

The **Codington County Justice Advisory Committee (CCJAC)** works to provide information and recommendations concerning the county's court and jail space. The perspective of key players in our justice system helps us to understand our specific space needs. The notes below summarize the issues from the perspective of the county prosecutor, or **State's Attorney**

State's Attorney's Office Overview

Staff: Current and Expected Growth

Position	Current	Growth
State's Attorney	1	0
Assistant Attorneys	3	1
Administrative	4	0
Victim Services	1	0

Workload: Annual estimate

- Review ~2,500 cases

- Charge ~1,100 cases
 - ~250 are felonies
 - Drug cases, felony DUIs, aggravated assaults, burglaries, child abuse, sexual assault, homicide.
 - Handled by 2 attorneys; ~125 each.
 - 700-900 charged misdemeanors handled by one attorney.
- Additionally, process ~3,500 to ~5,000 lower misdemeanor cases (e.g. speeding tickets, underage consuming citations, driving citations)

Impact of current work/office space:

Small and cramped

- 4 Attorneys share 2 offices.
 - Part time juvenile attorney shares State's Attorney's office
 - Very difficult to conduct fast-paced work in a discreet and professional manner without a separate office for each attorney.
- No good meeting space.
 - Only available table handles 4 people.
 - Often difficult to conduct professional meetings about sensitive matters.

Lacking security

- No secure entrance to work space
- No secure route between work space and court space

What could be improved in your space?

Accommodate: five attorneys (in individual offices), four staff and a victim witness assistant.

Provide at least one conference room.

Additional conference needs may possibly be met in court area meeting rooms or shared conference rooms.

Address need for secure access between office and court

Impact of the court space:

Must prepare a "stack" of up to 50 jury trials on days when jury courtroom is available.

- Almost impossible for prosecutor to manage
- Difficult to prioritize based on the seriousness of the crime. Usually must prioritize based on how long a case has been pending.
- Backlog grows as caseload rises.
- At times, must seek plea bargain or dismissal simply due to how long cases have been pending

Inability to separate parties during court

- Difficult to separate victims from accused.
- No witness waiting area/room
- No place for private discussions

Lack of handicapped access - Difficult for witnesses and jurors

No meeting rooms in court area (absorbed by 3rd Judicial Court personnel)

- This could meet some of the need for other departments as well
- Lack private meeting space during court proceedings

Lack of secure entry for judicial personnel

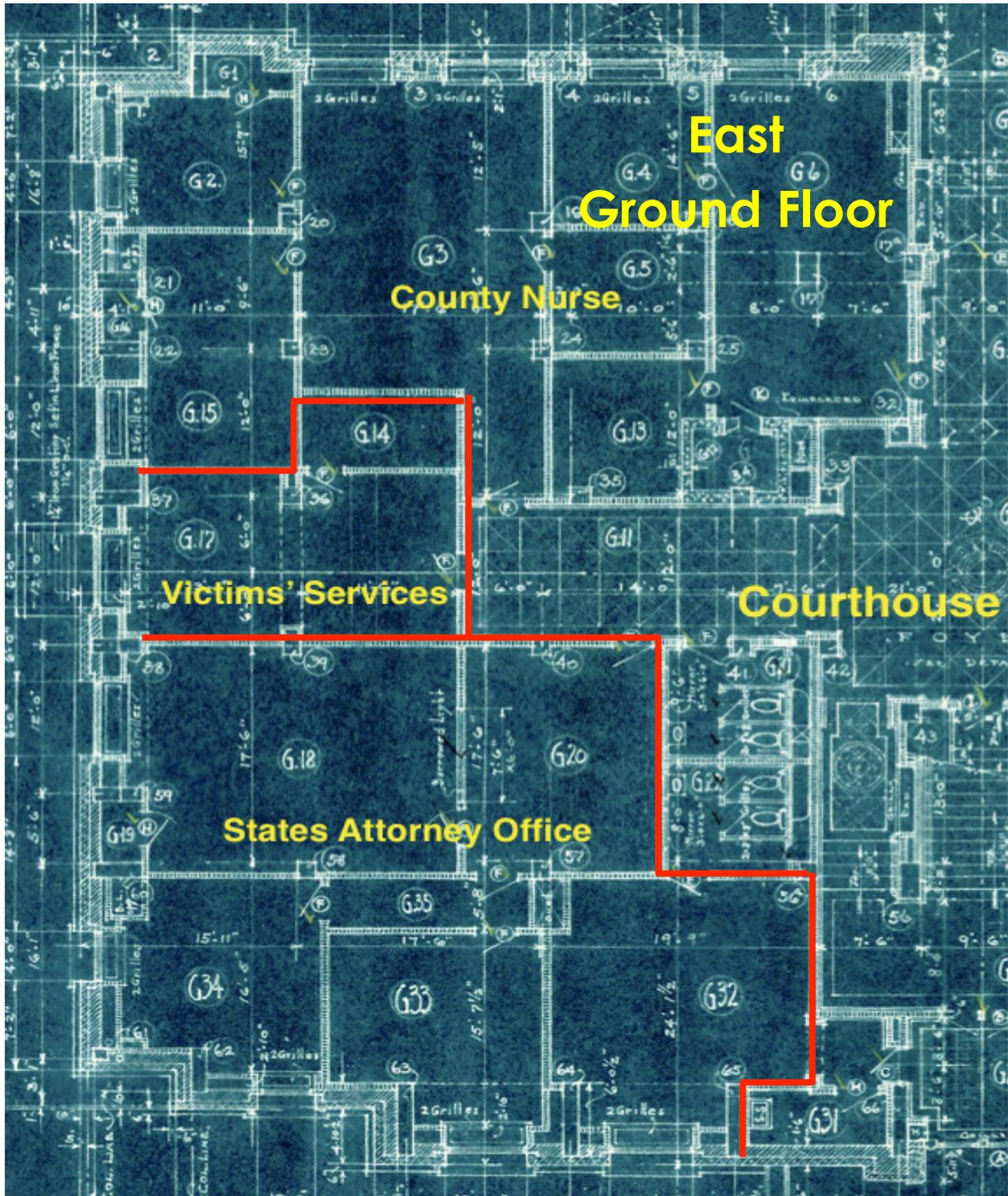
What could be improved in the court space?

More courtrooms

- To answer current and future caseload
- Would allow more appropriate prioritization of cases

Security improvements

Provide for Separation of different parties, both in courtroom and surrounding spaces (e.g. holding cells, attorney client meeting rooms).



Current State's Attorney's Office Floor Plan