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A collaborative program between the
ADA National Network and the
U.S. Access Board



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1



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2



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4



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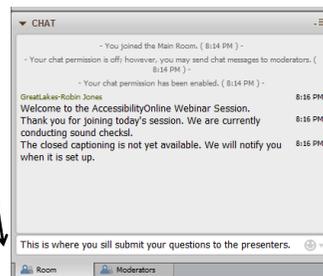
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5



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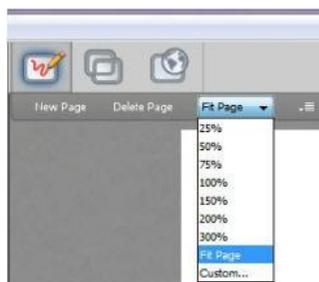
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6



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7



Customize Your View *continued*

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8

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9



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10

Accessible Courthouses



Dave Yanchulis
U.S. Access Board

11

Agenda

- **Entrances**
- **Courtrooms**
- **Holding Cells & Other Spaces**

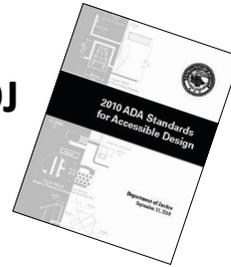
12

Applicable Standards



**State & local Courthouses:
ADA Standards (2010) - DOJ**

**Federal Courthouses:
ABA Standards (2006) - GSA**



13

Courthouse Accessibility



- **Too often treated as an afterthought**
- **Must be integrated into all stages of design, including mock-ups**
- **Can be achieved without compromising security, sightlines, and other requisites**

14

Advisory Committee



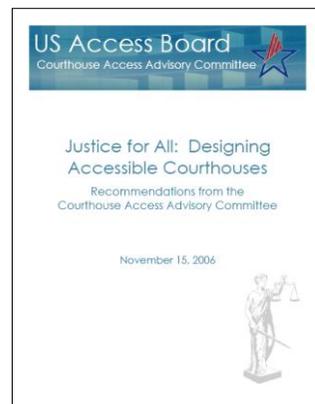
**Courthouse Access Advisory Committee
(2004 – 2006)**

15

Committee Report

Guidance on:

- Meeting the standards
- Best Practices
- Common Errors



www.access-board.gov/caac

16

Entrances

17

Entrances (§206.4)

Public Entrances: 60% min.
(plus those serving parking structures, elevated walkways/ tunnels)

Restricted Entrances: at least 1

Detainee/ Inmate Entrances: at least 1

18

Entrances



Best practices:

- **Minimize elevation at entry**
- **Access to primary entrance**
- **Automate entry doors (required for GSA facilities - Public Building Standards)**

19

Entrances

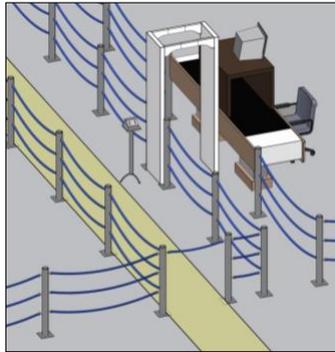
Bollards and other security barriers cannot obstruct accessible routes (§206.8)



20

Security Check Points(\$206.8)

Security screening devices cannot obstruct AR



AR can bypass screening devices but equal level of visual contact with personal items required

21

Intercom station



2-Way Communication Devices:

Visual and audible signals required (§230)

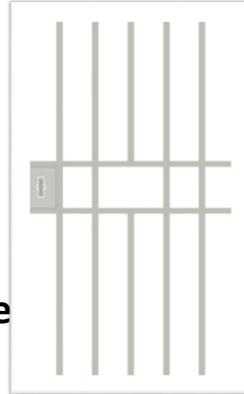
22

Detainee/ Inmate Entrances

Exceptions for manual doors operated only by security personnel (§404.1):

- Hardware
- Closing speed
- Opening force

Automatic: only clear width & three requirements apply)



23

Courtrooms

24

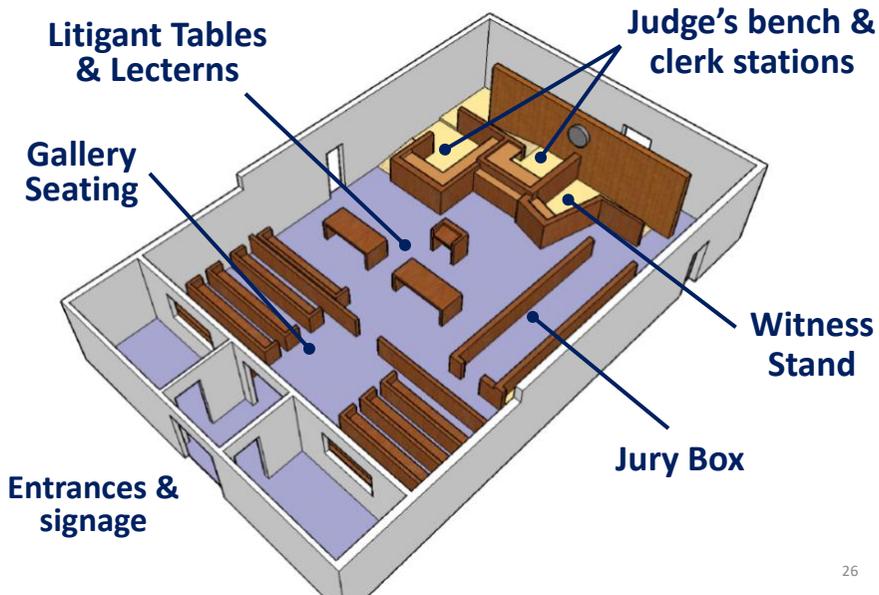
Scoping

- **New Construction: All Courtrooms (§231)**
- **Alterations: Each altered courtroom (§202)**
- **Existing: Program Access (DOJ regulations)**



25

Courtrooms



26

Courtroom Entrances



Doors

- compliance with §404
- 5 lbf max opening force
- automation required for interior doors exceeding 5 lbf opening force

27

Door Vision Lights (§404.2.11)



**Bottom edge of viewing panels (if provided) must be 43" max. AFF
(not required if bottom edge is higher than 66")**

28

Courtroom Entrances

Doors in series (§404.2.6)



48" min. separation between swing of doors

29

Tactile & Visual Signs (§216)

- signs identifying permanent rooms & spaces, including courtrooms, restrooms, jury assembly rooms, etc.
- room and floor numbers/letters
- doors at exit stairways, exit passageways, and exit discharge (label required)



30

Visual Signs (§216)

Signs providing direction to, or information about, interior spaces and facilities must be visual



31

Exempt Signs

- temporary signs
- building addresses & directories
- occupant names, company names & logos
- seat/row designations in assembly areas
- signs in non-public areas of detention/ correctional facilities
- menus

32

Sample Sign

COURTROOM 304
Braille

Honorable Jane Smith Presiding

No cell phone use

- Room Label (tactile & visual)
- Occupant (exempt)
- Informational (visual only)

33

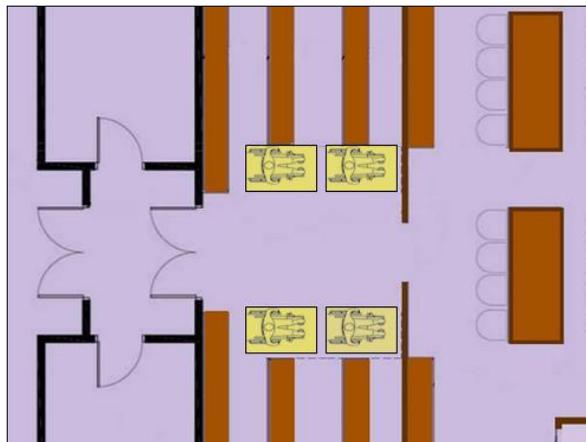
Gallery Seating

Wheelchair spaces required according to total seating capacity (§221)

<u>Total</u>	<u>W/C Spaces</u>
4 – 25	1
26 – 50	2
51 – 150	4
151 – 300	5

34

Gallery Seating

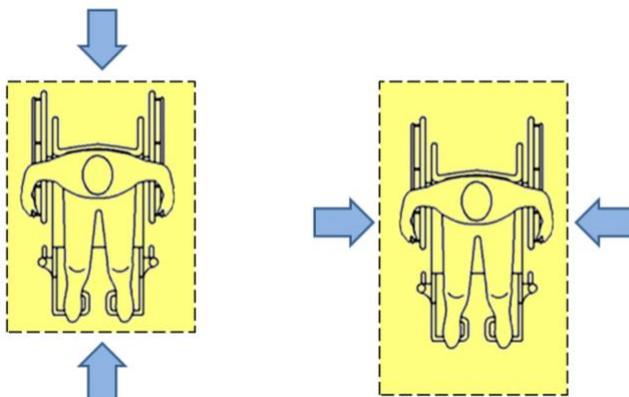


Wheelchair spaces must be located within seating footprint

35

Gallery Seating

Assembly Area Wheelchair Space (§802)

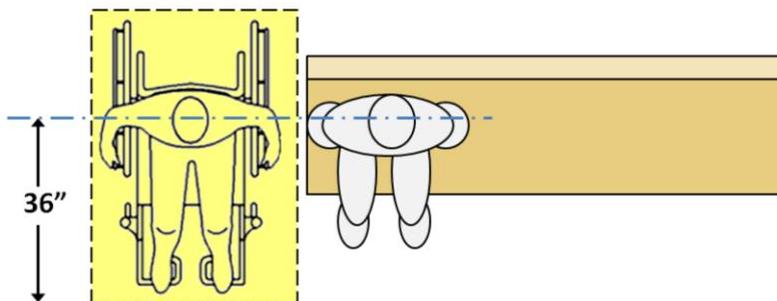


Front or back Entry
36" x 48" min.

Side Entry
36" x 60" min.

36

Gallery Seating



WC spaces must be located to provide shoulder-to-shoulder alignment with adjacent seating

37

Gates



Recommendation: No Gates

38

Gates (§404)

- **32" min. clear width (1 leaf)**
- **Smooth surface on push side**
- **Opening force: 5 lbf max.**
- **Closing speed (spring hinges - 1.5 sec. min.)**
- **Compliant hardware**



39

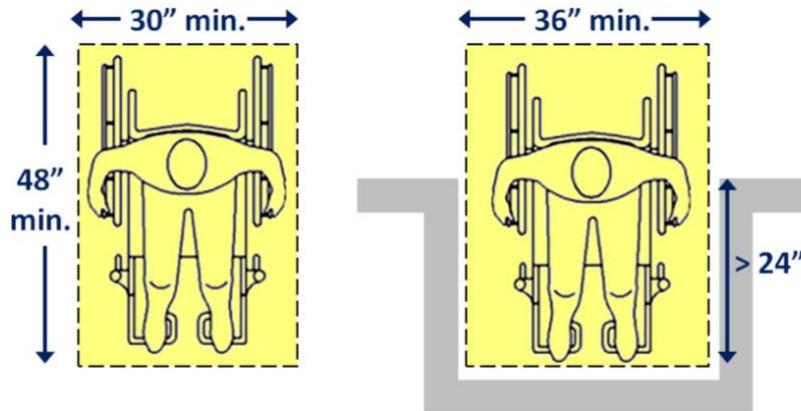
Jury Box and Witness Stand (§808.3)

- **Clear floor space within defined area (removable seats allowed)**
- **Gates/ enclosures: unassisted access**
- **Ramp or lift (if raised) – must be permanent**
- **Not allowed: portable solutions, fold-out/ telescoping ramps (except in some retrofits)**
- **Turning space in areas served by ramp**

40

Clear Floor Space (§305)

Forward Approach



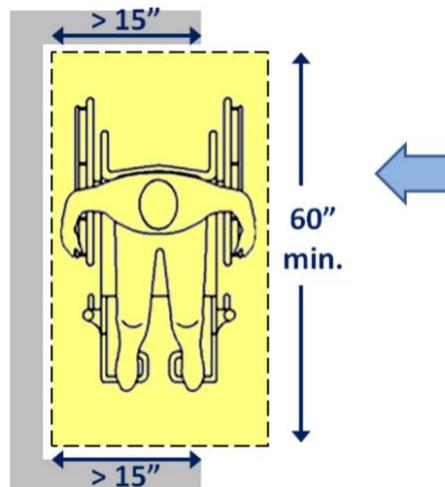
Greater width (36") required where space is confined more than half the depth

41

Clear Floor Space

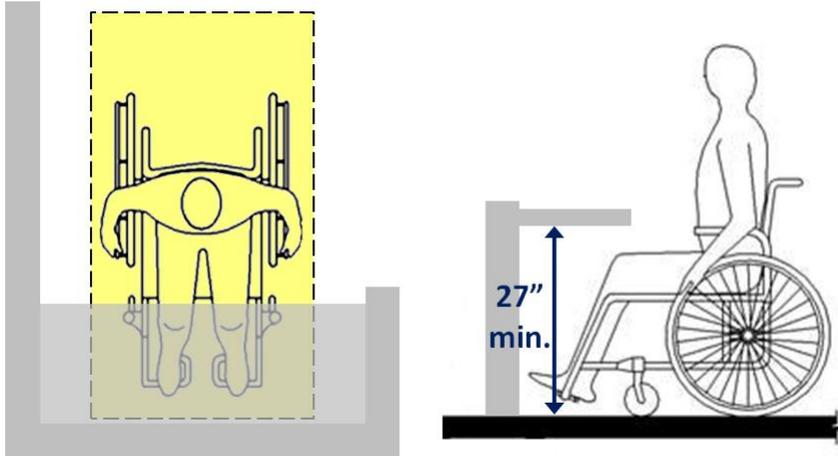
Side Approach

Greater length (60") required where space is recessed/ confined more than half the width



Clear Floor Space

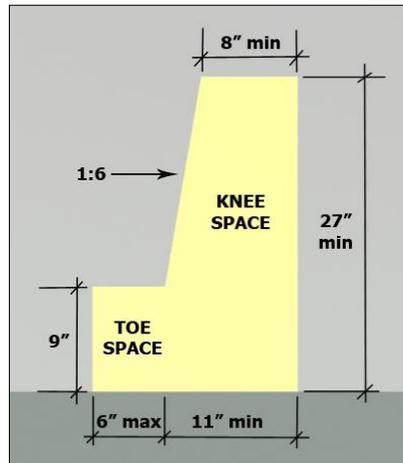
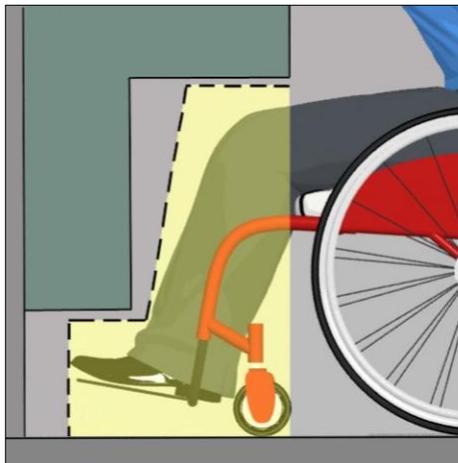
Knee and Toe Clearance



43

Knee & Toe Space (§306)

Knee and Toe Clearances



44

Jury Box and Witness Stand

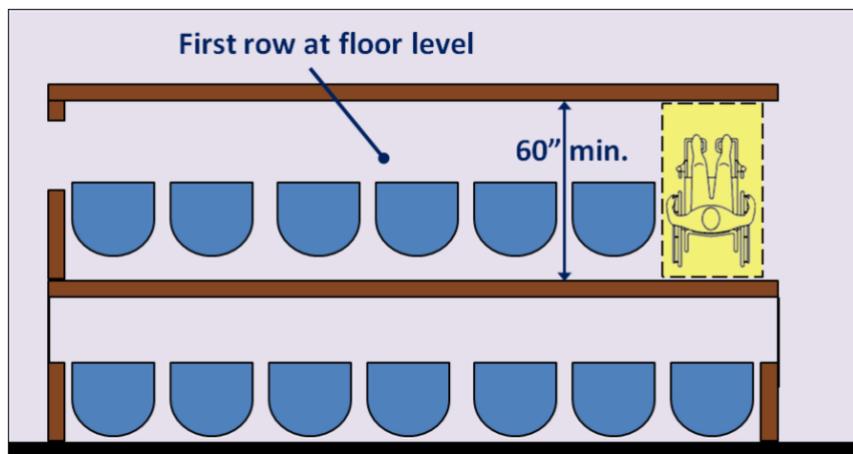
Alterations



- if ramp/ lift would obstruct MOE, wheelchair space can be located outside defined area (§808.3)
- Qualified historic facilities – departures allowed where compliance would impact historic integrity (§202.5)

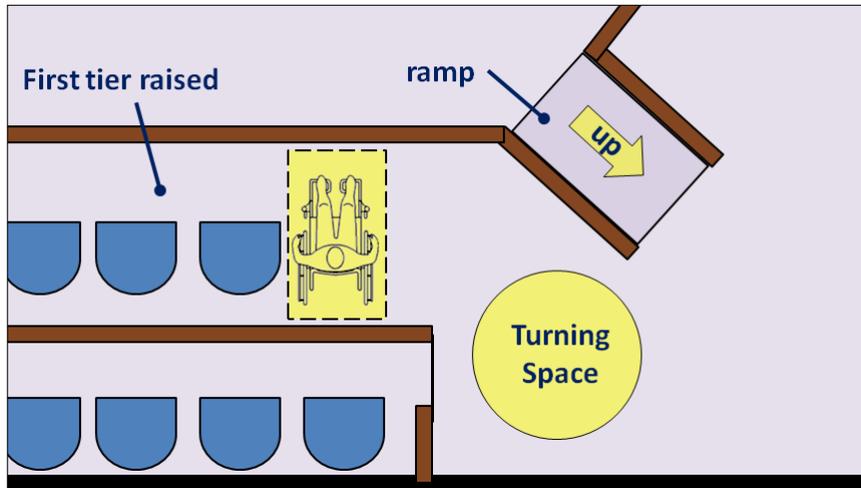
45

Jury Box



46

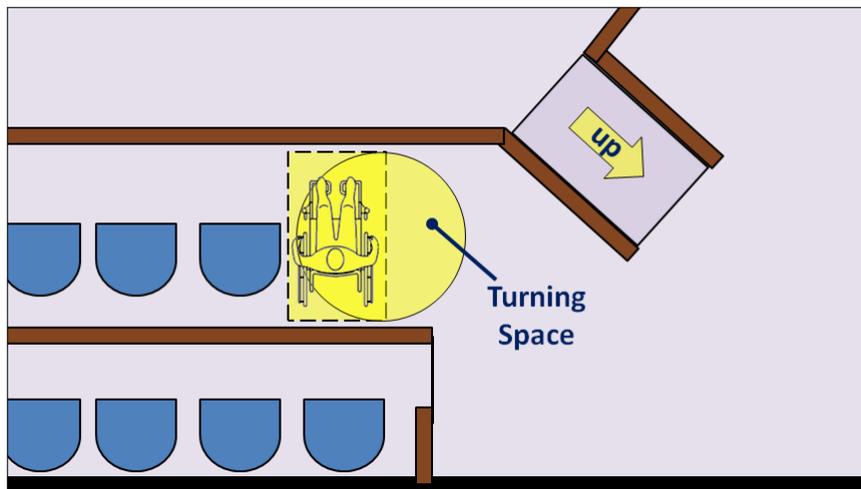
Jury Box



**Turning space required on levels served by ramp
(or lifts with entry ramps)**

47

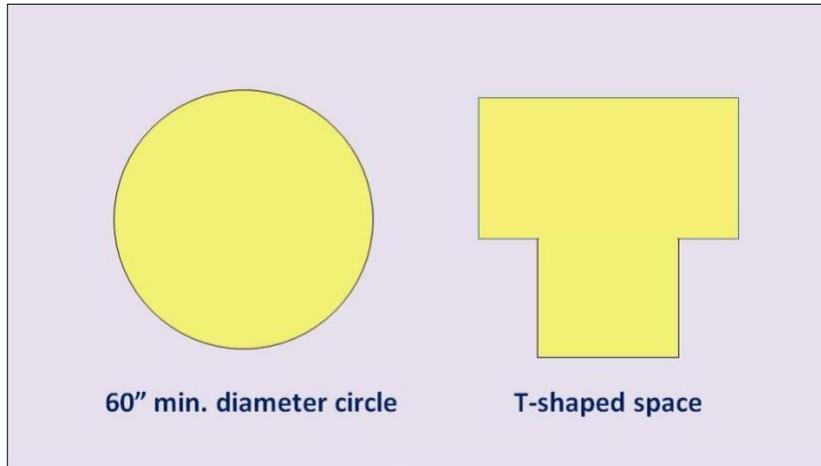
Jury Box



**Turning space can overlap WC space (if not serving
other locations, such as witness stand)**

48

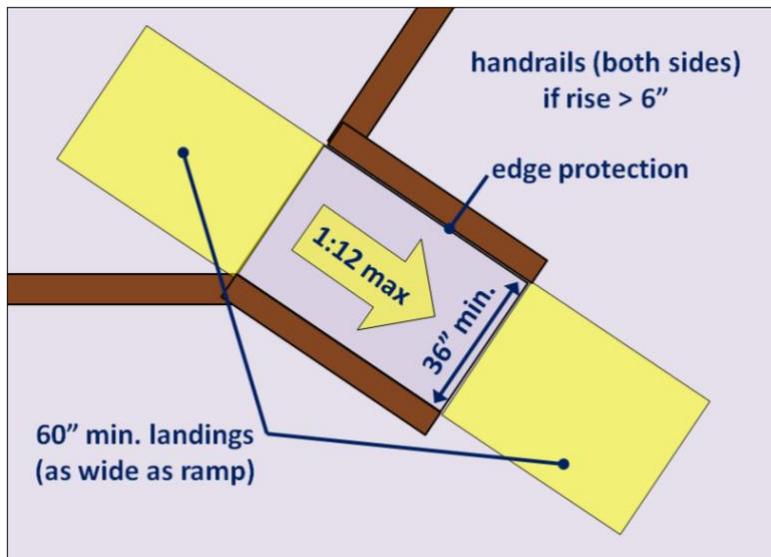
Turning Space (§808.2, §304)



Turning space can be at circular or T-shaped

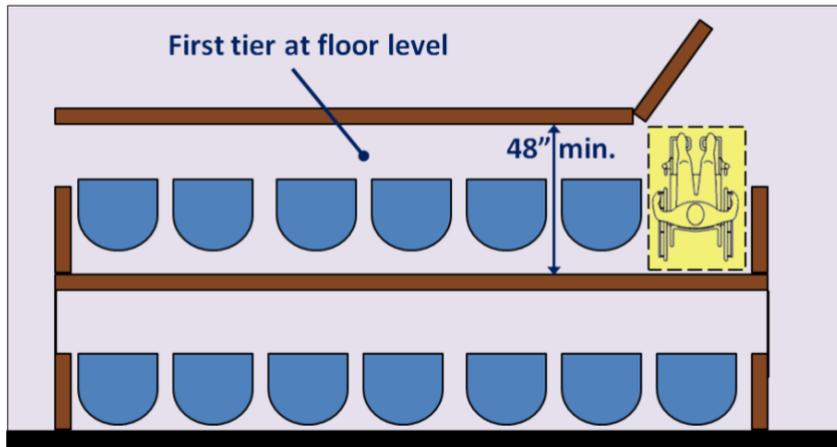
49

Ramps (§405)



50

Jury Box



Back-in space requires less space but entry gates often impact usability

51

Jury Box

Gates at WC space that do not provide unassisted access should be avoided



- **Often heavy due to millwork (> 5 lbf max. opening force)**
- **Difficult to manually close from within the space**

52

Witness Stand

Witness stand at floor level provides easier access



53

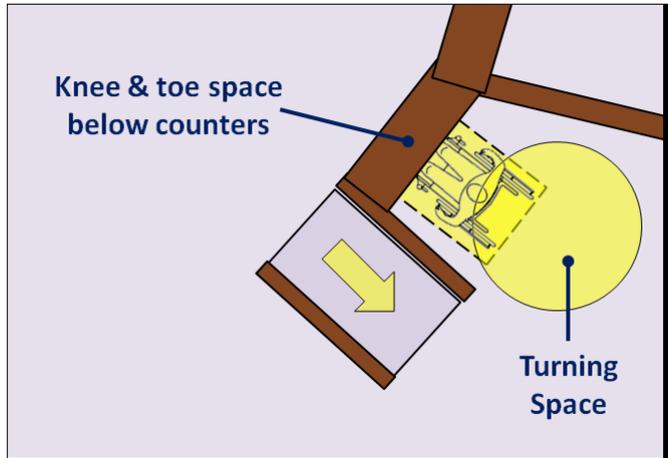
Witness Stand

If raised, ramps are preferred over lifts



54

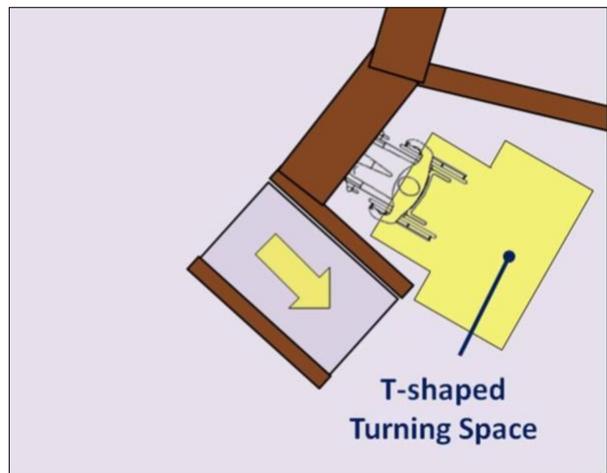
Witness Stand



Turning space required on levels served by ramp
(or lifts with entry ramps)

55

Witness Stand



T-shaped turning space (alternative to 60" circle)

56

Ramps v. Lifts

Ramps recommended over lifts:

- Preferred by most users
- Independent use, less conspicuous
- Reliable – no maintenance

57

Platform Lifts

Considerations:

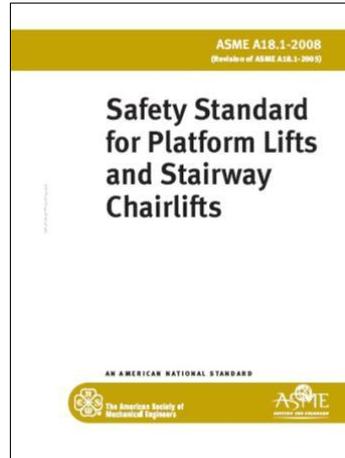
- Custom design – no standard design for courtrooms
- Coordination of millwork and lift design/ installation is essential
- Unassisted Operation
- Maintenance/ Repair
- Compliance with §410 & ASME A18.1 Standard

58

Platform Lifts

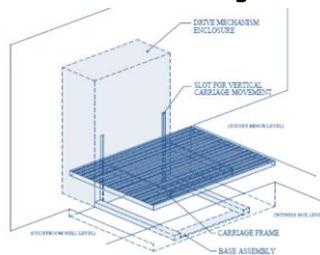
**ASME A18.1 Standard
(2008) has new section
on Courtroom Lifts**

**(This edition not yet
referenced by the ADA
& ABA standards)**

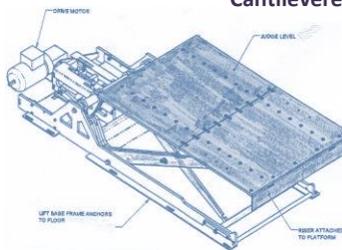


59

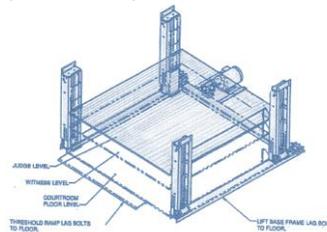
Lift Drive Systems



Cantilevered Platform (Screw Drive) Lift



Electric/Scissor Lift



Four-Cornered Screw Drive Lift

60

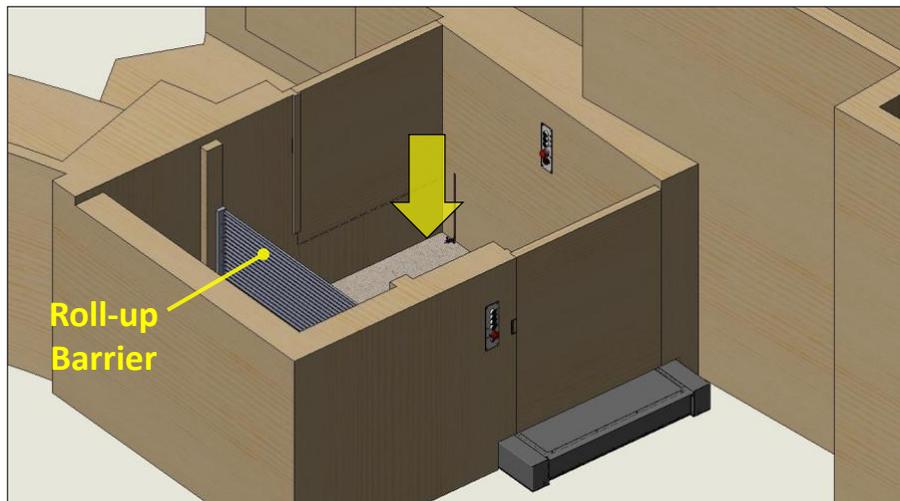
Platform Lifts



Lift in normal position at level of witness stand

61

Platform Lifts



Lift at lower level – doors closed, roll-up barrier extended

62

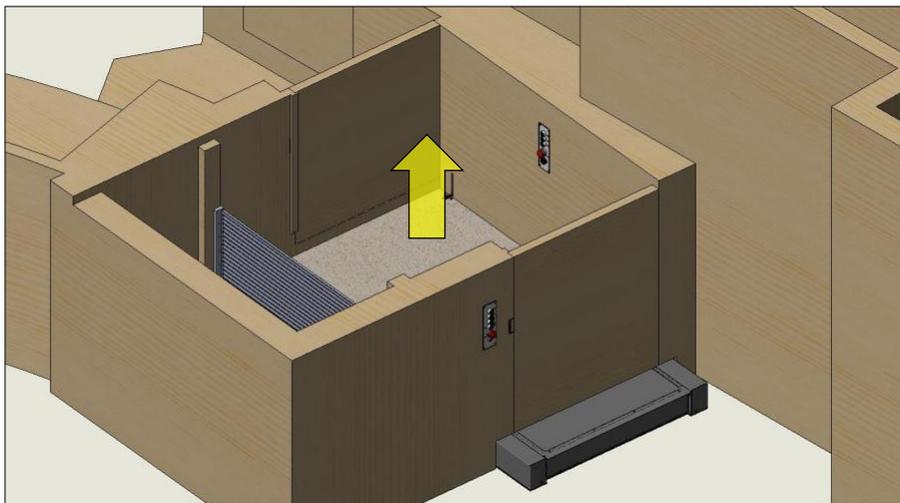
Platform Lifts



Door open at lower position; automated step/ramp

63

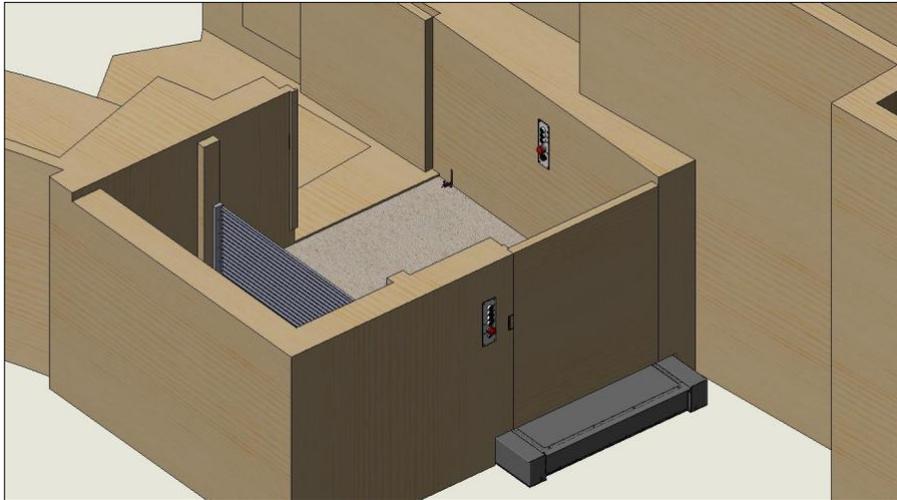
Platform Lifts



Lift in mid travel (witness stand floor)

64

Platform Lifts



Lift at upper level (judge's bench)

65

Courtroom Stations (§808.4)

(e.g., judges' benches and stations for clerks, court reporters, and bailiffs)

- compliant work surfaces (28" – 34" high, forward approach access, etc.)
- vertical access to raised areas, but adaptability permitted



66

Courtroom Stations

Ramp or lift can be installed after construction if necessary space/ electrical service provided (§206.2.4)

- Not permitted for jury box or witness stand
- Allowed by IBC (2009) - but not earlier editions
- State/ local requirements may be stricter

67

Courtroom Stations

Best practices for vertical access:

- built in (instead of adaptable) for all courtrooms or
- built in for at least 1 of each courtroom type (adaptable access in the rest)

68

Judge's Bench



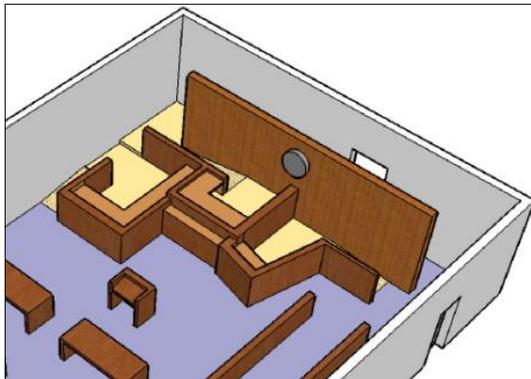
Best practices :

- ramp instead of lift
- installed in construction
- located outside courtroom (security, decorum)

69

Judge's Bench

Ramp location behind wall

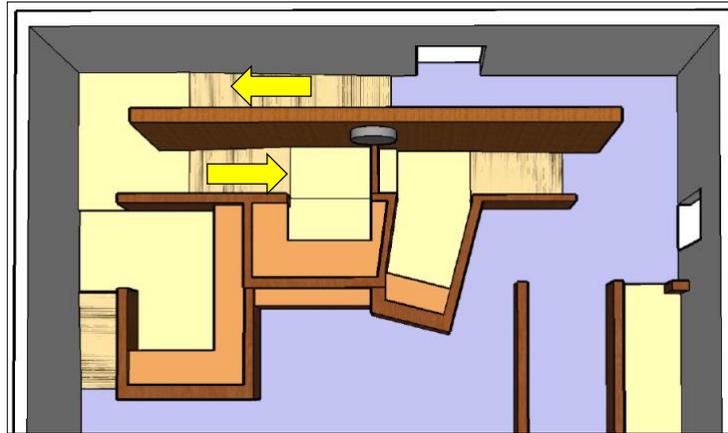


Ottawa County Courthouse
Grand Haven, Michigan (HDR/FTC+H)

70

Judge's Bench

Ramp location behind wall



Ottawa County Courthouse
Grand Haven, Michigan (HDR/FTC+H)

71

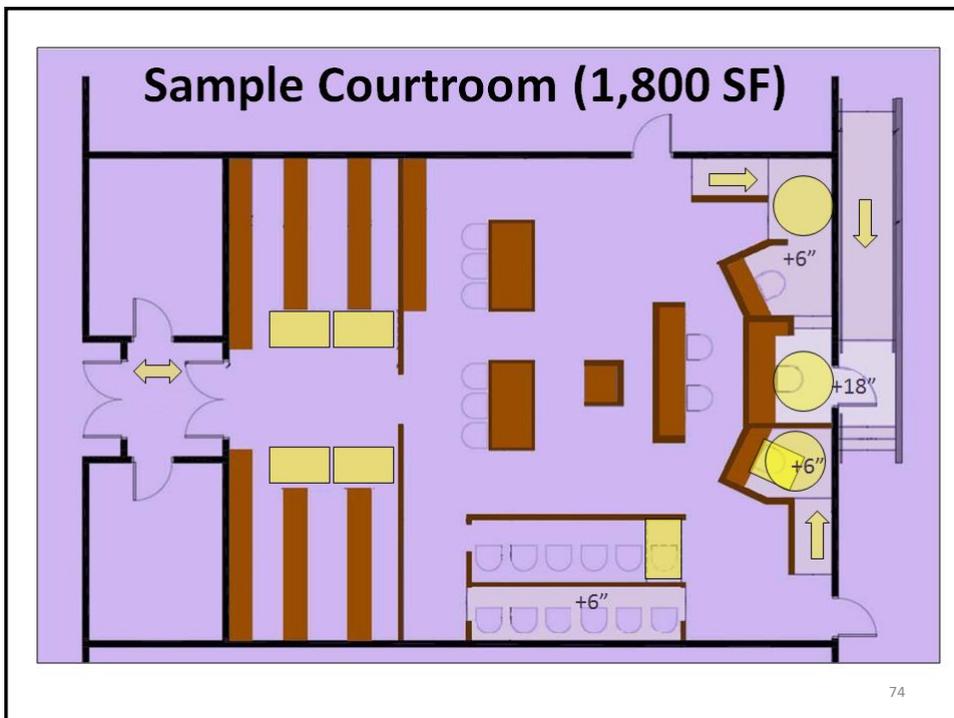
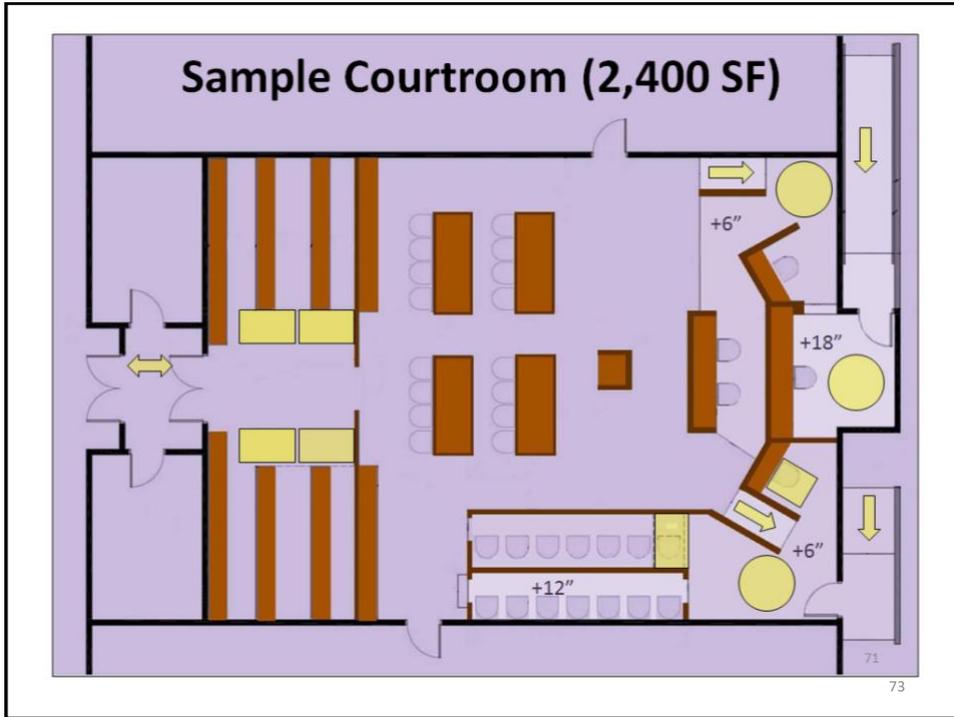
Judge's Bench

Lift location behind wall



Kent County Courthouse
Grand Rapids, Michigan (Tower Pinkster/HOK)

72



Lecterns

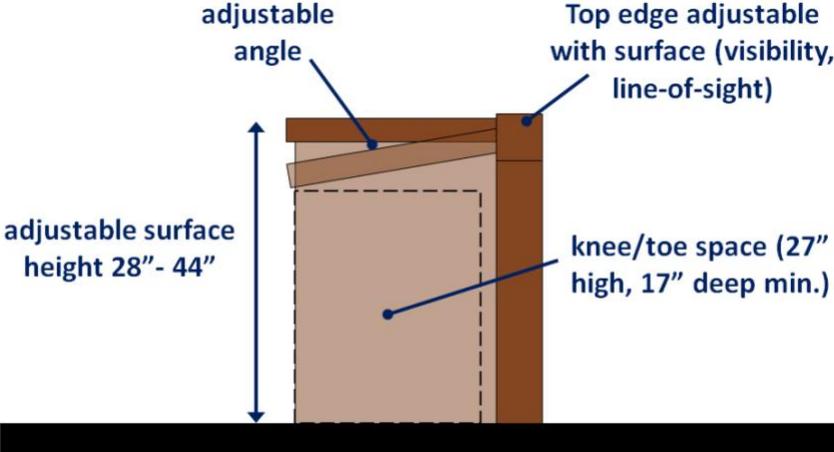
Compliance required where fixed or built-in



75

Lecterns

Best practice recommendations:



76

Assistive Listening Systems

Required in each courtroom (\$219)

- Technologies (IR, loop, FM)
- Receivers (number, hearing-aid compatibility)
- Signs



77

Holding Cells & Other Spaces

78

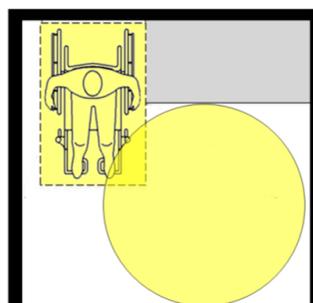
Holding Cells (§231.3)

- central and court-floor holding areas
- access to at least one of each type (e.g., male/ female, adult/ juvenile)
- each courtroom served by at least one accessible cell
- cells may serve more than one courtroom

79

Holding Cells (§807)

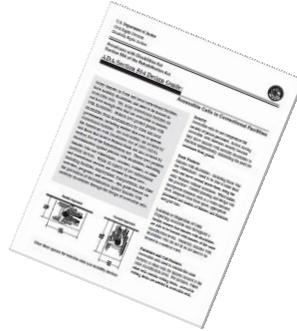
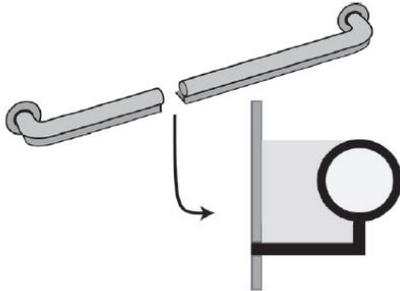
- Doors
- Turning Space
- Benches (if provided)
- Toilet facilities (combo toilet/lav that comply can be used; otherwise separate fixtures required)



80

Holding Cells (§807)

Grab bars can have features to reduce suicide risks (e.g., infill plate) but must fully comply



DOJ Guide on Accessible
Cells in Correctional Facilities
(ada.gov)

81

Visiting Areas (§231.4)

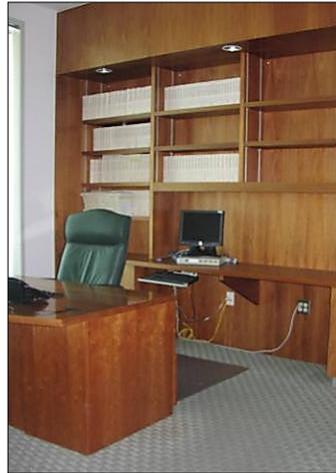
- Access to at least 1 counter on both visitor & detainee sides (cubicles: 5% min.)
- Forward approach access
- Solid partitions (if provided) require means to facilitate voice communication
- Handsets (if provided) must have volume control



82

Other Courthouse Spaces

- Jury Assembly Rooms
- Jury Deliberation
- Judges' Chambers
- Restrooms



83

Questions?

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Chat Area Text Box or press Control-M
and enter text in the Chat Area**

84



Continuing Education



AIA Provider Number: I017

Course Title: Accessible Courthouses (A Refresher)

AIA Course Number: GL20170706

Date: July 6, 2017

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85

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86

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Surface Roughness and Rollability Research

August 3

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87