

# 2 Columbus Circle's fate is in the courts

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## The Ticker

Manhattan Supreme Court judge Walter Tolub moved closer to deciding the fate of one of the city's most controversial buildings, holding a hearing yesterday on preservationists' suit to stop the city from selling it.

Admirers of 2 Columbus Circle - Edward Durell Stone's nearly windowless white-marble building - include author Tom Wolfe and artists Frank Stella and Chuck Close. Detractors are eager to have the buyer, the Museum of Arts & Design, rip off the facade and replace it with terra cotta and glass.

Preservationists' attorney Antonia Bryson told the judge the city is justifying the sale with a "bogus" environmental review based on a Landmarks Preservation Commission committee decision that the building's not fit for landmark status. City lawyer Chris Reo said the review was "thorough."

**Lore Croghan**