



A Symbol of Justice

Lady Justice and the objects she carries are ancient symbols for fair and equal treatment under law. Similar images date to ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and Rome. Today, many countries around the world recognize Lady Justice as a symbol for their courts.

Lady Justice's sword shows authority, including the power to punish injustice. It also implies being able to cut through obstacles to get to the facts of a case.

The balance (scales) represent weighing facts and evidence to decide a verdict. It also shows her duty to restore balance to society.

Although many people think of Lady Justice as wearing a blindfold, she can also be shown without one. Both versions highlight her impartiality. As in the phrase "justice is blind," the blindfold implies that she does not judge on appearance. Equally, examples like this statue (left) suggest that she uses her mind and all her senses to do justice.

Lady Justice, also known as *Justitia*, is the namesake for this newsletter.

In the Learning Center gallery she appears without a blindfold (left).

Her image on the seal of the Michigan Supreme Court (right) includes a blindfold.



More About Symbols

[Symbols of the Judicial Branch](#) (video at bottom of page), Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center

- [Lady Justice Worksheet](#)
- [Robe & Gavel Worksheet](#)

