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**Contact: Catherine Bakerian
(302) 672-5120
(302) 382-0069 cell**

Markell and Steele Recognize Recent Structural Milestone for Kent County Courthouse Construction

Beam tops off structure and signifies the project's peak

Dover – Governor Jack Markell and Chief Justice Myron T. Steele were joined by state and local officials yesterday to celebrate the most recent structural milestone of the new Kent County Courthouse with the signing and official placement of the topmost beam on the 150,000 square-foot building.

“This capital project is a real investment in Delaware’s future. We are now providing Kent County’s judicial officers and staff with state-of-the-art resources and the space they need to continue their services to those who need them the most,” Markell said. “For a judiciary that is already regarded as one of the finest legal systems in the world, just imagine what the possibilities will be for our judicial leaders and staff when this building is complete and open for business.”

The 20-foot steel beam was decorated with the signatures of more than 50 attendees, representing the Delaware General Assembly, Delaware Judiciary, Kent County Levy Court, the City of Dover, Nason Construction, Moeckel Carbonell Associates and Landmark Engineering. After the ceremony, the beam was moved to the top of the structure and secured in place.

“For centuries, Delaware courts have provided peaceful and fair resolutions to conflict for people throughout the world,” Steele said. “This new courthouse will provide us with the added resources needed to continue our respected tradition of fair and equitable treatment of all those seeking justice in the First State.”

Once complete, the new courthouse will more than triple the size of the existing courthouse and accommodate Superior Court, Court of Commons Pleas, Chancery Court, the Kent County Sheriff, Capitol Police and Department of Correction, as well as Office of the Attorney General, Office of the Public Defender and Office of the Public Guardian. The new courthouse is expected to open in July 2011, with renovations of the historic Kent County Courthouse to begin in the fall of 2011.