

LAW VERSUS MOB RULE



1937
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D C

John Steuart Curry (1897-1946) was born in Dunavant, Kansas, and taught at the Arts Students League in New York. In 1936, he became an artist in residence at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. His paintings can be found in several major museum collections. Curry also completed New Deal commissions for the Interior Department. Along with Thomas Hart Benton and Grant Wood, Curry ranks prominently among American Regionalist painters.



COURTESY ARCHIVE OF THE JOHN STEUART CURRY

LAW VERSUS MOB RULE JUSTICE OF THE PLAINS: THE MOVEMENT WESTWARD

JOHN STEUART CURRY

Law Versus Mob Rule and *Justice of the Plains: The Movement Westward*, lunette murals in the entrance to the Department of Justice library, show the random administration of justice in pioneer communities and the dangers of lawlessness. In *Law Versus Mob Rule*, Justice appears as a black-robed judge defying a lynch mob to illustrate the law's protective authority and to caution against vigilantism. In *Justice of the Plains: The Movement Westward* outlaws flee before the advancing civilization of pioneers.

SHOWN ABOVE:
DETAIL FROM LAW VERSUS MOB RULE
SHOWN BELOW:
DETAIL FROM JUSTICE OF THE PLAINS:
THE MOVEMENT WESTWARD

