

Symbols of Law

What kinds of symbols are used to represent the law?

There are many symbols of law both inside and outside the Supreme Court Building. There are far more symbols than just the ones that appear on this page, but this is a good place to start looking! Can you find these and other examples of symbols of law?



Tablets are often used to represent the concept of law. The imposing, seated male statue *Authority of Law* holds a tablet with the Latin word “LEX” (law) and a sword that represents the power or authority of the law.

Books also appear as symbols representing learning, written knowledge, and judgment. In a few instances, the word “LEX” is carved into the book, making it a symbol for a law book.



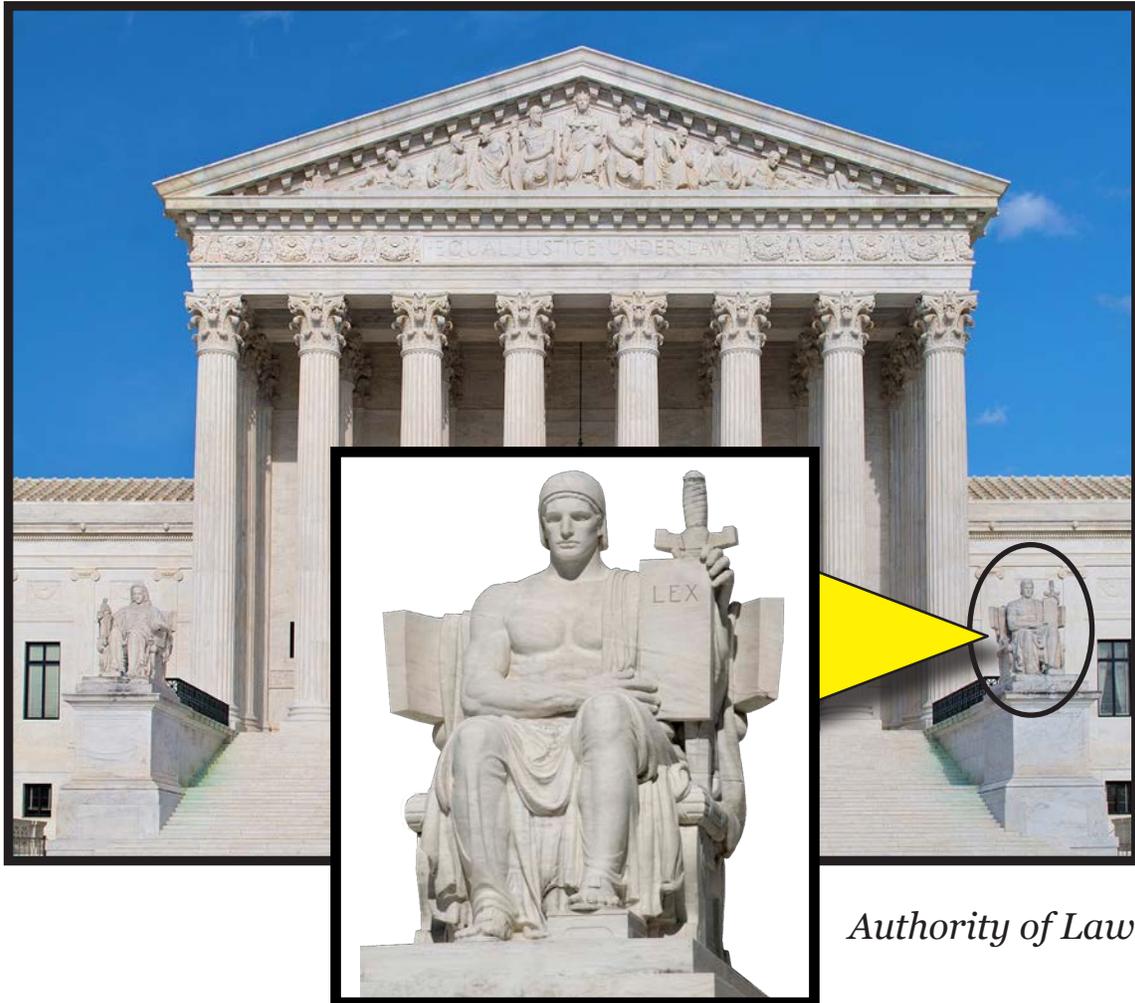
Perhaps the most ancient symbol associated with the law is also one of the most familiar, the **Scales of Justice**. Symbolizing the impartial deliberation, or weighing, of two sides in a legal dispute, scales are found both inside and outside the building.

In the image on the far right, a **lamp** appears between the scales of justice. The lamp is a symbol of wisdom.



Symbols of Law

Answer Key



Authority of Law



Symbols appear on elevator and spiral staircase bronze door frames.



Marble metopes (*meh-toe-pees*), sculpted architectural elements, are located in the Great Hall. (Look up!)