

symbols of the law

symbols of the law are powerful representations that embody justice, authority, and the guiding principles of legal systems worldwide. From ancient civilizations to modern courtrooms, these symbols play a crucial role in shaping public perception of law and order. They are not only found in legal literature and architecture but also influence cultural attitudes towards fairness and morality. This comprehensive article explores the most iconic symbols of the law, their origins, meanings, and significance across different cultures. Readers will discover why symbols like the scales of justice, the gavel, Lady Justice, and others have become enduring emblems of legal authority. The article also examines how these symbols are used today in legal institutions, their psychological impact, and their relevance in contemporary society. Whether you are a law student, legal professional, or simply curious about the visual language of justice, this guide offers valuable insights into the world of legal symbolism.

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Origins and History of Legal Symbols

Symbols of the law have deep historical roots, often dating back to ancient civilizations where justice and order were essential for societal stability. Early societies used symbolic representations to convey authority and enforce laws, from the codes of Hammurabi in Babylon to the Roman fasces, a bundle of rods symbolizing power and jurisdiction. Over centuries, legal symbols evolved as societies changed, adapting to new cultures and legal

philosophies. These emblems became a visual shorthand for complex legal concepts, providing clarity in communication and reinforcing the legitimacy of legal institutions.

The development of legal symbols has always been intertwined with the advancement of legal systems. Ancient Greeks and Romans, for example, introduced figures and objects that would become iconic representations of law. As legal systems expanded globally, these symbols were refined and adopted by diverse cultures, reflecting local traditions while maintaining universal messages of justice and fairness.

Iconic Symbols of the Law

Some symbols of the law are immediately recognized and associated with justice, authority, and legal proceedings. These iconic images serve as visual anchors in courtrooms, legal documents, and even popular culture. Their enduring presence highlights the importance of symbolism in legal practice and public life.

Scales of Justice

The scales of justice represent impartiality and the balancing of evidence in legal disputes. This symbol is often held by Lady Justice, signifying the fair and unbiased weighing of facts. The scales remind all participants in the legal process that decisions must be based on balanced, objective consideration of all sides.

Lady Justice

Lady Justice, often depicted blindfolded and holding scales and a sword, is the personification of law and fairness. She traces her origins to Roman and Greek mythology, embodying the ideals of equality, impartiality, and moral integrity. Her iconic image graces courthouses and legal literature worldwide.

The Gavel

The gavel is a symbol of authority and the power of the judiciary. Used by judges to call order, render decisions, and signify the commencement or adjournment of court proceedings, the gavel represents the rule of law and judicial control.

Law Books and Scrolls

Books, scrolls, and tablets are symbols of written law, representing the codification of statutes, precedents, and legal principles. These objects emphasize the role of recorded law in maintaining order and consistency within society.

Columns and Courthouse Architecture

Architectural elements like columns, pediments, and domes often symbolize stability, strength, and the enduring nature of justice. Courthouses are intentionally designed to evoke respect and authority, reinforcing the seriousness of legal proceedings.

- Scales of Justice: Impartiality and fairness
- Lady Justice: Moral integrity and equality
- Gavel: Judicial authority
- Law Books/Scrolls: Codified statutes and precedent
- Columns/Architecture: Stability and permanence

Lady Justice: The Personification of Law

Lady Justice is perhaps the most universally recognized symbol of the law. Inspired by Roman goddess Justitia and Greek goddess Themis, she embodies the virtues essential to legal practice. Her blindfold signifies impartiality, ensuring that decisions are made without favoritism or prejudice. The scales she carries represent the weighing of evidence, while the sword highlights the power to enforce judgments.

This figure appears in statues, paintings, and legal literature throughout the world. Lady Justice's imagery serves as a constant reminder of the ideals that legal professionals strive to uphold. Her symbolism is not confined to one culture, making her an enduring icon of law and justice.

The Scales of Justice and Their Meaning

The scales of justice are central to legal symbolism, expressing the importance of fairness and equality before the law. Their balanced design illustrates the need to consider all evidence and arguments equally. This symbol is often used in courtrooms, legal logos, and educational materials to communicate the principle that justice must be served without bias.

Balanced scales also reflect the adversarial nature of legal proceedings, where both sides must present their case for evaluation. This image reinforces the idea that the law seeks equilibrium, striving to resolve disputes equitably and protect individual rights.

The Gavel: Authority in the Courtroom

The gavel is a practical tool and a symbolic object in legal settings. Its use by judges signifies order and authority, marking the start and end of court sessions and confirming rulings. The sound of the gavel commands attention, reminding participants of the solemnity and seriousness of legal proceedings.

Beyond the courtroom, the gavel is also used in legislative assemblies and meetings, representing procedural control and decision-making. As a legal symbol, it conveys the power and responsibility of those who administer justice.

Books, Scrolls, and Tablets: Written Law Symbols

Written symbols such as books, scrolls, and tablets have long represented the codification of law. These objects are associated with the recording and preservation of legal codes, statutes, and judicial opinions. Their presence in legal iconography asserts the importance of precedent, consistency, and transparency in the justice system.

In historical contexts, stone tablets like the Ten Commandments or the Code of Hammurabi symbolize laws handed down from higher authorities. Today, law books and legal documents continue to serve as vital references for legal professionals and the public.

Other Prominent Legal Symbols

Beyond the most famous symbols, the law is represented by various other emblems that carry historical and cultural significance. These symbols often

appear in official seals, national emblems, and legal institutions around the world.

Fasces

The fasces, a bundle of rods bound together with an axe, dates back to ancient Rome and symbolizes authority, unity, and the power to enforce law. It appears in government seals and judicial imagery, signifying collective strength and the capacity to maintain order.

Columns and Pillars

Columns and pillars are recurring motifs in legal architecture, standing for stability, integrity, and the enduring nature of legal principles. These structures evoke a sense of permanence, suggesting that the law remains constant through changing times.

Olive Branch

The olive branch is a symbol of peace and reconciliation, often associated with legal settlements and the resolution of disputes. Its use in legal imagery highlights the law's role in fostering harmony and resolving conflicts amicably.

The Role of Legal Symbols in Modern Society

Legal symbols continue to play a vital role in contemporary society, shaping public perceptions of justice and influencing the behavior of legal professionals. They are featured in courtrooms, government buildings, educational materials, and media representations of law. These symbols help communicate complex legal ideals in a simple and accessible manner, bridging the gap between legal theory and public understanding.

In branding, legal symbols are used by law firms, courts, and advocacy organizations to convey trustworthiness, expertise, and authority. Their psychological impact is significant, instilling confidence in legal processes and reminding society of the principles that underlie the rule of law.

As societies evolve, so do the ways in which legal symbols are interpreted and used. While their core meanings remain consistent, new adaptations reflect changing legal values and cultural contexts.

Conclusion

Symbols of the law are more than decorative elements; they are vital tools for communicating the values, principles, and authority of legal systems. From ancient fasces to modern gavels, each symbol carries historical significance and helps define the practice of law. Their enduring presence in legal institutions and public spaces underscores the importance of justice, fairness, and order in society. By understanding these symbols, one gains deeper insight into the foundations and evolution of legal tradition.

Q: What is the most recognized symbol of the law worldwide?

A: The most recognized symbol of the law is Lady Justice, often depicted blindfolded and holding scales and a sword, representing impartiality, fairness, and moral integrity.

Q: Why are the scales of justice important in legal symbolism?

A: The scales of justice symbolize the balancing of evidence and impartiality in the legal process, reminding everyone that decisions must be based on objective evaluation of all sides.

Q: What does the gavel represent in a courtroom?

A: The gavel represents judicial authority, order, and the power to render decisions in legal proceedings, signifying control and the finality of rulings.

Q: How do books and scrolls serve as symbols of the law?

A: Books and scrolls symbolize the codification of statutes, legal precedents, and principles, emphasizing the importance of written law in maintaining order and consistency.

Q: What is the historical origin of Lady Justice?

A: Lady Justice originated from Roman goddess Justitia and Greek goddess Themis, embodying the virtues of fairness, equality, and impartiality in the administration of law.

Q: Why is Lady Justice often shown wearing a blindfold?

A: The blindfold on Lady Justice signifies impartiality, indicating that justice should be served without favoritism, bias, or prejudice.

Q: What does the fasces symbolize in legal tradition?

A: The fasces symbolizes authority, unity, and the power to enforce law, with roots in ancient Rome where it represented the collective strength of the magistracy.

Q: How are legal symbols used in modern society?

A: Legal symbols are used in courtrooms, government buildings, legal branding, and educational materials to communicate trustworthiness, authority, and the core values of justice.

Q: What architectural elements are commonly associated with legal institutions?

A: Columns, pillars, and pediments are architectural elements frequently found in legal institutions, symbolizing stability, strength, and the enduring nature of the law.

Q: Are legal symbols the same in every culture?

A: While many legal symbols have universal meanings, such as the scales of justice and Lady Justice, some symbols vary by culture and reflect local legal traditions and values.

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Symbols of the Law: Unveiling the Powerful Imagery of Justice

Ever wondered about the captivating imagery associated with the legal world? From ancient scales to modern gavels, symbols of the law hold deep historical significance and continue to represent powerful concepts of justice, fairness, and authority. This comprehensive guide delves into the rich history and meaning behind some of the most prominent symbols, offering insights into their evolution and enduring relevance in legal systems worldwide. We'll explore their visual representation and unpack the deeper philosophical and cultural meanings embedded within them. Prepare to unlock the secrets behind the iconic imagery that shapes our perception of law and justice.

H2: The Scales of Justice: Weighing the Evidence

One of the most universally recognized symbols of the law is the scales of justice, often depicted as a balanced set of scales held by a blindfolded figure (usually Lady Justice). The scales represent the impartial weighing of evidence and arguments in a legal proceeding. The balance signifies the pursuit of objectivity and fairness, ensuring that decisions are made based on merit rather than bias.

H3: The Blindfold: A Symbol of Impartiality

The blindfold worn by Lady Justice is equally significant. It symbolizes impartiality and the unbiased nature of justice. It signifies that justice should be blind to factors such as wealth, social status, race, or gender, ensuring everyone is treated equally under the law. This ideal, while not always perfectly achieved in reality, remains a cornerstone of legal systems striving for fairness.

H4: The Significance of Balance

The precarious balance of the scales highlights the delicate nature of justice. A slight imbalance can tip the scales, leading to an unfair or unjust outcome. This visual representation emphasizes the importance of meticulous consideration of all evidence and arguments before a judgment is reached.

H2: The Sword of Justice: The Power of the Law

Often paired with the scales, the sword represents the power and authority of the law. It signifies the enforcement of judgments and the ability of the legal system to mete out punishment for wrongdoing. The sword isn't merely a symbol of brute force; it represents the strength and decisiveness required to uphold justice.

H3: The Double-Edged Nature of Power

The sword's double-edged blade subtly suggests the dual nature of legal power: the ability to protect the innocent and punish the guilty. It's a reminder that the power of the law must be wielded responsibly and ethically, always striving to strike a balance between the need for punishment and the preservation of fundamental rights.

H2: The Gavel: Order in the Court

The gavel, a small but powerful symbol, represents the authority of the judge or presiding officer in a courtroom. Its sharp rap signifies the commencement and conclusion of proceedings, the maintenance of order, and the finality of legal decisions. The gavel's impact visually reinforces the authority and power vested in the legal system to control the proceedings and make binding judgments.

H3: Beyond the Courtroom

While primarily associated with court proceedings, the gavel's symbolism extends beyond the courtroom. It represents order, decision-making, and the ability to make definitive pronouncements, making it relevant in various contexts where authority and finality are required.

H2: The Bundle of Rods (Fasces): Strength Through Unity

This ancient Roman symbol, a bundle of rods bound together with an axe, represents the collective strength and power of the state. The individual rods represent the citizens, while the axe symbolizes the power of the state to enforce its laws. This symbol emphasizes the principle that a strong legal system relies on the cooperation and unity of its citizens. It serves as a visual reminder that the law's power derives from the people it governs.

H3: A Symbol of Collective Power

The Fasces highlight the power of unity and cooperation in achieving justice. It demonstrates that the legal system is not an isolated entity but rather a reflection of the collective will of the society it serves.

H2: The Lion: Courage and Strength in Justice

In some legal systems, the lion symbolizes courage, strength, and the unwavering pursuit of justice. Its regal presence conveys the importance of standing up for what is right, even in the face of adversity. The lion's strength and fierceness represent the resilience required to defend justice and ensure the law is upheld.

Conclusion

The symbols of the law are more than just decorative elements; they are powerful visual representations of fundamental legal principles. From the scales of justice to the gavel, each symbol carries a rich history and profound meaning, continuing to shape our understanding of law and its role in society. By understanding these symbols, we gain a deeper appreciation for the ideals and aspirations that underpin the legal systems around the world.

FAQs

1. Why is Lady Justice often depicted blindfolded? The blindfold symbolizes impartiality, ensuring justice is blind to factors like wealth, race, or social status.
2. What does the sword of justice represent? The sword represents the power and authority of the law to enforce judgments and punish wrongdoing.
3. What is the significance of the bundle of rods (Fasces)? It symbolizes the collective strength and unity of the state and its citizens in upholding the law.
4. Why is the gavel important in legal proceedings? The gavel represents the authority of the judge and signifies the commencement, conclusion, and authority of legal proceedings.
5. Are these symbols universally used across all legal systems? While many are widely recognized,

specific symbols and their interpretations can vary slightly across different cultures and jurisdictions.

symbols of the law: Law and Language Harold J. Berman, 2013-08-08 Completed in 1964, Harold J. Berman's long-lost tract shows how properly negotiated, translated and formalised legal language is essential to fostering peace and understanding within local and international communities. Exemplifying interdisciplinary and comparative legal scholarship long before they were fashionable, it is a fascinating prequel to Berman's monumental Law and Revolution series. It also anticipates many of the main themes of the modern movements of law, language and ethics. In his Introduction, John Witte, Jr, a student and colleague of Berman, contextualises the text within the development of Berman's legal thought and in the evolution of interdisciplinary legal studies. He has also pieced together some of the missing sections from Berman's other early writings and provided notes and critical apparatus throughout. An Afterword by Tibor Várady, another student and colleague of Berman, illustrates via modern cases the wisdom and utility of Berman's theories of law, language and community.

symbols of the law: Law and the Wearing of Religious Symbols in Europe Erica Howard, 2019-09-23 Written in accessible language, this book provides a comprehensive analysis of a topical subject that is being widely debated across Europe. The work presents an overview of emerging case law from the European Court of Human Rights and the Court of Justice of the European Union, as well as from national courts and equality bodies in European countries, on the wearing of religious symbols in public spaces. The author persuasively argues that bans on the wearing of religious symbols constitutes a breach of an individual's human rights and contravene existing anti-discrimination legislation. Fully updated to take account of recent case law, this second edition has been expanded to consider bans in public spaces more generally, including employment, an area where some of the recent developments have taken place.

symbols of the law: LAWS, LANGUAGE and LIFE Howard Hunt Pattee, Joanna Rączaszek-Leonardi, 2012-12-09 Howard Pattee is a physicist who for many years has taken his own path in studying the physics of symbols, which is now a foundation for biosemiotics. By extending von Neumann's logical requirements for self-replication, to the physical requirements of symbolic instruction at the molecular level, he concludes that a form of quantum measurement is necessary for life. He explains why all non-dynamic symbolic and informational controls act as special (allosteric) constraints on dynamical systems. Pattee also points out that symbols do not exist in isolation but in coordinated symbol systems we call languages. Such insights turn out to be necessary to situate biosemiotics as an objective scientific endeavor. By proposing a way to relate quiescent symbolic constraints to dynamics, Pattee's work builds a bridge between physical, biological, and psychological models that are based on dynamical systems theory. Pattee's work awakes new interest in cognitive scientists, where his recognition of the necessary separation—the epistemic cut—between the subject and object provides a basis for a complementary third way of relating the purely symbolic, computational models of cognition and the purely dynamic, non-representational models. This selection of Pattee's papers also addresses several other fields, including hierarchy theory, artificial life, self-organization, complexity theory, and the complementary epistemologies of the physical and biological sciences.

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peace. This will enable you to achieve any dream you may have, unrealistic as it may seem in your view, despite any obstacle that may stand in your way. It all begins with learning how to control the fear, conceit, anger, and arrogance that exist within you, which will lead you to peace. Once you reach peace, you can live in security and make all your dreams come true. The learnings of this book have been proven to be effective by its authors who have applied them themselves as well as on thousands of others, achieving extraordinary results, which have become their own current reality. Nothing is impossible in this universe. Those who refuse to learn something new are the ones who make it impossible.

symbols of the law: United States Code United States, 2013 The United States Code is the official codification of the general and permanent laws of the United States of America. The Code was first published in 1926, and a new edition of the code has been published every six years since 1934. The 2012 edition of the Code incorporates laws enacted through the One Hundred Twelfth Congress, Second Session, the last of which was signed by the President on January 15, 2013. It does not include laws of the One Hundred Thirteenth Congress, First Session, enacted between January 2, 2013, the date it convened, and January 15, 2013. By statutory authority this edition may be cited U.S.C. 2012 ed. As adopted in 1926, the Code established prima facie the general and permanent laws of the United States. The underlying statutes reprinted in the Code remained in effect and controlled over the Code in case of any discrepancy. In 1947, Congress began enacting individual titles of the Code into positive law. When a title is enacted into positive law, the underlying statutes are repealed and the title then becomes legal evidence of the law. Currently, 26 of the 51 titles in the Code have been so enacted. These are identified in the table of titles near the beginning of each volume. The Law Revision Counsel of the House of Representatives continues to prepare legislation pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 285b to enact the remainder of the Code, on a title-by-title basis, into positive law. The 2012 edition of the Code was prepared and published under the supervision of Ralph V. Seep, Law Revision Counsel. Grateful acknowledgment is made of the contributions by all who helped in this work, particularly the staffs of the Office of the Law Revision Counsel and the Government Printing Office--Preface.

symbols of the law: Symbols of Law Åke Viberg, 2021-12-03 This analysis deals with Old Testament law in the form of legal symbolic acts, defined as non-verbal acts which fulfil a legal function when performed under the proper circumstances and when the legal function is different from the physical result of the act. Legal symbolic acts belong to customary law. Since the customary law of ancient Israel is not as well-known as the codified law, these acts provide important information regarding the customary law of ancient Israel. Legal symbolic acts are also conventional, i.e., they are not so much dependent upon their performance for their meaning as upon the general agreement attached to the acts by those who form the surrounding socio-cultural context. This invites a contextual approach to the texts in which the acts are described. Such a contextual approach also restricts the use of comparative material to an illustrative function. Only when the literary context cannot be used to conclude whether it is a case of a legal symbolic act or not, will the comparative material be used in a further, explanatory sense. The analysis focuses on the three aspects of performance, legal function, and historical explanation, and includes the following acts: raising the hand, shaking the hand, putting the hand under the thigh, walking through a divided animal, sharing a meal, piercing the ear of a slave, anointing the head with oil, grasping the horns of the altar, transferring the mantle, covering a woman with the mantle, removing the sandal, and putting a child on the knees.

symbols of the law: *Basic Facts about Trademarks* , 1988-08

symbols of the law: Made Men Antonio Nicaso, Marcel Danesi, 2013-07-05 The novel *The Godfather* (1969) and the movie of the same name (1972) entrenched the myth of the Mafiosi as valiant knights, men of honor, and defenders of the traditional concept of family. As a result of this movie and other popular portrayals, the image of mobsters as “men of honor and tradition” has become iconic throughout America. Yet the truth of the matter belies this more noble image. The Mafia is a ruthless organization. Their concept of family is a twisted one. But viewed through the

lens of popular culture, it is often difficult to separate the fiction from the reality. *Made Men* demystifies this image by dismantling the code of honor that Mafiosi live by, including its attendant symbols, rituals, and the lifestyle that it demands. Since the end of World War II, the Mafia in Italy and America has undergone major changes, which are charted by the authors through the present day. Nicaso and Danesi also consider all kinds of related organizations, not only the Italian ones, including the Yakuza, the Triads, and the Russian Mafia. The authors look at organized criminal culture in general, attempting to explain why its symbols, rituals, and practices continue to draw people in, both as literal members, or as consumers of the pop culture that glorifies them. This story traces and decodes the origins, history and success of the mafia in the U.S., bringing a better, and more accurate understanding of this ultimately brutal, violent, and corrupting "family business." It is a story that has rarely been told in this way, but which is believed, nonetheless, important to tell.

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symbols of the law: *Quantities, Units and Symbols in Physical Chemistry* International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry. Physical and Biophysical Chemistry Division, 2007 Prepared by the IUPAC Physical Chemistry Division this definitive manual, now in its third edition, is designed to improve the exchange of scientific information among the readers in different disciplines and across different nations. This book has been systematically brought up to date and new sections added to reflect the increasing volume of scientific literature and terminology and expressions being used. The Third Edition reflects the experience of the contributors with the previous editions and the comments and feedback have been integrated into this essential resource. This edition has been compiled in machine-readable form and will be available online.

symbols of the law: *Law and the Wearing of Religious Symbols* Erica Howard, 2013-05-05 Written in accessible language, *Law and the Wearing of Religious Symbols* is a comprehensive analysis of a topical subject that is being widely debated across Europe. The book provides an overview of emerging case law from the European Court of Human Rights as well as from national courts and equality bodies in European countries on the wearing of religious symbols in educational settings. The author persuasively argues that bans on the wearing of religious symbols in educational institutions in Europe constitutes a breach of an individual's human rights and contravenes existing anti-discrimination legislation. The book offers a discussion of developments in Europe, including the French ban on Islamic head scarves which came into force in April 2011. In addition to an in depth examination of recent bans, the book also assess the arguments used for imposing them as well as the legal claims that can potentially be made to challenge their validity. In doing this, the book will go beyond merely analysing the bans in place to suggest ways in which educational institutions can most fairly respond to requests for accommodation of the wearing of religious symbols and whether perhaps the adoption of other provisions or measures are necessary in order to improve the present situation. This book will be of particular interest to students and academics in the disciplines of law, human rights, political science, sociology and education, but will also be of considerable value to policy makers and educators as well.

symbols of the law: *The Law Is a White Dog - How Legal Rituals Make and Unmake Persons* Colin Dayan, 2013-03-03 A fascinating account of how the law determines or dismantles identity and personhood Abused dogs, prisoners tortured in Guantánamo and supermax facilities, or slaves killed by the state—all are deprived of personhood through legal acts. Such deprivations have recurred

throughout history, and the law sustains these terrors and banishments even as it upholds the civil order. Examining such troubling cases, *The Law Is a White Dog* tackles key societal questions: How does the law construct our identities? How do its rules and sanctions make or unmake persons? And how do the supposedly rational claims of the law define marginal entities, both natural and supernatural, including ghosts, dogs, slaves, terrorist suspects, and felons? Reading the language, allusions, and symbols of legal discourse, and bridging distinctions between the human and nonhuman, Colin Dayan looks at how the law disfigures individuals and animals, and how slavery, punishment, and torture create unforeseen effects in our daily lives. Moving seamlessly across genres and disciplines, Dayan considers legal practices and spiritual beliefs from medieval England, the North American colonies, and the Caribbean that have survived in our legal discourse, and she explores the civil deaths of felons and slaves through lawful repression. Tracing the legacy of slavery in the United States in the structures of the contemporary American prison system and in the administrative detention of ghostly supermax facilities, she also demonstrates how contemporary jurisprudence regarding cruel and unusual punishment prepared the way for abuses in Abu Ghraib and Guantánamo. Using conventional historical and legal sources to answer unconventional questions, *The Law Is a White Dog* illuminates stark truths about civil society's ability to marginalize, exclude, and dehumanize.

symbols of the law: *The Materiality of Text – Placement, Perception, and Presence of Inscribed Texts in Classical Antiquity*, 2018-10-22 Written by an international cast of experts, *The Materiality of Text* showcases a wide range of innovative methodologies from ancient history, literary studies, epigraphy, and art history and provides a multi-disciplinary perspective on the physicality of writing in antiquity. The contributions focus on epigraphic texts in order to gauge questions of their placement, presence, and perception: starting with an analysis of the forms of writing and its perception as an act of physical and cultural intervention, the volume moves on to consider the texts' ubiquity and strategic positioning within epigraphic, literary, and architectural spaces. The contributors rethink modern assumptions about the processes of writing and reading and establish novel ways of thinking about the physical forms of ancient texts.

symbols of the law: *Clash of Symbols* Stephen Webb, 2018-01-09 From the ampersat and amersand, via smileys and runes to the ubiquitous presence of mathematical and other symbols in sciences and technology: both old and modern documents abound with many familiar as well as lesser known characters, symbols and other glyphs. Yet, who would be readily able to answer any question like: 'who chose π to represent the ratio of a circle's diameter to its circumference?' or 'what's the reasoning behind having a ⌘ key on my computer keyboard?' This book is precisely for those who have always asked themselves this sort of questions. So, here are the stories behind one hundred glyphs, the book being evenly divided into five parts, with each featuring 20 symbols. Part 1, called Character sketches, looks at some of the glyphs we use in writing. Part 2, called Signs of the times, discusses some glyphs used in politics, religion, and other areas of everyday life. Some of these symbols are common; others are used only rarely. Some are modern inventions; others, which seem contemporary, can be traced back many hundreds of years. Part 3, called Signs and wonders, explores some of the symbols people have developed for use in describing the heavens. These are some of the most visually striking glyphs in the book, and many of them date back to ancient times. Nevertheless their use — at least in professional arenas — is diminishing. Part 4, called It's Greek to me, examines some symbols used in various branches of science. A number of these symbols are employed routinely by professional scientists and are also familiar to the general public; others are no longer applied in a serious fashion by anyone — but the reader might still meet them, from time to time, in older works. The final part of the book, Meaningless marks on paper, looks at some of the characters used in mathematics, the history of which one can easily appreciate with only a basic knowledge of mathematics. There are obviously countless others symbols. In recent years the computing industry has developed Unicode and it currently contains more than 135 000 entries. This book would like to encourage the curious reader to take a stroll through Unicode, to meet many characters that will delight the eye and, researching their history, to gain some fascinating insights.

symbols of the law: The Wisconsin Blue Book , 1909

symbols of the law: Religious Symbols and the Intervention of the Law Sylvie Bacquet, 2019-06-11 In contemporary pluralist states, where faith communities live together, different religious symbols and practices have to coexist. This may lead to conflicts between certain minority practices and the dominant majority, particularly around the manifestation of belief in the public domain which may be seen both by the religious and secular majorities as a threat to their cultural heritage or against the secular values of the host country. The law has to mitigate those tensions in order to protect the public from harm and preserve order but in doing so, it may where necessary have to limit citizens' ability to freely manifest their religion. It is those limitations that have been disputed in the courts on grounds of freedom of religion and belief. Religious symbols are often at the heart of legal battles, with courts called upon to consider the lawfulness of banning or restricting certain symbols or practices. This book analyses the relationship between the state, individuals and religious symbols, considering the three main forms of religious expression, symbols that believers wear on their body, symbols in the public space such as religious edifices and rituals that believers perform as a manifestation of their faith. The book looks comparatively at legal responses in England, the U.S.A and France comparing different approaches to the issues of symbols in the public sphere and their interaction with the law. The book considers religious manifestation as a social phenomenon taking a multidisciplinary approach to the question mixing elements of the anthropology, history and sociology of religion in order to provide some context and examine how this could help inform the law.

symbols of the law: The Call of the Wild Weekly #2 Jack London, 2016-01-08 Jack London's The Call of the Wild has been broken down into several books. In this series, there will be a book for every chapter. This is Weekly #2, which is the 2nd chapter (The Law of Club and Fang) of The Call of the Wild. Be sure to look for your favorite chapters from this classic story. The Call of the Wild, set in the late 1800s, takes the reader on an interesting adventure during the 1890s Klondike Gold Rush. Enjoy London's imagination as you discover what life was like for an in-demand dog during those times and how this dog responded to the challenges laid before him.

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symbols of the law: On Tyranny Timothy Snyder, 2017-02-28 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • A "bracing" (Vox) guide for surviving and resisting America's turn towards authoritarianism, from "a rising public intellectual unafraid to make bold connections between past and present" (The New York Times) "Timothy Snyder reasons with unparalleled clarity, throwing the past and future into sharp relief. He has written the rare kind of book that can be read in one sitting but will keep you coming back to help regain your bearings."—Masha Gessen The Founding Fathers

tried to protect us from the threat they knew, the tyranny that overcame ancient democracy. Today, our political order faces new threats, not unlike the totalitarianism of the twentieth century. We are no wiser than the Europeans who saw democracy yield to fascism, Nazism, or communism. Our one advantage is that we might learn from their experience. On Tyranny is a call to arms and a guide to resistance, with invaluable ideas for how we can preserve our freedoms in the uncertain years to come.

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Howe Prize “The gripping story of the most important environmental law case ever decided by the Supreme Court.” —Scott Turow “In the tradition of *A Civil Action*, this book makes a compelling story of the court fight that paved the way for regulating the emissions now overheating the planet. It offers a poignant reminder of how far we’ve come—and how far we still must go.” —Bill McKibben, author of *The End of Nature* On an unseasonably warm October morning, an idealistic young lawyer working on a shoestring budget for an environmental organization no one had heard of hand-delivered a petition to the Environmental Protection Agency, asking it to restrict greenhouse gas emissions from new cars. The Clean Air Act authorized the EPA to regulate “any air pollutant” thought to endanger public health. But could carbon dioxide really be considered a harmful pollutant? And even if the EPA had the authority to regulate emissions, could it be forced to do so? *The Rule of Five* tells the dramatic story of how Joe Mendelson and the band of lawyers who joined him carried his case all the way to the Supreme Court. It reveals how accident, infighting, luck, superb lawyering, politics, and the arcane practices of the Supreme Court collided to produce a legal miracle. The final ruling in *Massachusetts v. EPA*, by a razor-thin 5–4 margin brilliantly crafted by Justice John Paul Stevens, paved the way to important environmental safeguards which the Trump administration fought hard to unravel and many now seek to expand. “There’s no better book if you want to understand the past, present, and future of environmental litigation.” —Elizabeth Kolbert, author of *The Sixth Extinction* “A riveting story, beautifully told.” —*Foreign Affairs* “Wonderful...A master class in how the Supreme Court works and, more broadly, how major cases navigate through the legal system.” —*Science*

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symbols of the law: *Oxford English Dictionary* John A. Simpson, 2002-04-18 The Oxford English Dictionary is the internationally recognized authority on the evolution of the English language from 1150 to the present day. The Dictionary defines over 500,000 words, making it an unsurpassed guide to the meaning, pronunciation, and history of the English language. This new upgrade version of The Oxford English Dictionary Second Edition on CD-ROM offers unparalleled access to the world's most important reference work for the English language. The text of this version has been augmented with the inclusion of the Oxford English Dictionary Additions Series (Volumes 1-3), published in 1993 and 1997, the Bibliography to the Second Edition, and other ancillary material. System requirements: PC with minimum 200 MHz Pentium-class processor; 32 MB RAM (64 MB recommended); 16-speed CD-ROM drive (32-speed recommended); Windows 95, 98, Me, NT, 2000, or XP (Local administrator rights are required to install and open the OED for the first time on a PC running Windows NT 4 and to install and run the OED on Windows 2000 and XP); 1.1 GB hard disk space to run the OED from the CD-ROM and 1.7 GB to install the CD-ROM to the hard disk: SVGA monitor: 800 x 600 pixels: 16-bit (64k, high color) setting recommended. Please note: for the upgrade, installation requires the use of the OED CD-ROM v2.0.

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