

Symbols of Justice

Symbols of Justice on the building's front plaza

Justice is one of the most recognized symbols in the architecture of the Supreme Court Building. Portraying *Justice* as a female figure dates back to ancient mythology.

Over time, *Justice* became associated with **scales** to represent impartiality and a **sword** to symbolize power. In the 1500s, *Justice* was often portrayed with a **blindfold**. The origin of the blindfold is unclear, but the blindfold is generally accepted today as a symbol of fairness. All of these symbols are shown in the image on the right.

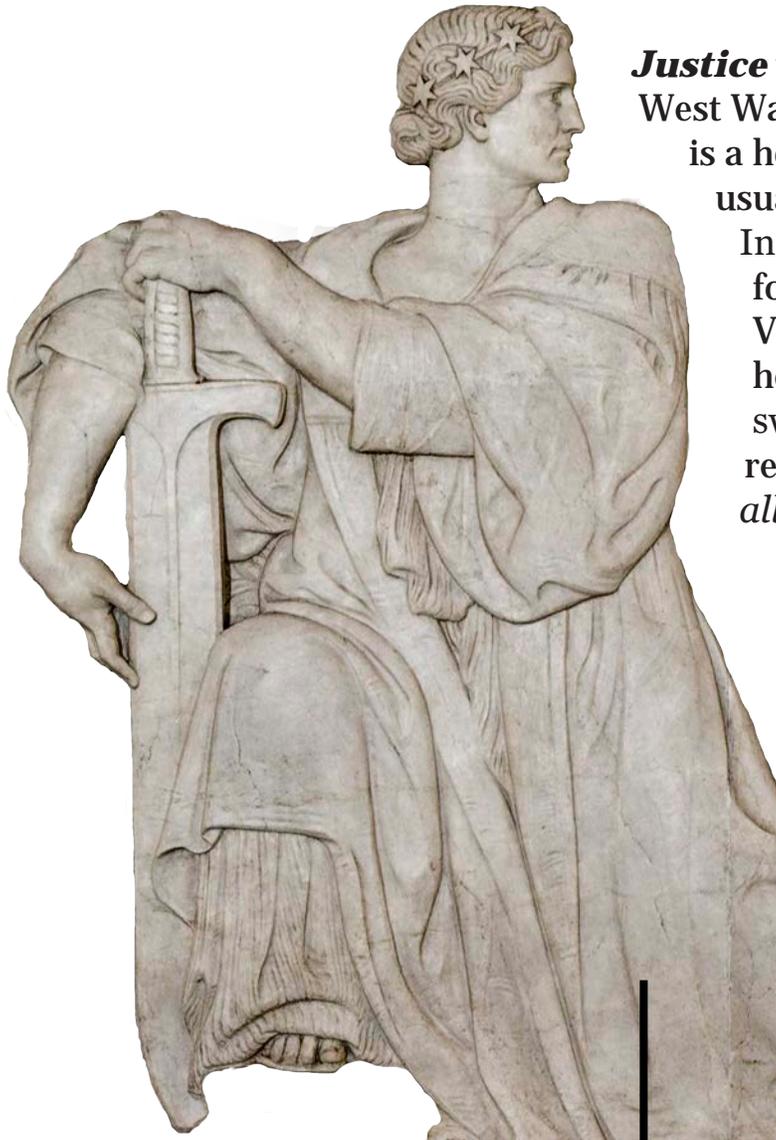


In the *Contemplation of Justice* statue, a seated female figure holds a smaller figure of blindfolded *Justice* in her right hand. Blindfolded *Justice* cradles a set of scales in her arms.



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Symbols of Justice inside the Supreme Court Building



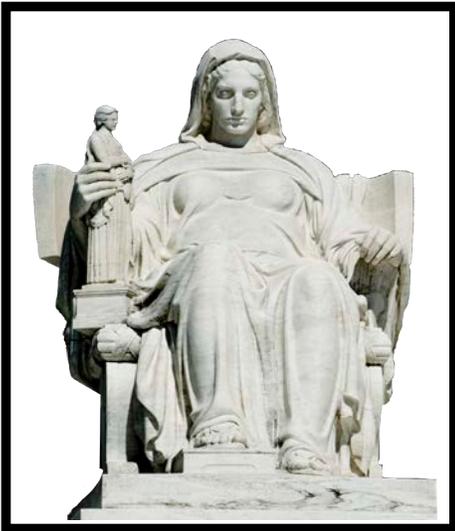
Justice without a blindfold appears in the West Wall Frieze in the Courtroom. A *frieze* is a horizontal band of sculpted decoration usually found on a wall near the ceiling. In this work, a robed *Justice* is the focus of the story of the battle of “Good Versus Evil.” Notice how she rests her hand atop the hilt (handle) of her sword—what do you think *Justice* is ready to do? **Hint:** Follow her gaze all the way to the right.



The West Wall Frieze in the Courtroom

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Answer Key



Contemplation of Justice



Powers of Good



Powers of Evil

A figure representing *Justice*, shown without a blindfold, is ready to use her sword to battle the powers of evil. In the battle between good and evil, *Justice* will help to defeat evil.