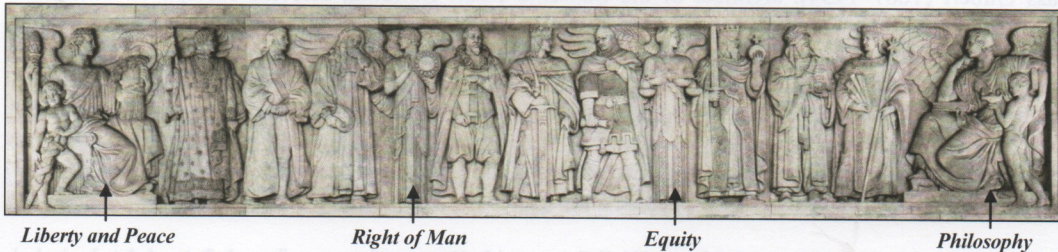


# Courtroom Freizes

## North Portico

The North Wall Frieze proceeds from **right to left**, starting with *Philosophy*:



**Justinian** (c. 483–565) Byzantine Emperor from 527 until his death. He ordered the codification of Roman Law and published *Corpus Juris Civilis*. This work was instrumental in preserving Roman law and encompassed what has become known as the Justinian Code.

**Muhammad** (c. 570–632) The Prophet of Islam. He is depicted holding the Qur'an. The Qur'an provides the primary source of Islamic Law. Prophet Muhammad's teachings explain and implement Qur'anic principles. The figure above is a well-intentioned attempt by the sculptor, Adolph Weinman, to honor Muhammad and it bears no resemblance to Muhammad. Muslims generally have a strong aversion to sculptured or pictured representations of their Prophet.

**Charlemagne** (c. 742–814) or Charles I (the Great). King of the Franks and Roman Emperor. Charlemagne was reportedly an avid student who became an eloquent speaker of several languages and supported learning and literature throughout his realm. Under his leadership, most of Western Europe was united by 804 becoming the foundation for the Holy Roman Empire. He was also a reformer of legal, judicial, and military systems.

**King John** (1166–1216) born John Lackland. King of England from 1199 until his death. His policies and taxation caused his barons to force him to have his seal affixed to the Magna Carta. This document, depicted in the frieze as a scrolled document in King John's hand, is regarded as the foundation of constitutional liberty in England.

**Louis IX** (c. 1214–1270) King of France who was canonized as St. Louis in 1297. He led the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Crusades and created the first court of appeals known as the "Curia Regis" or "King's Court."

**Hugo Grotius** (1583–1645) or Huig de Groot. Dutch scholar, lawyer, and statesman. He is depicted holding *De jure belli ac pacis* (*Concerning the Law of War and Peace*), one of the first books on international law, which he wrote in 1625.

**Sir William Blackstone** (1723–1780) English law professor and jurist. He wrote *Commentaries on the Law of England* (1765–1769), which has had a major influence on English and American Law.

**John Marshall** (1755–1835) Fourth Chief Justice of the United States, from 1801 to 1835. His 1803 opinion in *Marbury v. Madison* stated that the Supreme Court of the United States had the authority to determine the constitutionality of a law, establishing the power of judicial review for the Court.

**Napoleon** (1769–1821) Emperor of France from 1804 to 1815. He ordered and directed the recodification of French Law into what became known as the Code Napoleon or Civil Code. Published in 1804, this code formed the basis for modern civil law. Napoleon, at St. Helena, is reported to have said, "My glory is not to have won forty battles; for Waterloo's defeat will destroy the memory of as many victories. But what nothing will destroy, what will live eternally, is my Civil Code."

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**Office of the Curator • Supreme Court of the United States**

*All photographs from the Collection of the Supreme Court of the United States unless otherwise noted.*