

## Tour of the Courtrooms of the Iowa Supreme Court and the Iowa Court of Appeals



The courtroom for the Iowa Supreme Court is housed on the fourth floor of the new Judicial Branch Building. This imposing courtroom has seating for 66 people. The courtroom is decorated with a barrel-vaulted, coffered ceiling, a colonnade along the north and south walls, and marble wainscoting.



The cherry bench with panels decorated with an abstract Roman cross design sits in front of a massive marble wall. The room is fully equipped with video cameras for recording and broadcasting court proceedings.



Murals that once decorated the ceiling of the Supreme Court courtroom in the Capitol, now hang in the Judicial Branch Building. “Justice and Peace” are depicted seated together on a throne atop of clouds. Justice holds a scale in one hand and a sword in her other hand, poised ready to strike. Peace, holding a palm frond looks on serenely. In the upper right corner, a Zeus-like figure is ready to cast down lightning bolts.



On either side of the large mural are two genii, a cherubic looking child called “a genius” - a guardian spirit in Roman mythology. One is working metal and the other is weaving a basket.



In the room where the court conducts its monthly conference is an ancient wooden coat rack. It is still in use during the robing process. Its eight double rounded circles were carefully crafted to receive that many overcoats and top hats. The coat rack is presently used to hold the justices/robes.



One pre-original piece of furniture is a writing chair used by Charles Mason, the first chief justice of the territorial supreme court in Iowa City. It is on display in the clerk of court's office on first floor.



The third floor houses the nine-member Iowa Court of Appeals. The stately courtroom has seating for 40 people. It has coffered ceilings, and cherry paneled columns and walls. Although the court of appeals usually hears cases in panels of three judges, the cherry bench can accommodate up to five judges. The room is fully equipped with video cameras for recording and broadcasting court proceedings.



Four small murals containing the genii are located in the courtroom. Three of the genii are engaged in agricultural tasks: one is harvesting potatoes, another is shearing sheep, and a third is binding grain. A fourth is near a plow. These paintings encircled a larger "Ceres" mural when it was in the Capitol.

