

Essex County Historic Courthouse



Patricia K. Costello,
Assignment Judge

Amy K. DePaul,
Trial Court Administrator

Essex County Historic Courthouse

- Was constructed over several years at the turn of the 20th century between 1902-1906.
- Upon completion of the Historic Courthouse, the old Essex County Courthouse was demolished.
- Dedicated in October 1907 during a ceremony in the Rotunda.
- It originally housed both county offices and the courts.
- It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.

**The old Essex County Courthouse,
completed in 1837 and demolished in 1906.**



American Architect Cass Gilbert designed the Essex County Historic Courthouse.

Gilbert began his architectural career at the age of 17 in St. Paul, Minnesota. He is recognized as a “skyscraper pioneer” for his design of many skyscrapers in New York City and Cincinnati.

Gilbert is world renowned for designing the Woolworth Building in New York City and the U.S. Supreme Court Building in Washington, D.C.



1859 - 1934

New York City's Woolworth Building and the U.S. Supreme Court Building in Washington, D.C.



Essex County Historic Courthouse Restoration

- The Courthouse fell into disrepair and stood vacant for 13 years from 1990 to 2003.
- Over the course of 10 years, and at a cost of approximately \$50 million, it underwent extensive interior and exterior renovations.
- Murals and over 900 pieces of original furniture and miscellaneous items were restored. Ten courtrooms were restored and an eleventh courtroom was added.

Exterior Views of the Historic Courthouse



Individual views of sculptures by Andrew O'Connor



Full view of sculptures by Andrew O'Connor



Additional view of sculptures by Andrew O'Connor



“Truth”

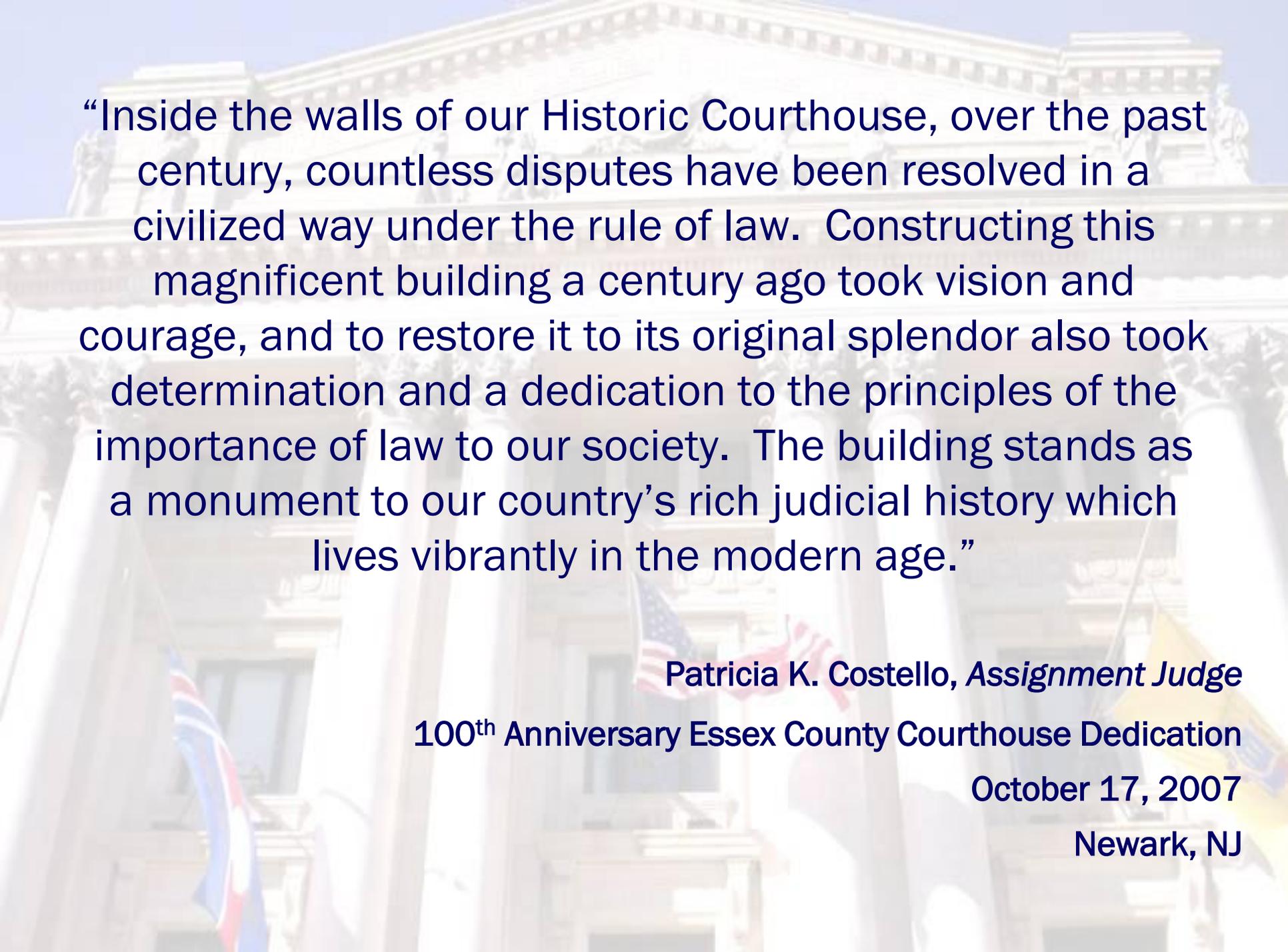


by Andrew O'Connor

“Power”



by Andrew O'Connor

The background of the slide is a faded, light-colored photograph of the Essex County Courthouse. The building is a grand, classical-style structure with multiple columns and a pediment. In the foreground, several flags are visible, including the United States flag and the New Jersey state flag, which are slightly out of focus. The overall tone is bright and celebratory.

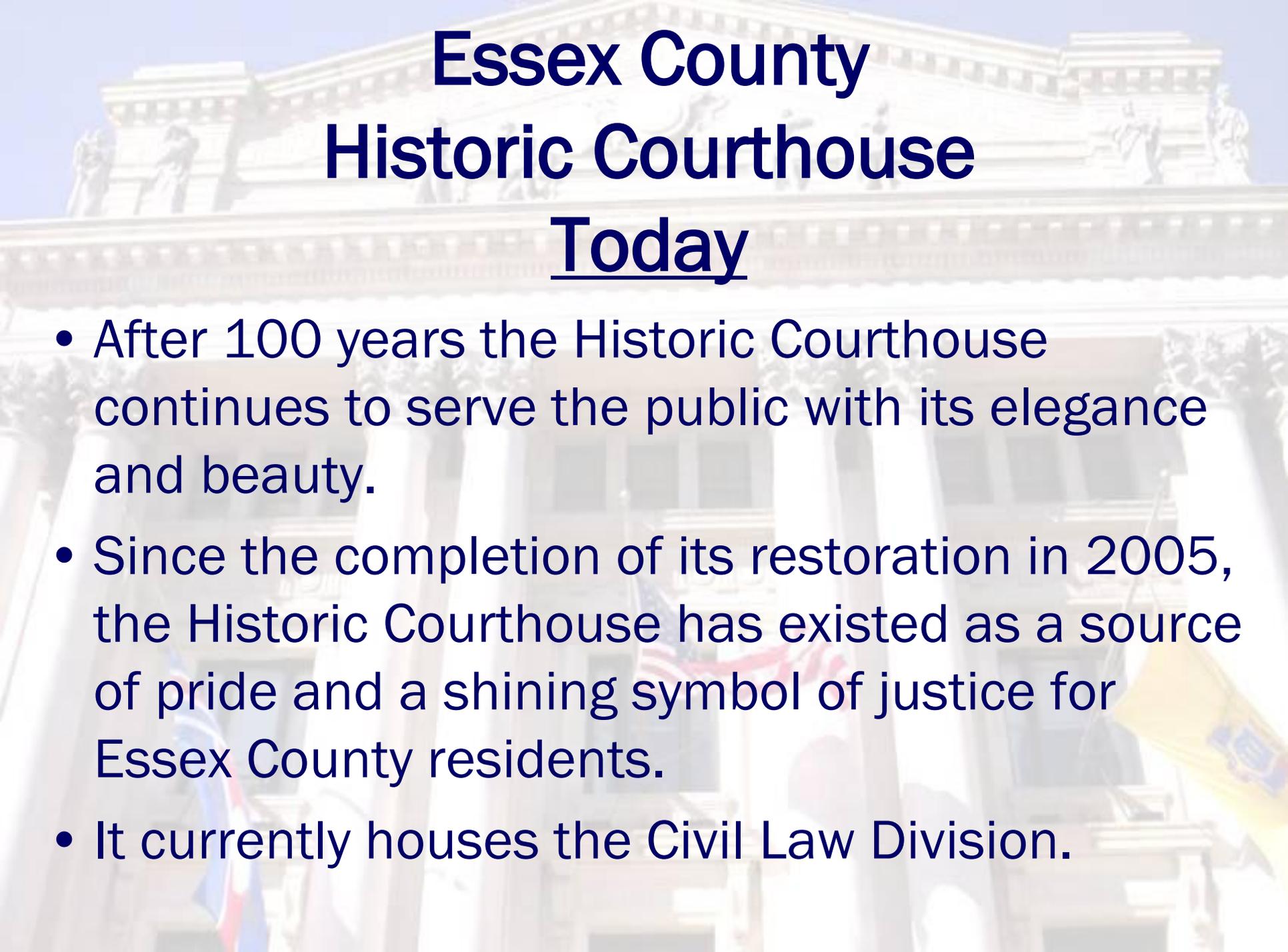
“Inside the walls of our Historic Courthouse, over the past century, countless disputes have been resolved in a civilized way under the rule of law. Constructing this magnificent building a century ago took vision and courage, and to restore it to its original splendor also took determination and a dedication to the principles of the importance of law to our society. The building stands as a monument to our country’s rich judicial history which lives vibrantly in the modern age.”

Patricia K. Costello, *Assignment Judge*

100th Anniversary Essex County Courthouse Dedication

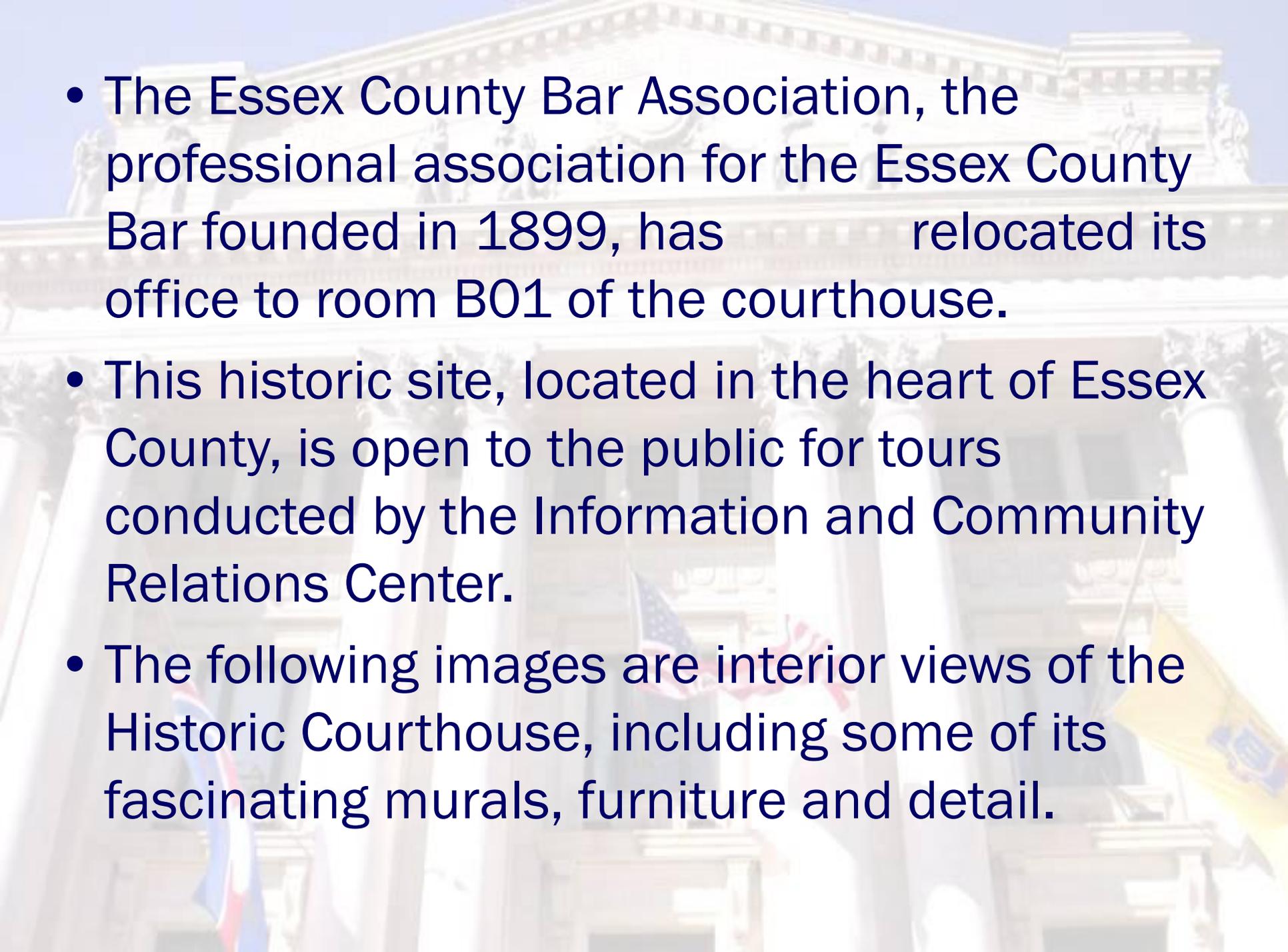
October 17, 2007

Newark, NJ



Essex County Historic Courthouse Today

- After 100 years the Historic Courthouse continues to serve the public with its elegance and beauty.
- Since the completion of its restoration in 2005, the Historic Courthouse has existed as a source of pride and a shining symbol of justice for Essex County residents.
- It currently houses the Civil Law Division.

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- The Essex County Bar Association, the professional association for the Essex County Bar founded in 1899, has relocated its office to room B01 of the courthouse.
 - This historic site, located in the heart of Essex County, is open to the public for tours conducted by the Information and Community Relations Center.
 - The following images are interior views of the Historic Courthouse, including some of its fascinating murals, furniture and detail.

Courtroom 200



The Power and Beneficence of Law

by H.O. Walker

Courtroom 204



The Landing of Carteret
by Howard Pyle

Courtroom 211



**“Foreman of the Grand Jury
Rebuking the Chief Justice of New Jersey 1774”
by Frank D. Millet**

View of the ceiling in Courtroom 211.



Courtroom 302



The walls and furniture are oak with marble bases. The ceiling is decorated with gilded plaster relief.

Courtroom 401



**The Beneficence of
the Law**

by Kenyon Cox

**Located in
Courtroom 401.**



Chambers Room 410



Views of the 4th Floor

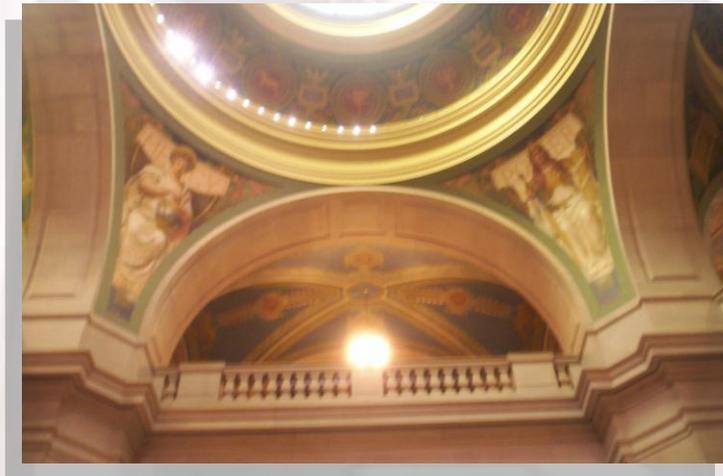
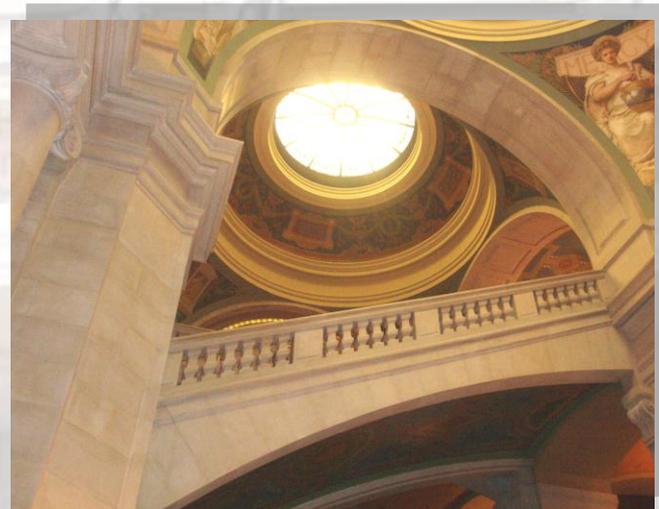




Photo of a gold emblem on the wall in the 2nd floor corridor.





**“Wisdom”
informs the law.**

**Decoration of the
Pendentives
By Edwin Howland
Blashfield**



**“Knowledge”
bases the law.**

**Decoration of the
Pendentives
By Edwin Howland
Blashfield**



**“Mercy”
tempers the law.**

**Decoration of the
Pendentives
By Edwin Howland
Blashfield**



**“Power”
supports the law.**

**Decoration of the
Pendentives
By Edwin Howland
Blashfield**



Views of the Tiffany stained glass dome ceiling in the rotunda.



Hanging stairways in the rotunda.



View from the 4th Floor



Courtroom 200



Courtroom 200



View of jury box in Courtroom 202.



Courtroom 211



Detailed view of ornamentation on one of the doors.

Courtroom 400



Courtroom 400



Courtroom 401



Chambers Room 410



View from the 4th Floor



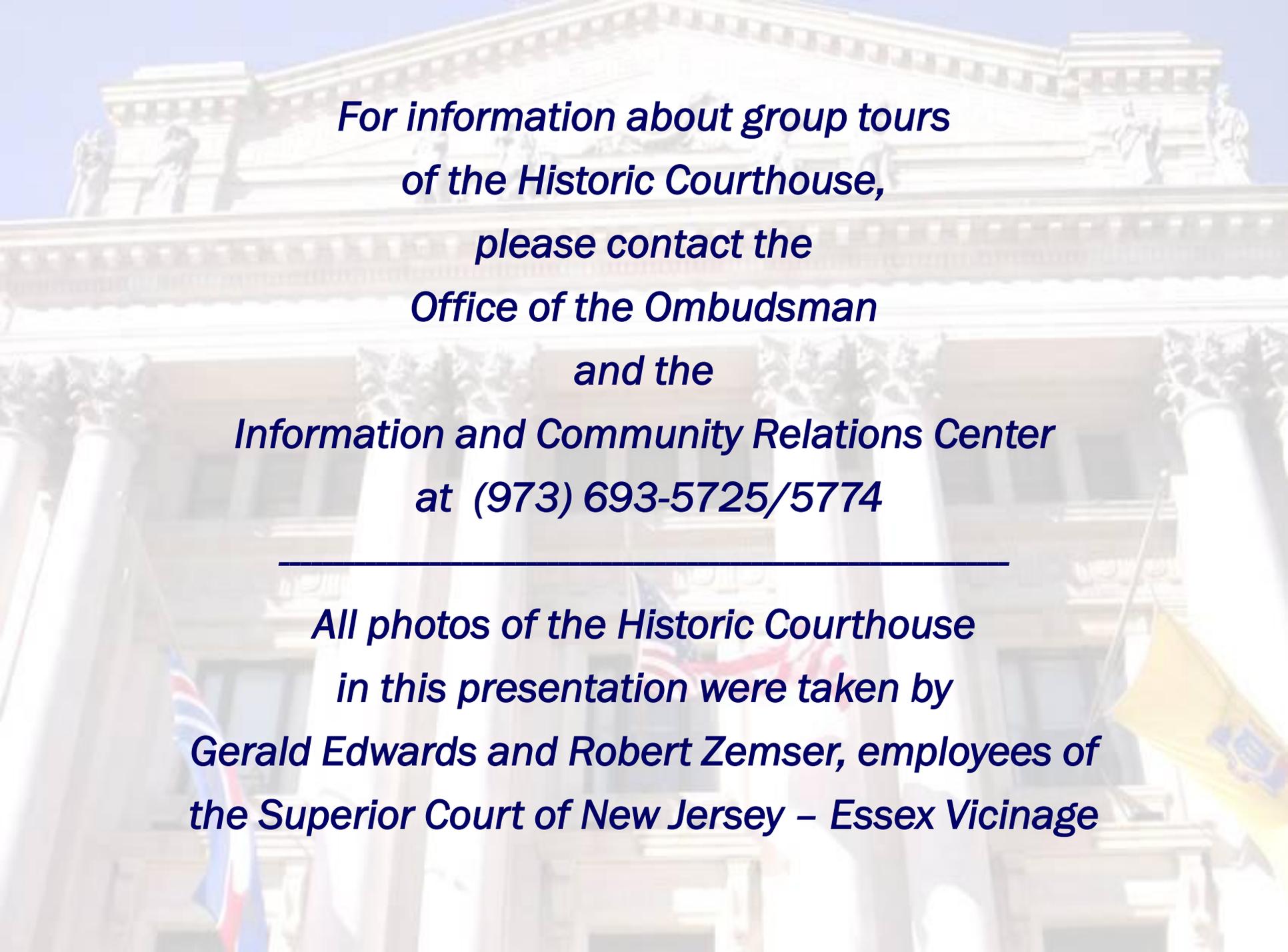
Seated Lincoln

Gutzon Borglum created the landmark Seated Lincoln statue, located at the foot of the Historic Courthouse steps.

Thousands of Essex County residents attended the 1911 dedication ceremony for the Seated Lincoln, over which former president Theodore Roosevelt presided.



Gutzon Borglum is the world renowned sculptor who carved the images of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt in the side of South Dakota's Mount Rushmore. He also created the Lincoln bust located in the rotunda of the Capitol in Washington, D.C.



***For information about group tours
of the Historic Courthouse,
please contact the
Office of the Ombudsman
and the
Information and Community Relations Center
at (973) 693-5725/5774***

***All photos of the Historic Courthouse
in this presentation were taken by
Gerald Edwards and Robert Zemser, employees of
the Superior Court of New Jersey – Essex Vicinage***