

# NEWS RELEASE

**R. Andrew Murray**  
District Attorney

**February 26, 2013**

## **The DA's Office celebrates history, rededication of the Historic Courthouse**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Mecklenburg County and the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Office celebrated the county's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary today with the rededication of the Historic Courthouse. After years of renovations, the District Attorney's Office has returned to its home in the Historic Courthouse at 700 East Trade Street in Charlotte. Designated as a historic landmark, the courthouse originally opened in 1928 as Mecklenburg County's fifth courthouse. Decades later, when court was no longer held in the building, the Historic Courthouse became office space. From 2009 to 2012, the building underwent extensive renovation. District Attorney Andrew Murray and his staff are thankful for Mecklenburg County's commitment to provide the resources and space needed to work to effectively protect this community.

### **The History of the Historic Courthouse**

In December 1925, the Board of County Commissioners unanimously voted to build a new courthouse, replacing the existing courthouse on South Tryon Street. Louis H. Asbury, a Charlotte architect, was tapped for the project and chose the neoclassical design. The \$1.25 million courthouse – hailed at the time as the “million-dollar temple of justice” by The Charlotte Observer – was completed in 1928.

Located on the fourth and fifth floors of the courthouse was a jail that was in use until the 1960s. By the late 1970s, the building was no longer Mecklenburg County's primary courthouse, but active courtrooms remained until the 1980s. The District Attorney's Office, which was once confined to the third floor, gradually expanded throughout the building as court was being held elsewhere.



Visit [www.cmhpf.org](http://www.cmhpf.org) to read the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission's full report on the Historic Courthouse.

### **The renovation**

Over the years, the Historic Courthouse was periodically renovated to meet the growing needs of the District Attorney's Office, which now prosecutes more than 9,000 felonies and more than 200,000 misdemeanors and traffic offenses every year. But the office space became cramped, and Assistant District Attorneys were often forced to share desks.

The most recent renovation – led by Mecklenburg County Facility Management, Neighboring Concepts and Messer Construction – began in 2009 and was completed in late 2012. The goal of this renovation was to restore the building’s original character. The windows were replaced with windows made to look like the originals, and plasterwork on the ceilings of the former courtrooms was uncovered and repaired. Many of the courthouse’s original features remain, including the Tennessee pink marble lining the walls of the main corridors. Also remaining are more than 20 jail cells on the building’s top levels, which were not part of the renovation and are not in use.

The Historic Courthouse now provides ample space for the District Attorney’s approximately 80 Assistant District Attorneys and 60 support staff, all of whom are dedicated to making Mecklenburg County a safer place to live, work and play.

For more information about the Mecklenburg County Sestercentennial Celebration, visit [www.Mecklenburg250.org](http://www.Mecklenburg250.org).

*Note: For more information about the District Attorney’s Office, visit [www.charmeckda.com](http://www.charmeckda.com). For updates and other information, “like” the DA’s Office on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/charmeckda](http://www.facebook.com/charmeckda) and follow us on Twitter: @CharMeckDA*

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