1. 1977 to 1995: Old Lehigh County Courthouse, 501 West Hamilton Street

In 1977, the Court leased 6800 square feet of space at the rear of the second floor of the Old Lehigh County Courthouse at the northwest corner of Fifth and Hamilton Streets for the purpose of establishing federal court facilities in Allentown for the first time. A ceremony to commemorate the opening of the facility was held on December 16, 1977. Federal court was held at the Old Lehigh County Courthouse until the mid-1990's when a new federal courthouse was constructed in Allentown.

The then Chief Judge, Edward N. Cahn, who had been serving the Court from leased space in the Old Lehigh County Courthouse, encouraged the Court to construct a new federal courthouse in Allentown. He was joined in these efforts by the leadership of the Bar Association of Lehigh County and by local community leaders.

The James A. Byrne United States Courthouse in Philadelphia, which was constructed and opened in late 1975, was experiencing overcrowding by the late 1980's and early 1990's. A study was undertaken that suggested that the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, which occupied the top floors of the Byrne Courthouse, should consider relocating to the former United States Courthouse located at Ninth and Market Streets to ease the overcrowding. The Court of Appeals declined to move. This decision accelerated the interest in construction of a new courthouse in Allentown to help alleviate the problem of courthouse overcrowding in Philadelphia.

In the fall of 1992, Congress approved funding for the construction of a federal courthouse in downtown Allentown at the southwest corner of Fifth and Hamilton Streets. A ceremonial groundbreaking for the building was held on November 19, 1993.