

# Inside the Pa. Capitol Supreme Court Courtroom

The Pa. Supreme Court hears cases in three historic courtrooms – the Philadelphia Courtroom in City Hall, the Pittsburgh Courtroom in the City County Building and the Harrisburg Courtroom in the state Capitol building.

Gracing the walls of the Capitol Supreme Court chamber in Harrisburg are 16 beautiful murals, painted by renowned Philadelphia artist, **Violet Oakley**.

Violet Oakley, just 29 years old at the time she was commissioned in 1902, was the first American woman to receive a public mural commission.

She devoted 25 years of her life to painting 43 murals in the Pennsylvania Capitol that were unveiled in May 1927.

The Supreme Court murals tell a story by tracing the evolution of the law. Many believe the Supreme Court murals are among Oakley's most original and noteworthy creations.

Violet Oakley hoped that the art in this courtroom would inspire judges, lawyers and citizens to a higher set of principles in administering justice.



*"Supreme Court of Pennsylvania"*



*"Divine Law" – Violet Oakley described this piece as the alpha and omega, the beginning and end, of her Supreme Court collection. Above the green globe of the earth, the face of Truth looms in the background, half-concealed, half-revealed.*

