



## **Tampa Courtrooms Get a Needed Face Lift**

**By Hon. Catherine Peek McEwen**

How frequently do you change your carpeting? The Sam M. Gibbons United States Courthouse opened about 23 years ago, in 1997. Time to change the carpet.

Noticing how threadbare and faded the bankruptcy courtrooms' carpeting had gotten—not to mention the body oil stains (which stubbornly defied cleaning) on some of the fabric counsel chairs, one wag observed that it is time for a face lift. We hope you like the new, uniform look, which can be seen in Courtroom 8B. The new interior design continues the sand and black marble palette of the public hallways into the courtrooms, contrary to the dissonance that the original interior design created with its blue accents (which faded to purple in the carpeting over time) and sometimes mismatched burgundy counsel chairs.

The new carpeting is the same as some of the district court courtrooms, including the ceremonial courtroom on the 17th floor, and is done in carpet tiles, which are easier and cheaper to replace if they get dirty or stained. Notice the predominately sand and dark grey threads in the weave along with the more subtle colors to add interest. The galley seat cushions and seat backs are covered with a charcoal and sand-flecked fabric that complements the carpet. The new light-grey counsel chairs match the rear-wall fabric panels and the grey streaks in the marble on the front walls behind the bench. And they are comfy. The back hallways are getting a similar facelift, too, including paint that brightens the formerly dark, drab walls.

We hope you won't be inconvenienced as the updating continues throughout the 8th and 9th floors. Hopefully, the comfy new counsel chairs will make it worthwhile.