

1974

## Coming: The National Center For State Courts

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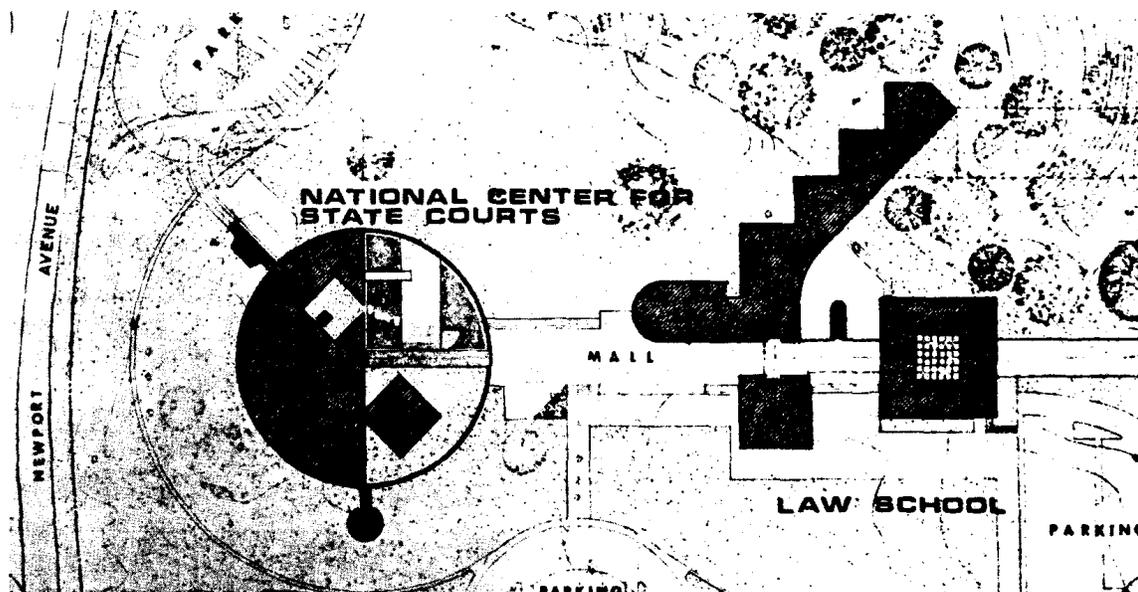
### Repository Citation

Swindler, William F., "Coming: The National Center For State Courts" (1974). *Faculty Publications*. 1602.  
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# Coming: The National Center For State Courts

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The locating of the headquarters of the National Center for State Courts in Williamsburg, announced in August at the time of the American Bar Association convention, promises a variety of benefits, both tangible and intangible, for the Marshall-Wythe School of Law. Williamsburg was chosen after a screening of applications of more than a dozen cities throughout the country, and apparently the two overriding practical advantages in its favor were (1) proximity to national government in Washington and (2) existence of the outstanding conference facilities in Williamsburg.

Among the specific advantages to the Law School in association with the National Center will be cooperative library acquisitions, in which the Law Library will make its resources available in exchange for access for research purposes to the special reference collections of the Center. When the Center's conference and training programs are fully operational, law students are expected to be called upon to serve as ad hoc clerks for visiting jurists engaged in the study projects built into the programs. Faculty and staff of the Law School will probably have opportunity to participate in Center research projects from time to time.

It is also anticipated that various professional and scholarly agencies working in the general field of court administration will establish branch offices or

liaison programs at the Center headquarters. Such groups include the American Judicature Society of Chicago, the Institute of Judicial Administration in New York, and the National College of the State Judiciary in Reno, Nevada. The headquarters staff itself, once the building is completed and the national programs are fully functioning, may range from fifty to one hundred persons.

The National Center is only beginning to formulate its program of activities, but among them will probably be conferences and training programs for various types of court personnel, organization and funding of research projects, and collection and publication of studies on court administration and law reform. For the present, the work of the National Center will be implemented in various regional offices, three of which are already operating in Atlanta, San Francisco and St. Paul, Minn. At least two other regional offices, in the southwest and the northeast, will be added to the structure.

Edward M. McConnel, former State court administrator for New Jersey, is now the executive director of the National Center. Justice Louis H. Burke of the California Supreme Court and Justice James A. Finch, Jr. of the Missouri supreme court are president and vice-president, respectively, of the Center's board of directors. The first meeting of the board in Williams-

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**COURTS CENTER (*from page 7*)**

burg since selection of this site for the permanent headquarters was held November 16-17, along with a meeting of the National Council of State Court Representatives, an advisory group of delegates from each of the fifty states.

The Commonwealth of Virginia, through Governor Linwood Holton, made an offer of approximately ten acres of land on the old tract of the Eastern State Hospital, opposite the Williamsburg-James City courthouse. The Commonwealth also agreed to help with the raising of funds for the construction of the headquarters facility, and the Center has engaged Hubert Jones, a member of the Richmond architectural firm which has designed many of the College buildings, to prepare plans for the facility. It is estimated that construction will take about two years, and will begin as soon as plans are approved and funds are assured.