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Years -- Judiciary Planning Overstated the Need for Space through Inaccurate Caseload Projections and Allocations of Space for Visiting Judges -- The Judiciary's Method of Estimating Judges Does Not Account for Uncertainty in When Judges Will Take Senior Status and in How Many New Judgeships Will Be Authorized. LOW LEVELS OF USE SHOW THAT JUDGES COULD SHARE COURTROOMS, REDUCING THE NEED FOR FUTURE COURTROOMS BY MORE THAN ONE-THIRD -- Courtrooms Assigned to One Judge Are Used a Quarter of the Time or Less for Case Proceedings -- Increased Courtroom Sharing Is Feasible and Could Reduce the Need for Courtrooms by More than One-Third -- Some Judges Said They Could Overcome the Challenges to Courtroom Sharing -- The Judiciary Has Taken Some Steps to Increase Sharing in Future Courthouse Projects -- CONCLUSIONS -- RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE ACTION -- AGENCY COMMENTS AND OUR EVALUATION -- GSA Comments -- AOUSC Comments -- APPENDIX I. OBJECTIVES, SCOPE, AND METHODOLOGY -- APPENDIX II. COMMENTS FROM THE U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION -- GAO Comments -- APPENDIX III. COMMENTS FROM THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY -- GAO Comments -- End Notes -- Chapter 2 STATEMENT OF JUDGE MICHAEL A. PONSOR, CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON SPACE AND FACILITIES, BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON COURTS AND COMPETITION POLICY, HEARING ON "COURTROOM USE: ACCESS TO JUSTICE, EFFECTIVE JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION, AND COURTROOM SECURITY" -- INTRODUCTION -- The Courthouse Construction Program -- The Judiciary's Courtroom Sharing Policies -- The Impact of GAO's Courtroom Simulation Model on Access to Justice -- CONCLUSION -- End Notes -- Chapter 3 STATEMENT OF ROBERT A. PECK, COMMISSIONER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS SERVICE, U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION, BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON COURTS AND COMPETITION POLICY, HEARING ON "FEDERAL COURTHOUSE CONSTRUCTION" -- Chapter 4 STATEMENT OF JUDGE ROBERT JAMES CONRAD, CHIEF DISTRICT JUDGE, WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA, BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON COURTS AND COMPETITION POLICY, HEARING ON "COURTROOM USE: ACCESS TO JUSTICE, EFFECTIVE JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION, AND COURTROOM SECURITY" -- INTRODUCTION -- FEDERAL COURTS ARE PLACES OF DIGNITY AND DELIBERATION. THE COURTROOM IS AN ESSENTIAL TOOL IN THE JUDICIAL PROCESS -- COURTHOUSES MUST ALSO BE SAFE AND SECURE -- THE CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA COURTHOUSE -- Courtroom 3 (Our "L" shaped Courtroom) -- Courtrooms One and Two -- Security Concerns -- Condition Concerns -- CONCLUSION -- Chapter 5 FEDERAL COURTHOUSE CONSTRUCTION -- SUMMARY -- BACKGROUND2 -- CONGRESSIONAL FUNDING FOR COURTHOUSE CONSTRUCTION -- FY2009 Funding -- RECENT CONSIDERATIONS -- End Notes -- CHAPTER SOURCES -- INDEX -- Blank Page.

Sommario/riassunto

The General Services Administration (GSA) is the primary federal real property agency, with responsibility for the design, construction and maintenance of federal buildings and courthouses. The determination for new courthouse construction is based on a five-year assessment of anticipated space requirements compiled by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, which is updated and approved each year by the Judicial Conference of the United States. This book examines federal courthouse construction planning, oversight and the issue of courtroom sharing needed to address future costs
