

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Second Edition of Allegheny County Guidebook Released and Four Courthouse Benches Installed**

Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald announced the second-edition release of a Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation guidebook about the Allegheny County Courthouse & former jail and the installation of four new benches as part of the Courthouse Bench Program.

### **Guidebook**

The second edition of *H. H. Richardson's Allegheny County Courthouse & Jail Guidebook*, by Albert M. Tannler, PHLF's historical collections director, expands upon the original edition, which was published in 2007 and has sold out. This is the fifth in PHLF's series of architectural guidebooks.

The 96-page, illustrated guidebook includes an introduction by Carlton R. Bolton, AIA, principal architect of the County of Allegheny, and is organized as a walking tour around the exterior and within the public areas of the Courthouse and former jail in Downtown Pittsburgh. Its purpose is to help people of all ages appreciate the beauty and significance of Henry Hobson Richardson's Courthouse and former jail, one of only eleven places in Allegheny County to be designated a National Historic Landmark.

Dietrich C. Neumann, professor of the History of Modern Architecture and director of Urban Studies at Brown University, describes the guidebook as: "well designed, clearly organized, and readable. ... The photos, maps, and graphics are also excellent." Visit [www.phlf.org](http://www.phlf.org) and click on Store to purchase the guidebook (\$12.00 plus sales tax).

### **Courthouse Benches**

Four new custom-designed benches have been placed in the hallways and public spaces of the Courthouse as part of the Courthouse Bench Program, initiated in 2003 by the Allegheny County Historic Properties Committee, chaired by PHLF President Arthur Ziegler. The program, carried out by PHLF, was initiated so that inappropriate furniture in public hallways could be replaced with custom-designed benches. As a result, 26 handsome benches now grace the hallways and public spaces of the Courthouse and inappropriate furniture has been removed.

"We are pleased to release the second edition of a guidebook that highlights one of the most

significant architectural landmarks of our city and region, “ said PHLF President, Arthur Ziegler. “The benches enhance the dignity of the Courthouse and we are grateful to the various donors who have supported this program over the years.”

Gifts from many people have funded the construction of the solid White Oak benches featuring mortise-and-tenon construction, hidden dovetails, and a finish that matches the original millwork in the Courthouse. Designed by former County Architect Samuel Taylor, the benches are hand built in Pittsburgh by Wilson & McCracken. The donor’s name, or the name of someone the donor would like to honor, is inscribed on the front of the bench.

The names of the following individuals are carved in the four new benches:

John L. Doherty, Esquire  
Gary B. Zimmerman, Esquire  
Gary G. Gentile, Esquire  
Paul Georg

Three benches were funded by the Allegheny County Bar Association, through the initiative of President Judge Jeffery Manning’s office, in remembrance of the lives and practices of three lawyers, now deceased. One bench was funded by Paul Georg, who is a longtime member of PHLF, a retired manager of the Koppers Building and Conference Center, and a good friend of Judge Raymond Novak, who restored Courtroom 321 in 1988 and has actively supported efforts to beautify and restore the Courthouse since then.