



FROM: Preservation League of New York State  
44 Central Avenue  
Albany NY 12206-3002  
[www.preservenys.org](http://www.preservenys.org)

CONTACTS: Colleen M. Ryan, Director of Public Relations  
Preservation League of New York State  
518-462-5658, ext. 17; [cryan@preservenys.org](mailto:cryan@preservenys.org)

Melissa Kuronen, Communications Director  
R.M. Kliment & Frances Halsband Architects  
212-243-7400 x120; [kuronen@kliment-halsband.com](mailto:kuronen@kliment-halsband.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **EXCELLENCE IN PRESERVATION AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

### ***United States Post Office and Courthouse at Cadman Plaza to be honored***

ALBANY, NY – May 1, 2008 – The Preservation League of New York State has selected the **United States Post Office and Courthouse** at Cadman Plaza in Brooklyn to receive its prestigious Excellence in Historic Preservation Award. This statewide awards program recognizes individuals and organizations for demonstrating an outstanding commitment to the preservation of New York State’s irreplaceable architectural heritage.

“The post office and courthouse are the cornerstones of Brooklyn’s civic center and benefited from a sensitive approach to historic preservation balanced with modernization requirements,” said Jay DiLorenzo, President of the Preservation League. “And while the buildings are solidly Richardsonian on the outside, the interior boasts thousands of lighter, elegant features which could have been lost, but were recaptured through careful research and meticulous attention to detail.”

Contributing to the success of this effort were the property owner, U.S. General Services Administration; R.M. Kliment & Frances Halsband Architects; associate architect / historic consultant Wank Adams Slavin Associates; and general contractor Bovis Lend Lease.

Completed in 1892 with a matching extension built in 1933, the building had been the hub of postal and judicial activity in the borough until 1964, when the courts moved across the street. The building was progressively vacated over the years with the exception of a branch post office and some federal document storage, and neglect led to severe deterioration.

“This magnificent public building has now been restored to its rightful place in the urban context of Brooklyn’s civic center,” said Robert Kliment of R.M. Kliment & Frances Halsband Architects. “Wood windows, slate roofs, richly decorated interiors and other significant elements

*(more)*

have been restored, and the U.S. Post Office and Courthouse has been reinstated as a significant formal and functional force, and a welcoming presence on Cadman Plaza.”

The award will be presented at the Preservation League’s Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony in New York City at 6:00 p.m. on **Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>** at the historic **Park Avenue Armory**, 643 Park Avenue.

The complete list of award winners is: Webb Lofts in Buffalo, Erie County; MacNaughton House Stabilization in Newcomb, Essex County; U.S. Post Office & Courthouse, Cadman Plaza, Brooklyn, Kings County; Downtown Revitalization Program, Canajoharie, Montgomery County; Eldridge Street Synagogue, Lower East Side, New York County; Proctors, Schenectady, Schenectady County; Hotel Kirkland, Kingston, Ulster County; Model Development Block, New Rochelle, Westchester County. The Hudson Valley Chapter of the American Society of Home Inspectors will be honored for organizational excellence, and Trude Brown Fitelson of Rochester will be honored for individual excellence. *Preserving New York: Winning the Right to Protect a City’s Landmarks* by Anthony C. Wood (Routledge, 2007) will also receive a special citation.

“Excellence in Preservation Awards are our principal means of honoring the preservation community and educating the public about the important contribution that historic preservation projects make to our quality of life throughout New York State,” said DiLorenzo. “Each year, we are impressed by the number and variety of laudable projects, and this year was no exception. We are delighted to give the restoration, adaptive reuse and expansion of the United States Post Office and Courthouse in Brooklyn the statewide recognition it deserves.”

*The Preservation League’s Excellence in Historic Preservation awards program is funded by a generous grant from the Arthur F. and Alice E. Adams Foundation of Miami, Florida.*

*By leading a statewide preservation movement, sharing information and expertise and raising a unified voice, the Preservation League of New York State promotes historic preservation as a tool to revitalize our neighborhoods and communities, honor our heritage and enrich our lives.*

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