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.
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.
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.