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NORR's Courthouse Design Expertise Recognized at International Conference on Justice Design

TORONTO and CALGARY – December 10, 2010 - The Calgary Courts Centre and Ontario's Renfrew County Courthouse were the only Canadian facilities included in the third volume of The Retrospective of Courthouse Design 2001 -2010, and two of only six non-American projects. Published by the National Center for State Courts in Williamsburg, Virginia, this is the only publication in the world dedicated exclusively to courthouse architecture. In addition, The Calgary Courts Centre was singled out for a special citation.

The projects included in the retrospective were officially announced at the Academy of Architecture for Justice Seventh International Conference on Justice Design in Boston, Massachusetts. The collection chronicles the major courthouse design trends of the decade, and illustrates the architectural innovations and solutions sought in addressing evolving judicial needs. There are 95 project examples collected in the publication, featuring a full range of court jurisdictions, including federal, state, local and international courts.

Designed by NORR in partnership with Kasian Architecture and AECOM, the $300 million, 1.1 million square foot Calgary structure is regarded as one of the most advanced courthouses in the world. The American Institute of Architects' Academy of Architecture for Justice Knowledge Community also recognized it with a citation and publication in the Justice Facility Review 2009.

The Renfrew County Courthouse, considered one of the finest courthouses in the country when built in 1866, was expanded and restored to its glory in the NORR-designed renovation and addition project, which consolidated the Superior and Ontario Courts of Justice from four locations into one municipally-owned national heritage courthouse and registry office building.

NORR's Design Principal, David Clusiau explains, "The Canadian justice system is internationally respected and seen as a model for many other countries; and our judiciary understands that architecture can reinforce the role of the courts and enhance society's perception of it, with the creation of effective buildings with an inherent sense of dignity."

In addition to picking up the award at the conference, Clusiau was present as a courthouse design expert in a panel discussion group along with Ministry of Attorney General consultant Julian Jaffrey, and court consultant Ken Jandura. One of the two projects featured in their discussion was the NORR-designed Waterloo Region Consolidated Courthouse, which began construction in March.

That project will consolidate Superior Court of Justice and Ontario Court of Justice services in one facility. Currently, the courts operate from three separate locations.

More...

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Justice is a primary area of expertise for NORR, with more than 35 projects completed at municipal, provincial and federal levels, including the Pembroke and Renfrew County Courthouses and Hamilton's John Sopinka Courthouse. The Pierre Elliott Trudeau Judicial Building on Parliament Hill is yet to be constructed. NORR also developed the Canadian Federal Court Standards.

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