



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS CUT THE RIBBON FOR  
FIRST NEWLY CONSTRUCTED "GREEN" COURTHOUSE IN OHIO**

Today Franklin County Commissioners and project partners cut the ribbon to the Franklin County Common Pleas Courthouse, marking the end of construction.

The Franklin County Common Pleas Courthouse is the first newly constructed "green" courthouse in Ohio. Sustainable building materials were used throughout the building, including recycled materials from local sources. The Courthouse is pursuing Gold level certification under the LEED for New Construction category.

The existing Franklin County Common Pleas courts are located in the Hall of Justice, a building completed more than 30 years ago when Franklin County had only 10 judges and 830,000 residents. Today, Franklin County has 17 judges and approximately 1.1 million residents. Caseloads have increased three and a half times faster than the population.

The new, seven story Courthouse holds 32 courtrooms, 2 special proceedings courtrooms and is designed and constructed to allow for horizontal expansion on its 3.8-acre site. The building area and volume have been sized to reduce the amount of heating and cooling required. The building is 25% more energy efficient and will save a million gallons of water each year compared to a comparable new code compliant building.

The Courthouse also features a green roof to help reduce storm water runoff into the river and reduces urban temperature and performs air cleaning. The use of efficient building features will pay back in nine years or less.

The new courthouse is connected to the existing Franklin County Government Center by a tunnel system, providing access to court users. A newly built pavilion serves as a main entry to the connector and tunnel, allowing easy access to the new Courthouse.

Commissioners were joined at the ribbon cutting by Common Pleas Administrative Judge the Honorable Charles Schneider, Common Pleas Judge the Honorable Richard Frye, Ohio Supreme Court Justice the Honorable Eric Brown, Franklin County Sheriff Jim Karnes, Franklin County Clerk of Courts, Building Owner's Representative Joel Pizzuti and The Schottenstein Family.

“It is my great pleasure and honor to cut the ribbon of this beautiful, landmark courthouse. Creating a LEED-certified Courthouse was a priority for the Commissioners and it is responsible to the environment and cost effective for the future. This state-of-the-art, sustainable facility will serve the growing needs of Franklin County for years to come,” said Commissioner John O’Grady.

“In 2006 we began to take a “campus” approach to managing County facilities located in downtown Columbus. Included in that approach was our Sustainability Policy, leading to what we hope will be the first ever Gold LEED certified new county courthouse in Ohio, and taxpayers will see significant energy savings,” said Commissioner Paula Brooks. “I am very satisfied with the outcome, and we have our partners to thank, including the Pizzuti Companies.”

“Our new Courthouse has been a wonderful collaboration of community stakeholders and today, we see how this collaboration paid off. We have a beautiful civic structure that is functional for the courts and our residents’ needs and that adds accessibility to the judicial system,” Commissioner Marilyn Brown said.

The Common Pleas Courthouse has already earned recognition for its innovative design. The National Center for State Courts awarded Franklin County as one of their top General Jurisdiction Courts of the past 10 years. The recognition is only bestowed upon 14 courthouses once a decade.

The Courthouse is expected to open for business in early 2011.