

# IMAGES OF JUSTICE



THE LAW  
EDWIN HOWLAND BLASHFIELD  
1911  
HOWARD METZENBAUM U.S. COURTHOUSE  
CLEVELAND, OHIO

Since its founding, the United States government has recognized the power of architecture and art to convey the authority of the law in a democracy. Our courthouses and federal buildings reflect the nation's dignity and stability, and their monumental art works signify the ideals of justice in American society.

Art created for federal buildings has been a vital American tradition for more than 150 years, since Congress commissioned artists such as Thomas Crawford, Horatio Greenough, and Constantino Brumidi to create paintings and sculptures for the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. The Public Buildings Service (PBS) of the General Services Administration (GSA) proudly continues this legacy by commissioning fine art for federal buildings and United States courthouses nationwide.



EDWIN HOWLAND BLASHFIELD  
(1848-1936) WAS DEEMED BY  
HIS PEERS AS THE DEAN OF  
AMERICAN MURAL PAINTERS.  
COURTESY: HOWLAND MUSEUM

These *Images of Justice* have evolved alongside American culture: from the heroic allegorical figures in the Beaux-Arts style of the late 19th century; to the Art Deco forms of the 1930s New Deal programs; to the bold icons of the Great Society era of the mid-20th century; and to the diverse expressions of contemporary architects and artists today through the Design Excellence and Art in Architecture Programs.

BEAUX ARTS    NEW DEAL    GREAT SOCIETY    ART IN ARCHITECTURE