



## **News and Notes on the D.C. Bar Legal Community**

By Kathryn Alfisi and Thai Phi Le

### **Historic Courthouse Wins American Architecture Award**



The Historic Courthouse in Judiciary Square has been selected as one of the recipients of the 2011 American Architecture Award by the Chicago

Athenaeum: Museum of Architecture and Design and the European Centre for Architecture Art Design and Urban Studies.

The award, the latest of multiple honors received by the courthouse since it reopened in 2009, is presented annually as part of a program to honor the most significant contemporary architecture, landscape architecture, interiors, and urban planning in the United States.

The courthouse underwent a four-year renovation process before it reopened as the new home of the D.C. Court of Appeals in 2009. Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners LLP, which undertook the restoration, is the primary recipient of the award.

“Congratulations to everyone who worked skillfully to renovate the Historic Courthouse for the public in the District of Columbia. This is a well-deserved honor for the [D.C.] Courts’ Capital Projects and Facilities Management Division, the Beyer Blinder Belle team, and our partners who worked together to realize our vision of restoring this historic landmark that is the heart of Judiciary Square,” said Court of Appeals Chief Judge Eric T. Washington.

"As [Pierre] L'Enfant envisioned, the court campus is a vital green space in the city, and the Historic Courthouse, which is nearing its 200th birthday, is a 'temple on a hill' in our nation's capital," added Washington.

In October the Chicago Athenaeum and the European Centre for Architecture Art Design and Urban Studies will hold an exhibition of all awarded buildings at the 13th International Biennial of Architecture in Buenos Aires. The exhibition will then travel throughout Europe.

The courthouse has received numerous honors for its design, historic preservation, and craftsmanship. Among them are the 2009 District of Columbia Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation, the 2009 Downtown DC Business Improvement District Momentum Award as a Landmark Development Project, the 2009 Washington Chapter of the American Institute of Architects Merit Award in Historic Resources, the 2009 McGraw-Hill Construction's Best of the Best Award, and the 2010 Associated General Contractors of America's National Merit Award.—*K.A.*