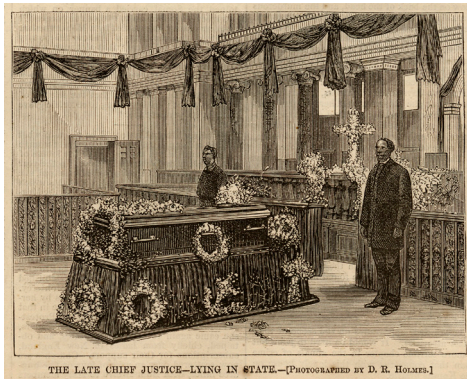




# Draping of the Courtroom and Bench

In accordance with Court tradition, a black drape is hung over the Courtroom doors as a sign of respect and mourning following the death of a Justice. This tradition dates back at least as far as Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase's death in 1873 and has likely been followed for every Justice since then who has died while in active service or during retirement.



*Courtroom draped in black to mourn  
Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase  
Harper's Weekly, June 7, 1873*

The death of a sitting Justice is also recognized by draping the chair and the front of the Bench where the late Justice sat. These signs of mourning are traditionally left in place for 30 days.



*The Courtroom doors draped for Retired  
Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, 2023*



*The Courtroom Bench draped for Chief  
Justice William H. Rehnquist, 2005*



*The Courtroom Bench draped for  
Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, 2020*