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Courthouse Fact Sheet

- In a study of 33 Federal courthouses, the GAO found that 3.56 million square feet of extra space was built, costing taxpayers \$835 million in construction costs, plus \$51 million annually in operating costs.
- The GAO cited gross overestimates by the judiciary of projected additional judgeships, a refusal to share courtrooms, and courthouses constructed by the GSA that far exceed the congressionally-approved square footage as reasons for the overruns.
- Each year, the courts develop and submit to Congress a 5-year plan for new courthouse construction, which includes a list of the most critical courthouse construction projects as determined by the Judiciary.
- In 2006, the Judiciary developed a new evaluation process for these projects called the Asset Management Planning (AMP) process.
- Of 12 Federal Courthouse Projects currently on Judiciary's 5-year Plan, none have been assessed by the Judiciary using the new AMP.
- The GAO found that of 12 projects currently on the 5-year plan, 10 fail to meet even the threshold criteria established under the AMP.
- The Judiciary asserts that the 5-year plan represents \$1.1 billion in construction projects.
- The GAO contradicts the Judiciary's assertion and estimates the costs for the construction projects at more than \$3 billion – accounting for total project costs and ongoing rent and operating costs over a 20 year period.

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