



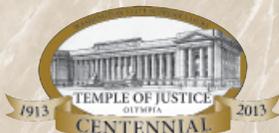
The Temple of Justice

Olympia, Washington

*Designed by architects
Walter Wilder and Harry
White as one of six buildings
in their 1911 winning capitol
campus proposal.*

*First of the capitol group
to be built, the doors of
the Temple of Justice were
opened to the public for the
Governor's Inaugural Ball
on January 15, 1913.*

*Home to the State Supreme
Court since completion 100
years ago, the Temple of
Justice also houses the State
Law Library.*



Justice—Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow
www.courts.wa.gov/templecentennial



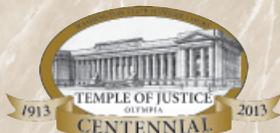
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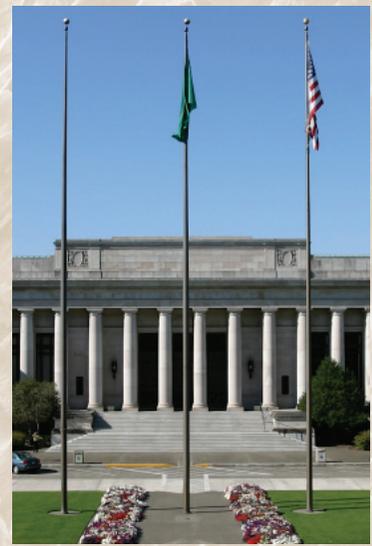
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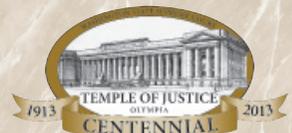
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Fasces

Four chandeliers with symbols of Justice in the metal-work light the Courtroom of the Washington Supreme Court and the State Law Library. An ancient Roman symbol, the word “fasces” means a bundle of rods tied together with a red cord from which an axe projects. One of the symbols appearing with Justitia (Justice) on coins of the emperor, the fasces became an emblem of the authority of Roman government officials. Representing power over life and limb, the fasces made a brutally functional portable kit for flogging and decapitation. The fasces served as a ceremonial symbol of office and of Justice.



TEMPLE OF JUSTICE IN THE STATE CAPITOL GROUP AT OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON



Flaming sword

Four chandeliers with symbols of Justice in the metal-work light the Courtroom of the Washington Supreme Court and the State Law Library. The sword of Justice stands for the power of the Law and, ultimately, the power over life and death. In the biblical book of Genesis, the writer relates that after Adam and Eve were expelled from Eden, God placed a flaming sword to the east of the garden to prevent the disobedient from entering. The sword signifies the visible form of justice, repelling law breakers while protecting the community. The oak leaves and acorns stand for strength and endurance.



TEMPLE OF JUSTICE IN THE STATE CAPITOL GROUP AT OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON



Scales and sword

Four chandeliers with symbols of Justice in the metal-work light the Courtroom of the Washington Supreme Court and the State Law Library. The scales of Justice, a universal symbol for fair and equal treatment, date back to the Babylonians and Egyptians. The upright sword of vengeance within the scales allows Justice to weigh the value of all things in balance. Together they represent the Law’s commitment to judge rationally with impartial deliberation and even-handedness.



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Tablets of the Law

Four chandeliers with symbols of Justice in the metalwork light the Courtroom of the Washington Supreme Court and the State Law Library. Stone tablets signifying the Law come from the story of Moses and the Ten Commandments in the Judeo-Christian tradition. In the book of Exodus, the writer describes Moses descending from Mount Sinai bringing two stone tablets inscribed by God's own hand with the Ten Commandments. The tablets stand for the permanence of ancient laws written in stone. The laurel wreath signifies glory.



TEMPLES OF JUSTICE IN THE STATE CAPITOL GROUP AT OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON



Torch

Four chandeliers with symbols of Justice in the metalwork light the Courtroom of the Washington Supreme Court and the State Law Library. The torch of Justice surrounded by the olive branch of peace symbolizes enlightenment and the rule of law. In the Greek trilogy, the Oresteia, written by Aeschylus in 458 B.C.E, long cycles of personal vendettas and retaliatory violence are replaced with a system of litigation with justice based on evidence and decisions by juries. The torch represents a shift from appeals for divine justice to human justice.



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Winged wheel

Four chandeliers with symbols of Justice in the metalwork light the Courtroom of the Washington Supreme Court and the State Law Library. The winged wheel, as a symbol of justified retribution against evil deeds and arrogance, comes from Greek mythology. The winged goddess Nemesis is the personification of righteous anger and an emblem of moral reverence for the law. The wheel turns, as do the seasons of the year, signifying that one day divine vengeance will punish the guilty. Ash leaves represent the tree from which strong spears are made.



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