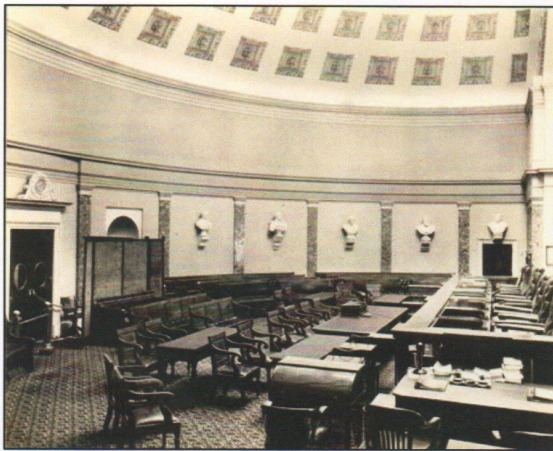


Busts of the Chief Justices

INFORMATION SHEET

In 1831, Congress appropriated funds to have a bust of the Court's first Chief Justice, John Jay, commissioned and placed in the Supreme Court Chamber in the U.S. Capitol. Over the next century, busts of former Chief Justices were added in this manner, eventually lining the walls of the Courtroom when it met in the Old Senate Chamber (*below left*). When the Court moved into its own building in 1935, however, the busts of the first ten Chief Justices remained in place.

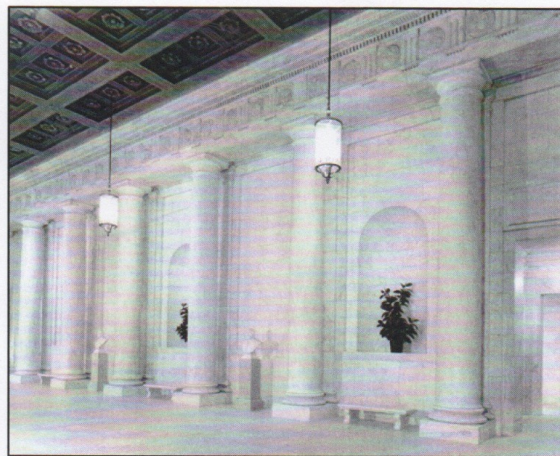


Busts of Chief Justices Jay, Ellsworth, Taney, Waite and White in the Courtroom (Old Senate Chamber).

In the late 1970s, the Court made copy busts of the first four Chief Justices and placed them in the Great Hall. A marble bust of Roger B. Taney, given to the Court by members of the Supreme Court Bar in the mid-1850s, was included. In 1988, the bust of Chief Justice Warren E. Burger was added, having been commissioned with funding provided by the Supreme Court Historical Society. Following the death of Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist in 2005, Congress appropriated funds to procure his bust, which was unveiled in December 2009. Today, marble busts of all sixteen former Chief Justices line the sides of the Great Hall.

Charles Evans Hughes, the first Chief Justice to serve in the Supreme Court Building, presented his marble bust following his retirement in 1947. It was the first one placed in the Great Hall. Congress later appropriated funds for the acquisition of marble busts for Harlan F. Stone (1950), Fred M. Vinson (1957), and Earl Warren (1974).

In the early 1970s, the Old Supreme Court Chamber on the ground floor of the Capitol was restored and only the busts of the first five Chief Justices who presided in the room were reinstalled. The busts of Chief Justices Salmon P. Chase, Morrison R. Waite, Melville W. Fuller, Edward D. White and William H. Taft were then transferred to the Court.



The Great Hall, c. 1973, prior to the addition of the busts of former Chief Justices from the Capitol. The busts of Hughes and Vinson are visible on pedestals.