#### **United States District Court**



# District of New Jersey

# **Courthouse Accessibility Information Handbook**

Mitchell H. Cohen Building & U.S. Courthouse, Camden, NJ Martin Luther King, Jr. Building & U.S. Courthouse, Newark, NJ Clarkson S. Fisher Building & U.S. Courthouse, Trenton, NJ

## Introduction

Welcome to the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey. This handbook provides information about services, equipment, and spaces that are available in the Mitchell H. Cohen Building & U.S. Courthouse, Martin Luther King, Jr. Building & U.S. Courthouse and Clarkson S. Fisher Building & U.S. Courthouse.

#### Plan Ahead

The Court is committed to ensuring that you will be treated with dignity and respect during your visit. Many of the services and aids identified in this outline may require notice and planning by the Court; therefore, please contact the district's access coordinator in writing by email to <a href="mailto:accessibility@njd.uscourts.gov">accessibility@njd.uscourts.gov</a> or by phone at 973-645-4621.

### **Parking**

Directions to each location can be found <u>here</u>. The District of New Jersey does not have dedicated parking lots.

The Mitchell H. Cohen Building & U.S. Courthouse is located at 4<sup>th</sup> and Cooper Streets, Camden, NJ. There are public parking lots and garages available in the vicinity of the Courthouse.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Building & U.S. Courthouse is located at 50 Walnut Street, Newark, NJ. There are paid parking lots along Mulberry Street as well as on-street parking on a first come, first-served basis.

The Clarkson S. Fisher Building is located at 402 East State Street, Trenton, NJ. On-street parking is available on a first come, first-served basis with pay stations. Parking is also available in the Merchant Street Parking Lot located at 24 Merchant Street, Trenton, NJ.

Parking is not permitted along the curb in front of any of the Courthouses.

#### **Entrances**

<u>Mitchell H. Cohen Building & U.S. Courthouse</u>: The main entrance to the building is located on Cooper Street. Accessible ramps are available for entry into the court security screening area. There is also an entrance located on Market Street for the Post Office Building. Accessible ramps are available here as well.

<u>Martin Luther King Jr. Building & U.S. Courthouse</u>: The main entrance is located on the north side of the building along Walnut Street and has an accessible ramp leading to both sides of the main entrance doors. The

U.S. Post Office Building across Walnut Street also has a ramp and is accessible.

<u>Clarkson S. Fisher Building & U.S. Courthouse</u>: An entrance ramp is located at the front of the building along East State Street as well as an elevator that will bring you to the security screening area.

### **Courthouse Security**

The Court's security requirements are outlined and designed to ensure that all persons entering the Courthouse are treated fairly while maintaining a safe environment. All persons entering federal courthouse facilities in this District, and all items carried by them, are subject to appropriate screening and search by court security officer, or any other designated law enforcement officer. Persons will be requested to provide picture identification and to state the nature of their business in the Courthouse. Anyone refusing to cooperate with these security measures may be denied entrance.

- 1. Weapons are not allowed in the Courthouse.
- 2. Food or drink is not permitted in courtrooms and other public areas. If you have a medical condition that requires you to carry food or drink, please consult a court security officer on duty at the entrance.
- 3. Use of cellular telephones or other wireless communication devices, computers and recording devices, the creation of photographs, including digital or video images, the recording or transmission of information, sound or images by any means, or the possession and use of radio, television or broadcasting equipment is prohibited without prior approval of the Court. See <u>Electronic Device Policy</u> for more information.

#### **Service Animals**

According to Federal Management Regulation § 102–74.425, no one may bring dogs or other animals on Federal property for other than official purposes. However, a person with a disability may bring a service animal that provides ongoing assistance. GSA does not permit animals to roam freely in the building or on the property. Service animals must wear a harness or leash and always be under the control of an owner. For questions, contact the access coordinator.

#### **Defibrillator Locations**

## **Camden**

Mitchell H. Cohen Building & U.S. Courthouse: Defibrillators are located in the following locations:

- 1st Floor: USMS Lobby
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor: Next to the Irenas Attorney Conference Room
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor: Across from the elevator bank to the righthand side
- 4<sup>th</sup> Floor: Across from the elevator bank to the righthand side
- 5<sup>th</sup> Floor: Across from the elevator bank to the righthand side
- 6<sup>th</sup> Floor: Across from the elevator bank to the righthand side

United States Post Office Building: A defibrillator is located in the following location: •

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor: To the left of the elevator bank

#### **Newark**

Martin Luther King Jr. Building & U.S. Courthouse: Defibrillators are located in the following locations:

- Basement: Across from the elevator bank
- 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Lobby: CSO screening area
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor: Next to the elevator bank
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor: Next to the elevator bank
- 4<sup>th</sup> Floor: Next to the elevator bank
- 5<sup>th</sup> Floor: Next to the elevator bank

# **United States Post Office Building**: Defibrillators are located in the following locations:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor: Next to the elevator bank
- 4<sup>th</sup> Floor: Next to the elevator bank

### **Trenton**

# *Clarkson S. Fisher Building & U.S. Courthouse*: Defibrillators are located in the following locations:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor: Jury Assembly Room and Clerk's Office
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor: Next to the elevator bank
- 4<sup>th</sup> Floor: Next to the elevator bank 5<sup>th</sup> Floor: Next to the elevator bank 6<sup>th</sup> Floor: Next to the elevator bank
- 7<sup>th</sup> Floor: Next to the elevator bank

# *United States Post Office Building*: A defibrillator is located in the following location:

• 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor: To the right of the ceremonial courtroom

### **Drinking Fountains**

ADA-compliant water fountains are found on each floor of the buildings, most located outside or near the bathrooms.

#### **Food Services**

There are vending machines located in the Jury Assembly Rooms of all three courthouses.

Camden: 1st Floor Jury Assembly Room to the left of the court security screening area.

Newark: 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Jury Assembly Room down the hall to the right of the court security screening area across from the Pretrial Services Office.

Trenton: 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Jury Assembly Room.

### **Interpreter Services**

It is the policy of this Court to provide reasonable accommodations to persons with communications disabilities. Specifically, the Court can provide sign language interpreters, listening assistance devices, and computer-assisted real-time translation ("CART") services to participants (including parties, attorneys, witnesses and jurors) in federal court proceedings who are deaf, hearing-impaired, or have other communicative disabilities. The Court affords primary consideration to a participant's choice of one of these services.

Please contact the access coordinator to discuss the need for these services in advance of a scheduled court proceeding. All requests for services should be submitted via email to <a href="accessibility@njd.uscourts.gov">accessibility@njd.uscourts.gov</a>. Only if you are unable to submit the request by email, you may call Court Services at: 973-645-4621.

## **Braille Signage**

Braille signage is located 60" above the floor on the latch-side of most doors in public spaces.

## **Services for Nursing Women**

The court has designated space in each location for use by nursing women. It is available to jurors, lawyers, litigants, and court personnel during regular building hours between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Please contact the Court's facility access coordinator if space is needed.

#### Restrooms



There are public restrooms located on each floor, all ADA accessible.

#### **Elevators**



All elevators are ADA accessible in each of the 3 courthouse locations.

## **Emergency Evacuation**

While in the Courthouse, please take note of the emergency exists. During a fire emergency, follow the exits signs to evacuate the building or follow the instructions given by court personnel. Individuals who cannot use the stairs should gather in front of the nearest elevator to wait to be escorted out of the building by safety personnel.

#### **Access Coordinators**

The Court has a designated facility access coordinator to assist individuals needing assistance or who wish to request a reasonable accommodation. Please contact the access coordinator in advance of a scheduled court proceeding, or upon notification, so that appropriate accommodations can be arranged before you arrive. All requests for services should be submitted via email to accessibility@njd.uscourts.gov. Only if you are unable to submit the request by email, you may call Court Services at: 973-645-4621.