

Court Information Release



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

Release Date:
May 27, 2008

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GROUNDBREAKING FOR NEW U.S. COURTHOUSE IN ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

ROCKFORD – Ground will be broken for the new United States Courthouse in Rockford, Illinois, on May 28, 2008. The site is located in the Central Business District of Rockford bounded by Church, Chestnut, Cedar and Court streets. The ceremony will begin at 2:00 p.m. at 327 South Church Street.

Plans for the new courthouse have been in the works since 1999. The pursuit of a new courthouse was led by U.S. Senator Richard J. Durbin and U.S. Representative Donald A. Manzullo and final federal funding for the construction was secured in December 2007. Both Senator Durbin and Congressman Manzullo will be on hand for the ceremony and will be offering remarks.

Others making remarks will be Rockford Mayor Larry Morrissey, Winnebago County Board Chairman Scott Christiansen, U.S. District Judge Philip G. Reinhard, and U.S. General Services Administration Regional Administrator James C. Handley.

The current Rockford courthouse is filled to capacity and has structural problems that have not made it feasible to repair. Due to the fact that the old courthouse has no separate entrance for prisoners, it has been rated an “extreme security concern” by the U.S. Marshals Service. The site and building design will allow the courts to meet future expansion needs and provide greater security for the courts, court-related agencies, and visitors. The new courthouse will house the District Court, Bankruptcy Court and other court-related offices such as the U.S. Marshals Service, the U.S. Probation Office, the U.S. Pretrial Services Office and the U.S. Attorneys Office.

Many see the construction of the new courthouse as the anchor of a revitalized downtown area for Rockford.