MOAKLEY U.S. COURTHOUSE TOURS

Courthouse Tours of the John Joseph Moakley U.S. Courthouse afford the public the opportunity to learn about the court system and the history, art, and architecture of the magnificent building from volunteer docents. The tour demystifies the justice system and shows visitors that courthouses truly belong to the public.

WHEN, WHERE, AND HOW LONG ARE COURTHOUSE TOURS?
Tours are typically held Tuesday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. throughout the year. Groups meet in the Moakley U.S. Courthouse lobby. Walk-in tours are available throughout the summer on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. Each tour is 60 minutes.

WHO IS ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN COURTHOUSE TOURS?
Anyone from fifth grade to life-long learners as well as international groups are welcome to sign up for Courthouse Tours. Group sizes range from 10-30 people.

WHAT DO THE COURTHOUSE TOURS INCLUDE?
During the 60-minute tour, groups will view several points of interest, including the unique “conoid” glass wall overlooking Boston Harbor, the Ellsworth Kelly Boston Panels, the Wall of Honor, a U.S. District Court courtroom, and the First Circuit Library. The tour allows visitors to draw connections between the founding of the federal courts and the art and architecture of the modern courthouse. Visitors are welcome to eat in the public cafeteria overlooking the harbor and/or observe court proceedings.

IS THERE TRAINING FOR THE VOLUNTEER DOCENTS?
Volunteer docents attend a training session (typically an hour) at the Moakley U.S. Courthouse, where they take a guided and detailed Courthouse tour and receive a Docent Manual. Volunteers also shadow experienced docents, and Discovering Justice staff is always available for assistance. Current docents include former educators as well as attorneys; all interested parties are welcome.

For more information about Courthouse Tours, contact Danielle White at 617.748.9639 or dwhite@discoveringjustice.org.