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S. Pearl Freeman, AIA / M.Arch, 1976

Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts

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Alumna Biography

S. Pearl Freeman, AIA
M. ARCH | 1976

SAN BERNARDINO JUSTICE CENTER

OWNER: Judicial Council of California
Manager – Capital Program, S. Pearl Freeman, AIA
ARCHITECT: SOM, Managing Partner, Gene Schnair, FAIA,
Managing Director, Steve Sobel, FAIA

Opened in May 2014, the San Bernardino Justice Center bridges the scales of downtown development to unify the urban fabric, creating a visible landmark for the city while engaging the public with vibrant open space. Situated at the intersection of San Bernardino’s County Government Center and the Downtown City Center, the Justice Center serves as the nexus for the city’s political and economic development and is the first high-rise and base isolated courthouse for the judicial branch of California.

The new building dramatically improves the courts efficiency by consolidating functions that were previously scattered in 13 different facilities across the county. The 161,000 sf facility complements the adjacent historic courthouse and the court facility to create a community with a flexible, modern, and sustainable center for justice. The project consists of an 11-story courtroom tower visible on the skyline, and a linear, three-story podium that holds the street edge. As the feature spaces of the building, the courthouses balance the functional requirements of judicial proceedings with highly refined interiors that reflect the dignity of the Court.

In 2005, she joined the $5 billion capital building program of the Judicial Council of California to provide “access to justice” throughout the state. Pearl is currently Manager of the project management team for 11 projects valued at over $1.6 billion. Her notable achievements for the program include the first courthouse to receive LEED certification (Silver), and the first high-rise courthouse.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The project was led by an Owner/Architect team of three accomplished Washington University graduates: S. Pearl Freeman AIA (M.Arch 1976), of the Judicial Council of California and SOM’s Managing Partner, Gene Schnair FAIA (M.Arch/MBA 1976) and Managing Director, Steven K. Sobel FAIA (M.Arch 1978).