



Local schoolchildren visit the courthouse to learn about the Judicial Branch and the justice sayings in collaboration with the California Civic Learning Project.

## SELECTING THE QUOTES

In 2010, when the North Butte County Courthouse was in its planning and development stage, the judicial officers, architect, and court administrators decided to include quotes about justice throughout the stone corridors.

Since the courthouse's completion and dedication ceremony in March 2015, the public has been welcome to explore the halls of the building and view these "justice sayings".

The judicial officers voted as a group to select these 75 meaningful phrases. The quotes are intended to evoke a spirit of civic engagement, to educate about the heritage of the justice system, and to inspire passion about the justice system.

This guide contains some historical context for a sample of the diverse selection of quotes. Butte County Superior Court welcomes you to use this brochure to guide your visit to the courthouse.

Socrates said that "Nothing is to be preferred above justice" (quote 16). The extent to which members of various disciplines have engaged in discussions of justice and human rights supports this philosopher's sentiment. One example of a versatile thinker is Blaise Pascal, an enlightenment-era teenage prodigy most well-known for his contributions to math and science, including Pascal's law of pressure and the foundations for modern probability theory. However, Pascal's logical thought process central to his major projects bled into his auxiliary pursuits, like writing treatises on philosophy, as is evident in quote 29. Other dexterous minds in this group were less directly engaged in the philosophy of justice than Pascal, but made equally important observations. From playwrights (like Friedrich Schiller, quote 39) to saints (St. Augustine, quotes 26 and 45), these individuals remind us the ways that activity inside the courtroom affects society and culture, and vice versa.

**"QUARRELS WOULD NOT LAST LONG IF THE FAULT WERE ON ONE SIDE ONLY." – LA ROCHEFOUCAULD**

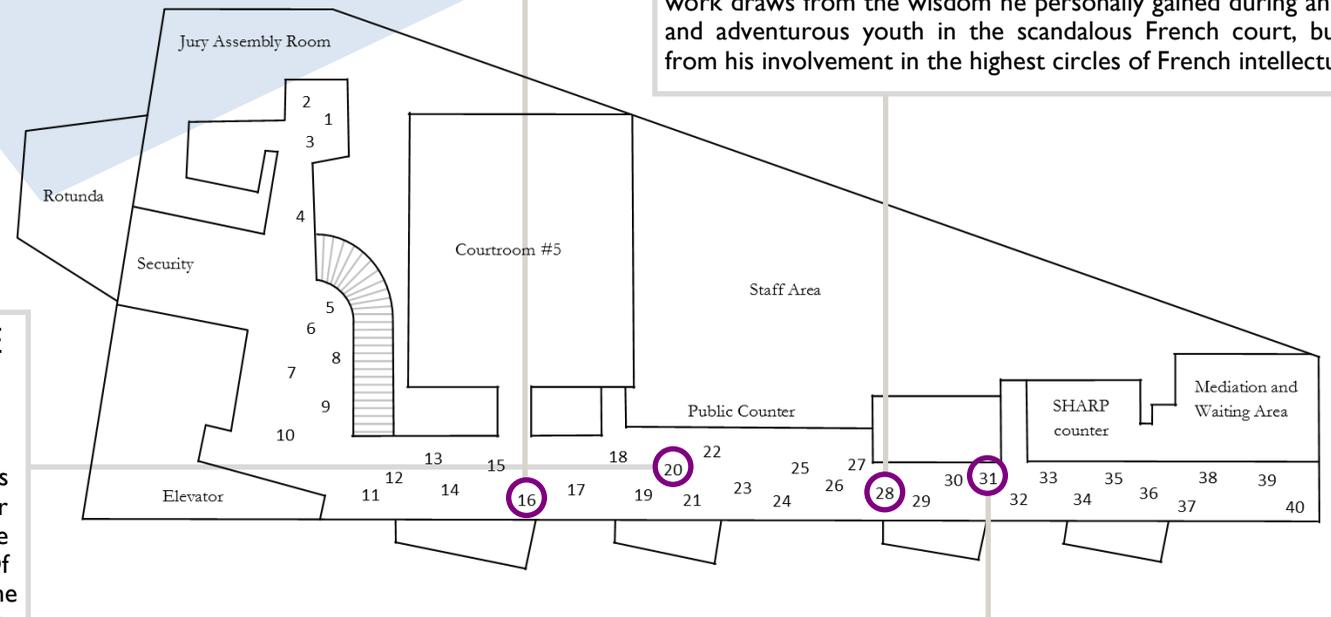
François VI, Duc de la Rochefoucauld, Prince de Marcillac was a noted French author of maxims and memoirs. This maxim, number 498 in his book *Reflections* (1665-1678), relates to the need for a third party in disputes, since both sides are often at fault. La Rouchefoucauld was sent to the army at the age of nine; he was married, had involved himself with Louis XIII's mistress, and was imprisoned in the Bastille Prison by the age of twenty three. Later, after fighting for the French army during a civil war, La Rouchefoucauld suffered a severe head injury (even temporarily losing vision) and spent the rest of his days writing. His celebrated work draws from the wisdom he personally gained during an active and adventurous youth in the scandalous French court, but also from his involvement in the highest circles of French intellectuals.

THE COURT IS A PLACE OF BUSINESS.  
PLEASE BE RESPECTFUL OF OTHERS' PRIVACY. DO NOT LOITER, BLOCK ENTRYWAYS, OR CREATE EXCESSIVE NOISE AS YOU EXPLORE THE COURTHOUSE.

**"JUSTICE IS THE CROWNING GLORY OF THE VIRTUES."**

**MARCUS TULLIUS CICERO**

Marcus Tullius Cicero (106-43 BC) was Rome's greatest orator and a prolific writer of philosophy, politics, and rhetoric. He wrote this in his essay *De Officiis* (Of Duties), which explains his ideas about the best ways to live and be moral. Cicero wrote the essay in the last year of his life, and includes criticism of the recently overthrown dictator Julius Caesar. His belief in the importance of both moral and political standards for individuals in public office has been cited by authors ranging from St. Augustine to Voltaire. *De Officiis* was the second book in history, after the Gutenberg Bible, to be printed after the invention of the printing press.



**"WHERE LAW ENDS TYRANNY BEGINS." JOHN LOCKE, 1689**

John Locke, English philosopher and political theorist stated this idea in his 1689 work, *Two Treatises of Government*. Locke, founder of empiricism in England, wrote his treatises to advocate for the ascension of William of Orange to the English throne after the Glorious Revolution of 1688. As a result of the publication of these pieces, he was thrown in to exile, despite never formally claiming authorship of his work. His work was not appreciated until the 1760s, when politicians (including the author of *Robinson Crusoe*, Daniel DeFoe) began to cite him in governmental proceedings. However, Locke's work was most historically influential as a guiding document for America's Founding Fathers during the American Revolution. Thomas Jefferson even commented that he thought Locke was one of the greatest men to have ever lived. His work, as demonstrated in this quote, promoted the idea that reason ought to be the guiding principle of government to create order and peace among men.

FIRST FLOOR

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS BROCHURE OR THE SOURCES FOR THE INFORMATION IT CONTAINS, PLEASE CONTACT COURT ADMINISTRATION.

## LAYOUT OF THE QUOTES

After the judicial officers at Butte County Superior Court selected 75 quotes, they created a thematic design for their placement in the courthouse. On the first floor on the west side of the building are selections from documents of importance, including the Talmud, Magna Carta, Declaration of Independence, and Preamble to the Constitution. Further into the building toward the east side, the tiles are then organized in order of developmental thought.

On the second floor, quotes from leaders or social reform thinkers are interspersed with the Maxims of Jurisprudence, from the California Civil Code. There were thirty-seven of these maxims established in 1872 by the State of California, and are not necessarily law but (according the preamble) meant to “aid in its just application.” The maxims are most often used in appellate decisions to reinforce a decision or by lawyers involved in cases without clear statutory guidelines.

**“CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME, AND JUSTICE BEGINS NEXT DOOR.”**

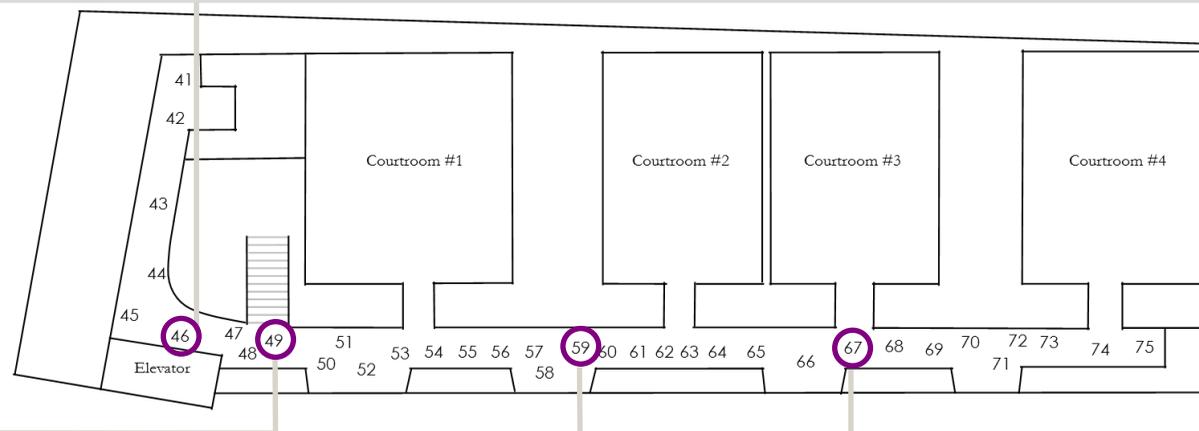
**CHARLES DICKENS, 1844**

Charles Dickens, the most widely read Victorian novelist, included these words of wisdom in his 1844 serialized novel, *The Life and Adventures of Martin Chuzzlewit*. Dickens, though British, set this novel in the United States soon after he traveled there. As a result, the plot contains some important criticism of mid-19th century America. Montague Tigg, the character who voices this quote, is a sleazy, self-made business man who is no lofty idealist when it comes to realities of justice in antebellum America.

**“THAT IT IS BETTER 100 GUILTY PERSONS SHOULD ESCAPE THAN THAT ONE INNOCENT PERSON SHOULD SUFFER.”**

**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN**

Benjamin Franklin, an American Founding Father, expressed this maxim in his publication *Poor Richard’s Almanack*. These works included a collection of local wisdom from the thirteen colonies, and Franklin sold over 10,000 issues annually over the course of about twenty-five years. However, the sentiment Franklin expresses in this quote stems from a tradition of theory behind the concept of innocence. First recorded in the Bible, when Abraham questions God’s destruction of the city of Sodom, the value of innocence can be traced through religious scripts, including the New Testament and Islamic texts. In American history, Increase Mather adopted this pretext to protest the Salem Witch Trials and wrote, “It were better that Ten Suspected Witches should escape, than that one Innocent Person should be Condemned.” The most widely known publication of this idea was written by Sir William Blackstone, who compiled texts on British common law. In fact, it is now known as Blackstone’s Formulation. The idea that protecting the innocent is more important than punishing the guilty is a value deeply entrenched within America’s founding documents, as it was expressed by Franklin and cited by others, such as John Adams, to protect the rights of individuals.



**“WE ASK JUSTICE, WE ASK EQUALITY, WE ASK THAT ALL CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS THAT BELONG TO THE CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES BE GUARANTEED TO US AND OUR DAUGHTERS FOREVER.”**

**SUSAN B. ANTHONY, 1876**

Susan Brownell Anthony was a social reformer who crusaded against slavery, advocated for the temperance movement, and was a leader in the cause for women’s suffrage. This particular demand for equal rights originates from the Declaration of Rights of the Women of the United States by the National Woman Suffrage Association, July 4, 1876, written by Anthony and other notable suffragists. This document was presented at the celebration of the United States centennial at the World’s Fair. It resembles the original Declaration of Independence, as it lists female citizens’ grievances against the U.S. government, just as the Founding Fathers had proclaimed against England. Anthony visited her friend Annie Bidwell in Chico in 1906.

**“INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS A THREAT TO JUSTICE EVERYWHERE.”**

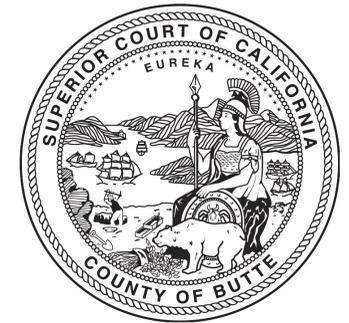
**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

Martin Luther King, Jr. included this declaration in his *Letter from a Birmingham Jail*, dated April 16, 1963. He wrote the letter while imprisoned after participating in a non-violent protest against segregation and as a response to the writings of white conservative religious leaders in the South. Since this was his 13th arrest, King was only released after President John F. Kennedy intervened on his behalf. Today, the letter has been published in over 40 languages and is remembered as a document that brought the Civil Rights Movement to the forefront of national concern.



# JUSTICE SAYINGS WALKING TOUR

NORTH BUTTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE



SUPERIOR COURT OF  
CALIFORNIA,  
COUNTY OF BUTTE

SECOND FLOOR