



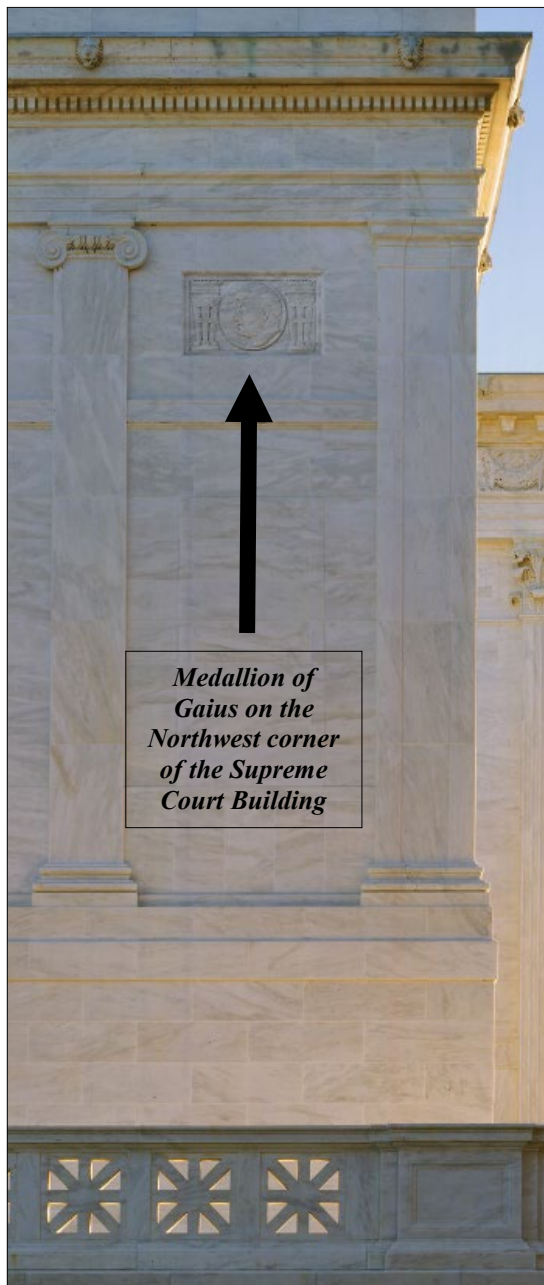
## Reliefs on the Exterior Medallions and the Great Hall Frieze

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### INFORMATION SHEET

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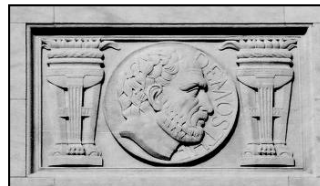
In keeping with its classically inspired Beaux-Arts architectural style, the Supreme Court Building has many decorative elements in its design. Often overlooked are the exterior medallions and the reliefs that adorn the frieze in the Great Hall. The John Donnelly Company designed them under the direction of the architect of the building, Cass Gilbert.



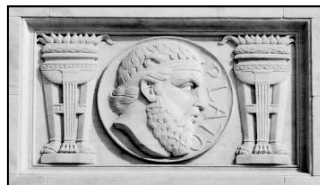
There are eight portrait medallions located at the exterior corners of the building. On the North Façade are **Julian** and **Gaius**, Roman jurists (*below*).



On the East Façade are **Demosthenes** and **Cicero**, early advocates.



On the South Façade **Plato** and **Aristotle**, Greek philosophers.



On the West Façade, facing the U.S. Capitol, are **Hammurabi** and **Moses**, early lawgivers.



The decoration on the frieze of the Great Hall, approximately 40 feet above the floor, is a series of reliefs placed on the metopes between the triglyphs, as seen below.



Cass Gilbert's office identified the subjects of the reliefs and their symbolism (listed below in sequence). The thunderbolts appear twelve times, with the other reliefs repeating eight times.



1. Thunderbolts  
*Power*



2. Minerva  
*Goddess of Wisdom*



3. Armor Suit  
*Trophy of Victory*



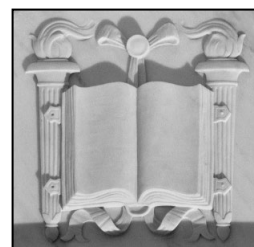
4. Lion's Head & Swords  
*Guardianship*



5. Shield, Sword & Helmet  
*Trophies of Victory*



6. Scales & Lamp  
*Justice and Wisdom*



7. Book & Torches  
*Education and Knowledge*



8. Moses  
*Lawgiver and Seer*



9. Juno  
*Genius of Womanhood and Guardian of Female Sex*



10. Zeus  
*Father of Gods and Men; God of Heavens and Fertility*



11. Mercury  
*Herald and Messenger of the Gods*



12. Solon  
*Athenian Lawgiver and One of Seven Sages of Greece*



13. Solomon  
*Wisdom and Magnificence*



14. Eagle  
*Bird of Freedom; Superiority and Swiftiness*



15. Owl  
*Wisdom and Meditation*