

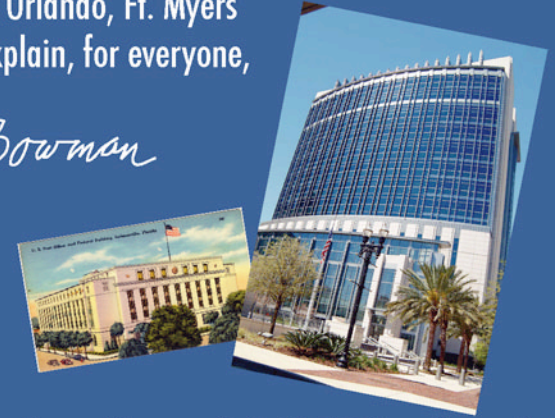
All Rise ...

In 2005 federal judges and lawyers practicing in the Middle District of Florida decided to invest funds derived from attorney renewal fees in public education. Through a strategic planning process and a search for a design consultancy we were chosen to develop exhibits in the Jacksonville, Tampa, Orlando, Ft. Myers and Ocala courthouses. Our task was to chronicle the most important cases as well as explain, for everyone, how the judicial system works and how we all have a role to play.

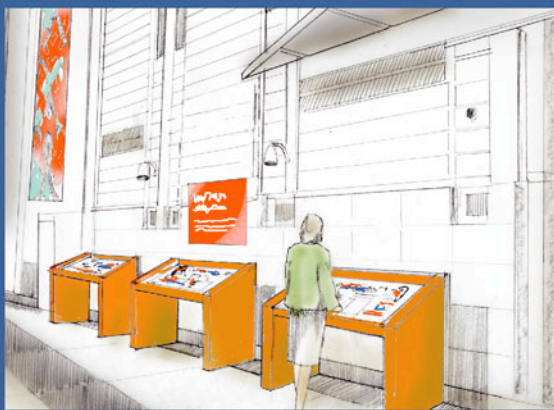
Curt Bowman



Liberty and Justice For All The Role of the U.S. Courts



After developing a comprehensive concept plan for the five courthouses, we put our attention on the Bryan Simpson U.S. District Courthouse in Jacksonville. With the help of district court, magistrate, and bankruptcy judges, lawyers, federal marshals and the General Services Administration we created interpretive media that chronicles the highlights of the past five decades. Featured in the lobby are the racial strife of the 60s, the Carlos Lehder drug-trafficking trials, the ill-fated Cross Florida Barge Canal and the Winn Dixie bankruptcy. In two galleries on the 5th floor we installed custom casework, interactives and banners that described how the court works, the process of a trial, the differences between state and federal courts, those who carry out the work and the importance of everyone's contribution as a juror and being a law abiding citizen.



Lobby Concept



U.S. Marshall security is important when making design choices



A mock trial was used to illustrate court proceedings

The Middle District was created in the 1960s, an exciting, turbulent time of great social and technological change in the country: civil rights, women's liberation, a controversial war in Vietnam, and the first manned space flights. Florida's population grew rapidly, and tourism boomed.

Florida's rapid growth created stress for the state. Drug cases burdened the courts. Florida faced serious racial problems. Protecting natural resources caused still more challenges. It was a busy time for the Middle District of Florida.

Turbulent Times

Civil Rights was perhaps the most important domestic issue of the 1960s.

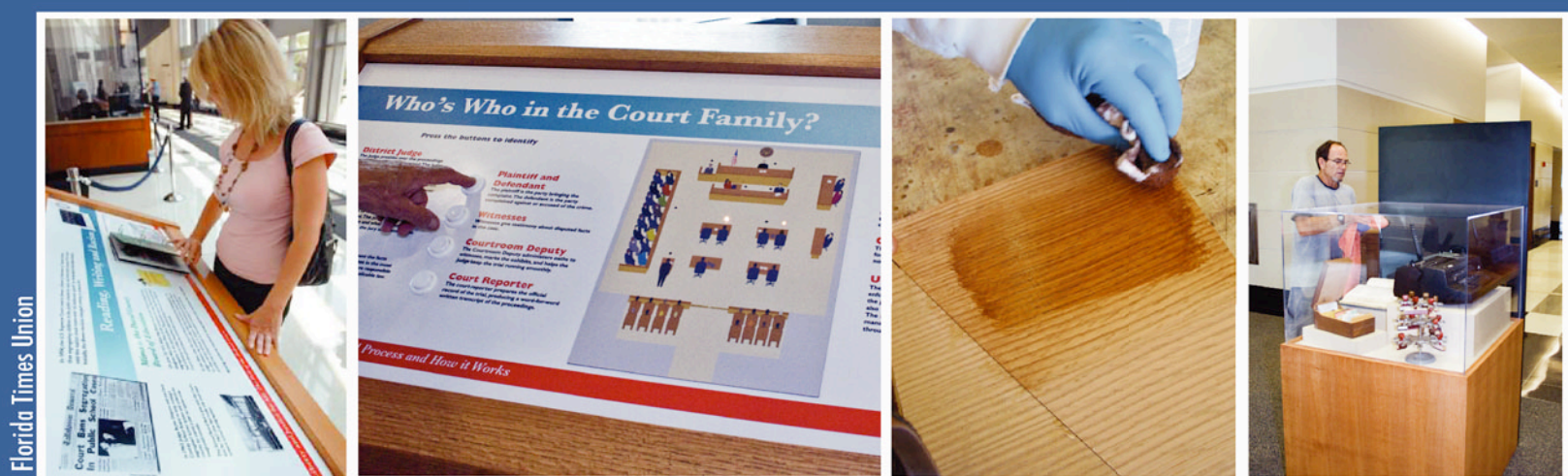
In the South, segregation by race was not just a matter of custom - it was state law. African Americans could not use the same facilities as white people. African Americans could not eat in restaurants, stay in hotels or motels, swim at public beaches, or attend the same schools as white people.

African Americans could not get a drink of water from a public fountain or use the rest rooms in public facilities. Although they could shop in the local stores, African Americans could not sit at the lunch counter. Educational and job opportunities were restricted on the basis of race. State and local police forces as well as the courts enforced these laws, sometimes harshly.

In this environment, encouraged by civil rights demonstrations and federal court decisions, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was passed—nearly 100 years after Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation.

This landmark legislation outlawed segregation in U.S. schools and public places. First conceived to help African Americans, the bill was amended prior to passage to also protect women.

*Separate and Unequal:
The Lengthy Battle for Racial Equality*



Florida Times Union

"Learn More" flip books.... solar-powered matching interactive... match stained oak artifacts from pre-digital times

We have completed the Jacksonville Courthouse and are in the final design for Tampa... on target to finish the five sites by the Middle Districts 50th anniversary in 2012.

These interpretive exhibits are being made possible by the Bench Bar Fund of the Middle District of Florida, U.S. District Court