization within the state's attorney's office would be required. It would probably mean that there are enough gang crimes, sexual assaults and violent crimes, financial and identity crimes to have specifically trained assistants to handle those matters. It would also likely mean the creation of a courtroom largely reserved for treatment courts, i.e. drug court, DUI court, mental health court and family court. It would likely mean the creation of a full time grand jury. It would also likely mean the creation of supervisors assigned specifically for felony operations and also for misdemeanor operations. There are additional issues then associated with victim/witness staffing levels; the ability of one operations manager to adequately supervise and train a support staff likely double the size that exists today; the need for additional investigators and civil assistants to provide legal support to a 'business' that has reached the size requiring ten active courtrooms. It would also likely mean that branch courts would increase in number and frequency.

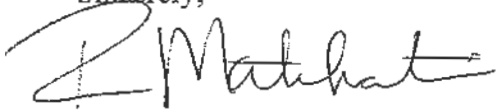
In answer to question two, I estimated that to meet current needs with five active courtrooms would require a total staff of twenty-nine people. There are a number of variables that are unknown that would impact potential staffing levels for ten courtrooms, i.e. ten courtrooms in DuPage County might be staffed differently than ten courtrooms in Kane or DeKalb or Kendall. Is the nature and type of crimes going to be the same for each population group in each of those counties?

Making any estimation of the needs for staffing double the number of courtrooms today is challenging at best. However in order to respond to the question, I would estimate to meet the needs of a county and criminal justice system that would require ten active courtrooms would require approximately 70-75 total employees in the state's attorney's office.

5. Expanded children's room area for the additional demands for that service. A large conference/meeting room large enough to handle grand jury sessions (30-40 people) and staff meetings for the state's attorney's office and an adjacent smaller conference/meeting room for use to prep and stage officers providing grand jury testimony. At least a few conference rooms for attorneys to use to speak with clients. I would bring the law library back into the courthouse.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide my input on this most important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Matekaitis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ronald G. Matekaitis
DeKalb County State's Attorney

Letter from Maureen Josh

Exhibit "C"

February 2, 2009

Mr. Ronald G. Klein
Klein, Stoddard, Buck, Waller & Lewis LLC
2045 Aberdeen Ct., Suite A
Sycamore, IL 60178

Dear Ron and members of the committee:

The following are my comments regarding the 5 questions in your letter of October 24, 2008.

- 1) Projected court room needs for the next 50 years based on the current increases of population and court calls, as well as the trend toward specialty courts would conservatively be another 3 to 4 court rooms. In addition to court room space, some type of conference area or room would be beneficial.
- 2) The current work space for the Circuit Clerk's office personnel is lacking. The additional space needs of the office would include a separate file room, an area for public access computers for the public with additional space for attorneys to view their files. Also, an area for the public to view microfilm/scanned documents. Public access to the Circuit Clerk's office needs to be expanded and designed for privacy and confidentiality. Additional concerns regarding security need to be addressed for the front counter. Ideally we would have all Circuit Clerk employees in one area; this would allow for cross-training, less office equipment, more use of resources, one printer, etc. The internal office would need a separate secure location for the financial department, offices for the supervisors, a break area for personnel, two private bathroom facilities for employees and a separate one for the clerk. There also needs to be a private space for scanning of documents in a separate office but in the same area; and it would need to be at least a size of 18 x 12 feet. The Circuit Clerk's office should have a conference training room separate from the dining area. We also need a significantly sized storage area for office supplies, new case files, court forms and other miscellaneous office supplies.

- 3 & 4) If 2 or 3 courtrooms were added, the needs would be the same. Two new courtrooms would require additional staff of 6 and increase supervisory staff by one.
- 5) Adding a new court house waiting area for juveniles separate and apart from the court room and a jury gathering room with accommodations for reading matter, coffee and a private bathroom. There should also be public access terminals outside the courtroom areas. There would need to be an area for housing of all technology equipment, at least 1-2 conference rooms per floor for attorneys that would not need to be large and an assembly room that would have accommodations for media presentations.

jw

November 6, 2008

Ron,

Thank you for your informative letter and request for comments. In terms of security considerations for any addition to the courthouse many things need to be taken into account.

For the efficient and cost effective operation of security within the courthouse and the functioning of the security station the following recommendations should be met:

1. We need to have one entrance for the public to enter so that only one security station is needed though it may have multiple walk through metal detectors.
2. Enough space needs to be allotted for the public entering the courthouse to stand in line in a weather protected environment.
3. Employees should enter through a separate entrance from the public.
4. We need to plan to add to our camera's that monitor the hallways and outside perimeters of the building.

The following refer to the first two scenarios presented.

1. We need a clear entry path into the courthouse separate from the public for inmates.
2. We need parking that is close to that entrance so that officers are not escorting problem inmates great distances from a vehicle to the building. A best case scenario is a sally port, but I don't believe there will be enough space to accommodate that.
3. A holding area/holding cell should be considered with each courtroom just as many of the newer courthouse facilities have incorporated this into their courtrooms. There needs to be a secure place for inmates to sit while waiting to go before the judge.
4. It would be helpful to have a secure hallway to escort inmates through rather than a public hallway.

For the third scenario, an underground or over-street walkway it would be necessary to have an entry point into the courthouse that was secured from the public or capable of being monitored by courthouse security.

Lieutenant Klein will be attending the walk through on November 11th.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Roger Scott

Lieutenant Joyce Klein



CHAMBERS OF
KURT P. KLEIN, JUDGE
CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
DEKALB COUNTY COURTHOUSE
SYCAMORE, ILLINOIS
60178
815/895-7160

Exhibit "E"

December 10, 2008

Ronald G. Klein
Law Offices of Klein, Stoddard, Buck,
Waller & Lewis, LLC
2045 Aberdeen Court, Suite A
Sycamore, IL 60178

Dear Ron:

Thank you for your letter of December 3, 2008 regarding space needed for the proposed expansion of the Courthouse. Of the planned five additional courtrooms, three should be built to accommodate a jury. Also, the jury gathering room should be able to hold 100 people.

Thank you very much for your time and efforts in this matter.

Sincerely,

Kurt P. Klein
Circuit Judge

jw

To: Dekalb County Courthouse Committee Members
From: Steve Irving
Date: May 18, 2009
Re: Proposed Recommendation to the County Board

The initial charge of the Courthouse committee was to research options and make a recommendation to the County Board to develop a long range plan to meet the overcrowded conditions of the existing facility. The timeframe was to develop a plan that will meet the needs of the Court system for the next 50 years. In addition, the committee's charge was to determine the location and general layout of an expanded court system and leave the specific floor plans, interior layout and configuration to professional designers once the plan is adopted by the County Board.

The committee sought input from the main users of the Courthouse facility. The State's Attorney, Circuit Clerk, Probation Department as well as the Judiciary. All parties believe that the number one priority is to have all of these entities located under one roof for the most efficient functioning of the entire court system.

Site inspections were conducted to surrounding new and expanded existing courthouses in the northern Illinois area including Ogle, Kendall and Kane County. In addition, input was provided by a Land planning and Architectural firm.

The first and foremost consideration was whether the current Courthouse would remain with various additions or, should it be vacated as a court facility and the entire court system be relocated to a new site. By a resounding voice, it was decided to maintain the existing courthouse in its present location. This decision was based in part by the following considerations:

- 1 The significance of the current Courthouse as a symbol of the county seat.
- 2 The architectural appearance of the building and its interior spaces
- 3 The overall excellent condition of the existing facility and its infrastructure.
- 4 Its proximity to other support services and buildings of the county.
- 5 The ability to expand the existing facility on the current site.

The committee explored several options for expanding the present structure which included the following:

1. Acquire adjacent property and construct an un-attached structure
2. Build a below grade (underground) attached structure similar in concept to the library at the University of Illinois in Champaign.
3. Create an attached addition to the North side of the current courthouse with two options:
 - a. Lower level with two additional levels
 - b. Lower level with three additional levels
4. Add east and west wings to the additional courthouse with two options:

- c. Lower level with two additional levels
- d. Lower level with three additional levels

After months of discussion and review of the various options, **the committee overwhelmingly recommends that the County Board adopt the two-story East and West wing proposal** for the following reasons:

1. As depicted in the attached rendering, we believe that this plan offers the most appealing architectural enhancement to the existing structure. This plan offers the most balanced look to the existing Courthouse by keeping the focal point on the current structure rising to three stories and the two wings stepping down a full level, slightly set back from the front. All elevations, north, south, east and west draw the eye to the central structure and its grandeur, maintaining the north stained glass and south central focus.

2. It is further recommended that the exterior façade of the additions be consistent with materials and design of the current structure. As with any addition to an existing structure, it is understood that the existing building will be different and altered. But, there are good additions and there are poor additions. The committee overwhelmingly believes that the proposed East/West addition will enhance the current building, much like the additions to the US Capitol have done. Architectural records show a similar look of our current courthouse to the original Capitol design.

3. The committee also gave consideration to the fact that any change or addition to the current structure and site will impact the site and grounds. We believe that with 20' setbacks from the existing sidewalks on each side, that this will have the most pleasing appearance of all of the plans reviewed.

4. The current Courthouse has approximately 43,000 s/f of space, which includes the lower level. Assuming that the square footage of each level of the East/West additions would be in the neighborhood of 6,000 s/f, this would add close to 36,000 s/f to the existing facility. This assumes that each wing would have a lower level. Listed below are planned uses of the expanded facility:

- 1 New secure entrance from the front and rear through the connecting atrium on the west side addition.
- 2 Re-location of traffic court.
- 3 Re-location of the States Attorney office.
- 4 New and expanded Circuit Clerks office
- 5 Addition of potentially 5/6 Courtrooms
- 6 Expanded Jury and Conference rooms
- 7 Addition of two elevators, which would also serve the existing third floor

Conclusion:

This committee strongly believes that the East/West addition proposal best suits the needs of the County Court System and offers the most appealing enhancement to the existing structure. It is a given that any change to the existing building will involve certain changes and modifications, the task of finalizing the interior space will be the job of a skilled Architect and space planner. A number of previous alterations and changes have been made to the existing facility, all of which have enhanced the current Courthouse. In the 1984 renovation, security was a minor consideration. Several years ago, that environment changed and an elaborate system was installed which has negatively intruded upon the ornate lobby. With the proposed additions, this system can be rectified and improved upon.

We are confident that this proposal will be endorsed by the users and the public. It will nearly double the size of the current Courthouse, it will centralize all court functions into one facility and maintain the architectural beauty of the existing structure. And, it is estimated that this proposal will be the most cost effective of all other options.

DeKalb County Courthouse Committee

A Position Statement favoring expansion of the existing Courthouse to the no

Prepared by Judge John W. Countryman

Expansion of the existing Courthouse should consider three things:

1. Security
2. Function
3. Aesthetic Considerations

Security

It appears that the existing Courthouse could expand either to the east and west, or to the north. An east/west expansion would present major security risks in the streets and highways that abut the current Courthouse. It would place the structure too close to street access so as to seriously increase the risk of attack from vehicles armed to do injury to person and property. Also, it would also put the buildings next to a major state highway that could create substantial noise.

A northerly expansion would be much more secure and permit limited access to the adjacent roads. Not only would the building be more secure, but the access to transport prisoners would also be more secure. Sally port entry would be from the rear and not subject to view from the front.

Function

The interior function would be more efficient for the flow of people with the ability to do less to interfere with the current interior of the building. Efforts can be made to preserve the interior stained glass in a pleasing manner. An example of this is the expansion of the First Lutheran Church in DeKalb. A single entrance would be a reasonable allowing access to all parts quickly and easily. A single entrance would be more secure and efficient in the flow of people traffic. That would result in substantial daily cost savings.

Aesthetic Considerations

Although the first appearance may appear to look more aesthetically pleasing with an east/west expansion, the overall length of the building will take away from the current beauty of the present Courthouse setting. A northerly expansion would preserve the beauty of the lawn, flowers and overall landscape of the Courthouse square.

The essential element will be the selection of a visionary architectural firm that can incorporate all of these concerns into the best possible design.



Existing Conditions



Proposed Addition

Sycamore Downtown Plan • Existing/Proposed Improvements

Sycamore, Illinois

Sheet 1 of 1

Dated: May 16, 2009.
 Drawing Number: 8320-3d Courthouse
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Existing Conditions



Proposed North Addition