



## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK  
300 QUARROPAS STREET, WHITE PLAINS, NY 10601

### **Charles L. Brieant, Jr.** **United States Courthouse** **Fast Facts**

The Charles L. Brieant, Jr., United States Courthouse in White Plains is a full service courthouse, with all the offices and agencies customarily found in a Federal courthouse. It is the only Federal courthouse between Manhattan and Albany.

- ❖ US District Court for the Southern District of New York has held court in Manhattan since 1789.
- ❖ Congress designated White Plains as a “place of holding court” in 1978.
- ❖ A federal courthouse first opened in White Plains in leased quarters on October 17, 1983 at 101 East Post Road.
- ❖ Some of those responsible for establishing the first US Courthouse in White Plains: Edwin Tennant, Esq. of the Westchester County Bar Association; Lee Parsons Gagliardi, U.S.D.J.; David Edelstein, Chief U.S.D.J.; and Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan.
- ❖ Congress authorized construction of a new federal courthouse in White Plains in 1991.
- ❖ Some of those responsible for constructing the new US Courthouse in White Plains: Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan; Senator Alfonse D’Amato; Eliot L. Engel, M.C.; Benjamin A. Gilman, M.C.; Maurice Hinchey, M.C.; Sue W. Kelly, M.C.; Nita M. Lowey, M.C.; Richard L. Ottinger, M.C.; Gerald B. H. Solomon, M.C.; Alfred Del Vecchio, Mayor of White Plains; John F. Keenan, U.S.D.J., Chairman, Committee on Space and Facilities; Constance Baker Motley, U.S.D.J.; and Charles L. Brieant, Chief U.S.D.J.
- ❖ The City of White Plains offered a parcel of urban renewal land to the Federal government for construction of the courthouse. White Plains Mayor Alfred Del Vecchio was instrumental in securing the land for the courthouse.
- ❖ The new US Courthouse in White Plains, designed by Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, opened on May 15, 1995 at 300 Quarropas Street.
- ❖ Cost of new courthouse: \$34,886,000, not including the cost of the land. Built within budget
- ❖ Judge Lee Gagliardi, U.S.D.J., was the first District Judge to sit in White Plains.
- ❖ In 2008 the courthouse was named in honor of the late Charles L. Brieant, Jr., United States District Judge. Judge Brieant was appointed to the Southern District bench by President Nixon in 1971, and served for 36 years. He was Chief Judge from 1986-1993, during which time he was instrumental in arranging for the construction of new federal courthouses in Foley Square (1994) and White Plains (1995).
- ❖ The work of the court has grown considerably since 1983 when one District Judge, one Magistrate Judge and one Bankruptcy Judge sat in White Plains. During 2010, 3 District Judges, 3 Magistrate Judges, and 1 Bankruptcy Judge were assigned full time to the White Plains courthouse.

- ❖ The White Plains courthouse performs a critical function as an alternate work site for all occupying agencies in the event of an emergency at the Manhattan courthouse.
- ❖ For the convenience of litigants, Local Rule for the Division of Business 26 allows a party to file papers in either White Plains or Manhattan, regardless of where the assigned Judge sits.
- ❖ The White Plains courthouse serves a six county area: Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Orange, Dutchess and Sullivan Counties. Population (2000 census): 1,820,595
- ❖ Distance from the northernmost town in the District, Tivoli in Dutchess County to:  
Foley Square = 112 miles; to White Plains = 81 miles, a savings of 31 miles off the trip to NY.
- ❖ Agencies occupying the White Plains Courthouse:
  - US District Court for the Southern District of New York;
  - Office of the Clerk of Court for the US District Court;
  - Office of the District Executive of the US District Court;
  - US Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York;
  - Office of the Clerk of Court for the US Bankruptcy Court;
  - Federal Defenders of New York;
  - US Probation Department;
  - US Pre-Trial Services Agency;
  - US Attorney's Office;
  - US Marshals Service.
- ❖ The District Court in White Plains provides administrative support to the Magistrate Judge assigned to the U.S. Courthouse in Middletown, NY. This Magistrate Judge hears cases arising in Federal enclaves, including the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the Veterans Administration Hospitals at Montrose and Castle Point, the Roosevelt and Vanderbilt national historic sites and the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River National Park.
- ❖ The Bankruptcy Court in White Plains provides administrative support to the United States Bankruptcy Court in Poughkeepsie, NY.
- ❖ The U.S. Probation Department in White Plains provides administrative support to the U.S. Probation Office in Middletown, NY.