

# JURISPRUDENCE



1912  
HOWARD METZENBAUM U.S. COURTHOUSE  
CLEVELAND OHIO

**Daniel Chester French** (1850-1931) was born in Exeter, New Hampshire and spent part of his youth in Concord, Massachusetts. French studied briefly at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology before deciding to pursue sculpture. The town of Concord gave French his first commission, *The Minuteman*, at age 23. That success led French to study in Florence, Italy until 1876.

Throughout his career as America's pre-eminent architectural sculptor, French completed more than 250 federal, municipal, and private commissions. He is best known for his sculpture of Abraham Lincoln, completed for the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. in 1922.



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*Jurisprudence* and its complement, *Commerce*, adorn the façade of the Howard Metzenbaum United States Courthouse in Cleveland, Ohio. The heroic white marble sculptures on 10-foot-tall granite plinths emerged from the neoclassical Beaux-Arts movement of the late 19th century. *Jurisprudence* sits upon a throne, holding a tablet marked "LEX" (Latin for "law") and engraved with its attributes: justice, equity, ability, wisdom, piety, security, liberty, firmness, honesty, and trust. The mother and child on her right represent protection under the law. The man in chains to her left symbolizes the law's wrath.

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