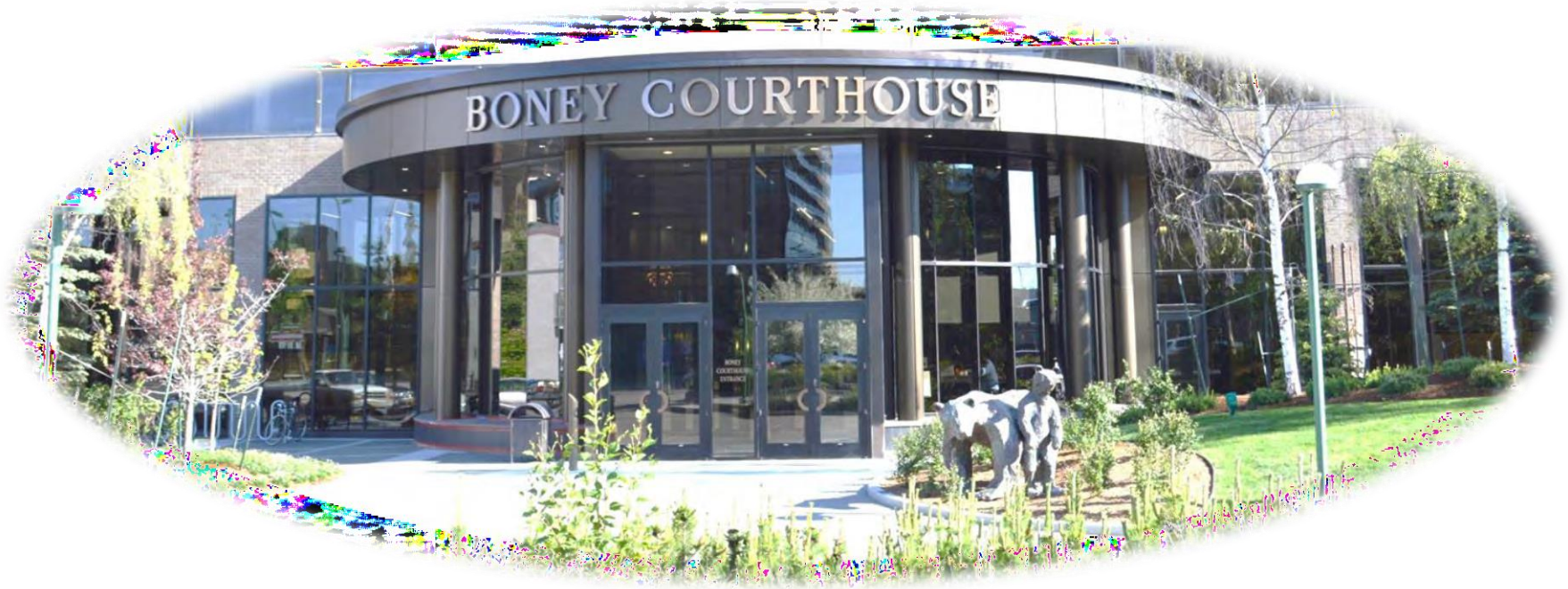


# **BONEY COURTHOUSE ARTWORK**

Anchorage, Alaska



**Boney Courthouse Main Entry**  
(photographed in 2015)

## FORWARD

The Boney Memorial Courthouse was named after Justice George F. Boney, who was appointed to the Alaska Supreme Court in 1968 by Governor William Egan. He began serving as Chief Justice in May of 1970, where he served until his death on August 30, 1972. At the memorial service for Justice Boney, Governor William Egan said, “This afternoon, I noted the fine construction progress on the new state court building downtown, and I couldn’t help but think of the great enthusiasm and the work that Chief Justice Boney put in toward that day when the first earth was turned to begin the construction of that building. I think that it is fitting tonight for me to tell you that when that construction is finished, that the dedicated building will be known as the Justice Boney Building.”

The Courthouse was completed in 1973 and was the first public building in the state to include within its planning and design the acquisition of works of art. In 1975, the Alaska State Legislature enacted a requirement that all future public buildings constructed by the state would contain works of art. That program is known as the Alaska 1% for Public Art Program.

The cultural history of the Eskimo, Athabascan, Aleut, and Tlingit people of Alaska is represented in many of the works of art displayed in this building. Some art pieces use traditional art forms, while others use contemporary techniques and materials.

## “THUNDERBIRD - KILLER WHALE” TOTEM POLE

By Leo Jacobs, Sr.; Edwin Kasko;  
Clifford Thomas; and John Hagen

This is a two-figure totem pole representing the two mythological beings who guided the ancestors of the present Tlingit Indians to Alaska from their homeland in Hokkaido.

This migration is believed to have occurred about 5,000 years ago after the disappearance of the land bridge that once connected Alaska with Siberia.

The people departed from Hokkaido in their great canoes and were guided across the ocean by the Black Eagle which flew before them making lightning with his wings. This also caused thunder, for which he was called the “Thunderbird.” But, as days went by, fog closed in and the people could no longer see the Thunderbird and they became lost.

Finally, a killer whale appeared with the mystic figure of Gunara riding on its back. Gunara told the people to follow the killer whale, which led them to the Stikine Valley near the present-day city of Wrangell in Southeastern Alaska.

**Location:** Main Lobby





## THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF ALASKA



In 1884, Congress provided for a civil government for Alaska, and the first governor, “on his own motion,” designed and had a seal made for the District of Alaska. The seal highlighted Alaska’s icebergs, northern lights, and native people. In 1910, Governor Walter E. Clark had a draftsman in Juneau draw a rough draft of a new seal, which incorporated the original features, plus symbols for mining, agriculture, fisheries, fur seal rookeries, and a railroad.

The design was approved by the Acting Attorney General of the United States. A “more refined” drawing was made by an unknown person in the Department of the Interior, and the new seal was ready for use early in 1911.

After Alaska was changed from a District to a Territory in 1912, the new designation was substituted on the seal. The Constitution for the State of Alaska provides that the Territorial Seal shall be the Seal for the State of Alaska, with the word “Territory” changed to “State.”

At the time it was cast in 1973, it was the largest cast seal in the United States.

**Location:** Main Lobby

## CEREMONIAL DANCE WALL PANEL

By Larry Ahvakana



This sculpture of three welded steel figures reflects the ageless ceremonial dance of the Utqiagvik Eskimos. The dancing masks are styled from 19<sup>th</sup>-century masks. The dress of the figures is contemporary. The background is acrylic paint on canvas, suggesting the skyline above the arctic tundra. It also includes an etching designed from Eskimo prehistoric art objects.

**Location:** Main Lobby

## WALL PANEL

By Alaska Indian Arts, Inc.

This Tlingit-designed, hand-carved, and painted-wood panel is derived from a Ceremonial House of a Raven Chief. It is a split design of the Raven, as though the Raven were split in half and laid flat. The Raven's eyes, body, and joint of the tail are faces. The wings and the feet are eyes.

**Location:** Supreme Court Courtroom





## WALL PANEL

By Ronald W. Senungetuk



This teakwood panel consists of short individual planks in vertical alignment to characterize the interior wall planking of an Eskimo sod house. The notches on the surface form designs that are stylized versions of 19<sup>th</sup>-century engravings on walrus ivory.

The placement of motifs is asymmetrical, unrelated in size to any other motif, and some are upside-down, to follow characteristics of prehistoric art. Very subtle stains were applied in the notches, using conventional colors seen on 19<sup>th</sup>-century dance masks.

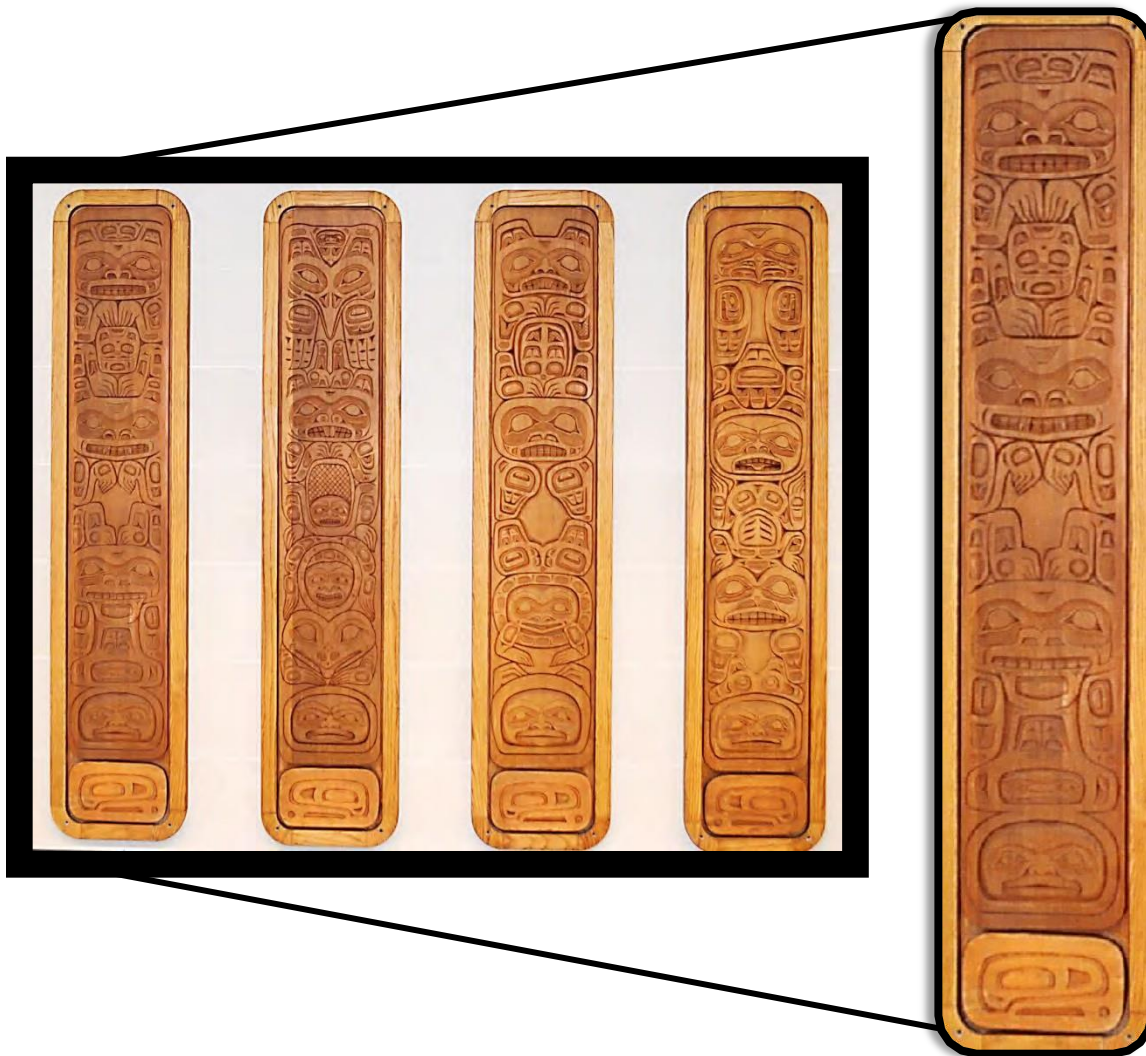
**Location:** Supreme Court Lobby



## WOOD PANELS

By Leo Jacobs Sr.; Edwin Kasko; Clifford Thomas; and John Hagen

Panel 1



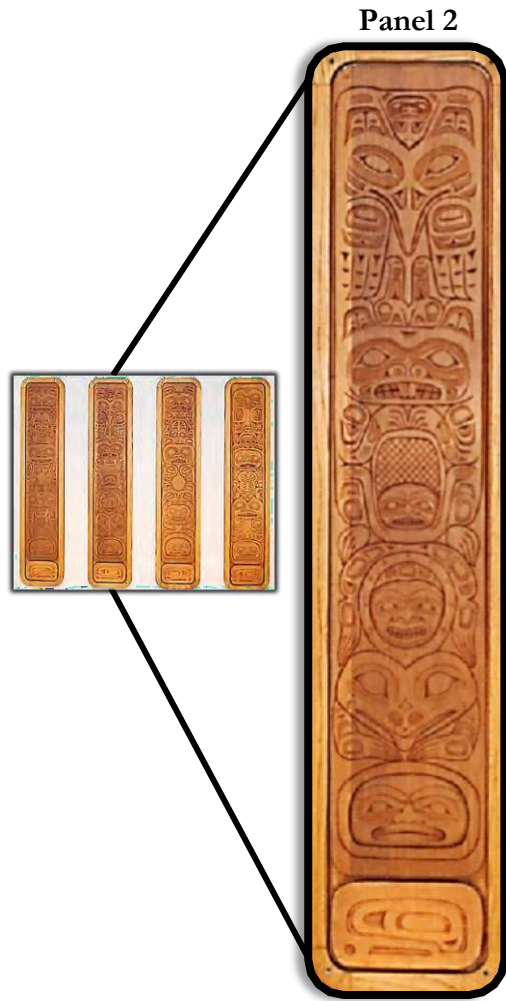
### Under the Eagle Crest

1. Grizzly bear: brave and of great strength.
2. Wolf (a sub-clan): great cunning and wisdom, known to have led the Tlingit people to a high mountain during the 40-day flood of the world.
3. Killer Whale: the tail is turned up and held in the mouth; the “grizzly bear of the sea” guided the ancestors from their homeland on the Japanese island of Hokkaido to a place now known as Wrangell.
4. Sometimes can be the sun, sometimes the moon. The Raven placed this in the skies for the benefit of all mankind.

**Location:** The Mezzanine

These panels were originally displayed on the main entry doors to the Boney Courthouse.

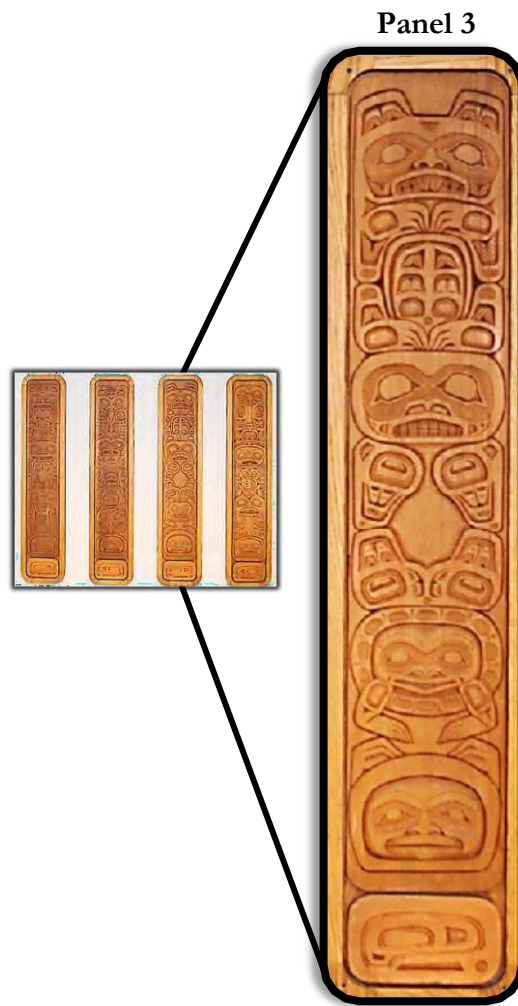




**Raven**

1. Raven: equal status to eagle
2. Beaver: a sub-clan of the Raven Clan
3. Frog: perpetual life (frog that never dies)
4. Face: sun or moon

Raven is a top tribal clan symbol of the Tlingit tribe of Southeast Alaska



**Sub-Clans of the Raven Clan**

1. Beaver: hard work and purpose
2. Whale: tremendous size, like the State of Alaska
3. Frog: perpetual life (frog that never dies)
4. Face: sun or moon



**Eagle**

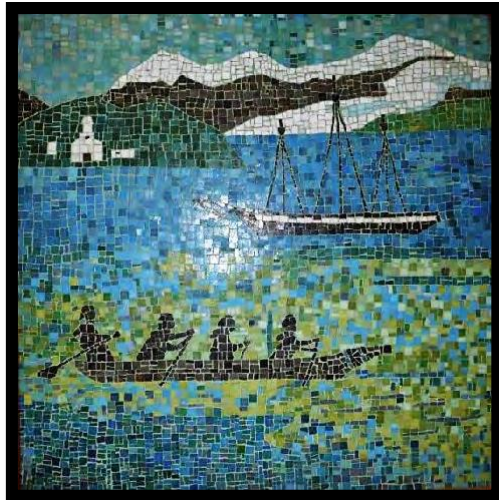
1. Of equal status with the Raven Clan
2. Brown Bear: great strength
3. Sea Bear or Wasco: mythical half-bear, half-whale that rules the sea
4. Face: sun or moon



## CERAMIC TILES

“Treaty of Cession” (1867)

Prior to demolishing the original courthouse located at 845 W. Fourth Avenue, the three ceramic mosaics were removed and restored by Dave and Rich Welsh of W & W Company of Alaska. The restoration project took 250 hours to complete. The original design was conceived by Buell Nesbett, the court’s first Chief Justice.



Scenes of native whale hunting, the purchase of Alaska from Russia in 1867, and statehood commemorate Alaska’s past. The Venetian glass tiles were designed by Armond Kirschbaum and produced by Alaska Art Tile in 1963.

**Location:** Supreme Court Lobby

## SUPREME COURT JUSTICES PHOTO DISPLAY

The photo display provides a historic timeline of each Chief Justice's term and the panel of justices that served during each term. The role of Chief Justice of the Alaska State Supreme Court rotates every three years.

**Location:** Supreme Court Lobby



## SUPREME COURT DOOR HANDLES

By Ronald W. Senungetuk

The handles are made of rosewood and fossilized walrus ivory.



### DOOR PANELS

By James Schrock



The two 2' x 6-1/3' panels are made of joined 1" x 12" mahogany planks from Honduras. The motifs intaglio form a genre composition that is derived from 19<sup>th</sup>-century Eskimo graphic art on ivory and wood objects. Part of the composition is free interpretation of Northwest Coast Indian art and Athabaskan graphic motifs on moose-hide garments.

**Location:** Supreme Court Lobby



## STATE SEAL

By Alaska Indian Arts, Inc.

This 10-foot hand-carved seal of the State of Alaska was developed under the direction of Carl W. Heinmiller, the founder of Alaska Indian Arts, Inc., located in Haines, Alaska. The seal consists of four pieces of 6-foot red cedar held together with three 10-inch bolts.

**Location:** Supreme Court Courtroom



**“ALASKA SKIES”**  
by Suzanne Donazetti

This series of seven copper tapestries depicts the interaction of the colors of the Alaskan landscape and Alaska’s unique light conditions. The artist created a complex abstract design flowing across the wall with gentle, harmonious curves. It was intended to provide a visual focal point for the justices as they contemplate weighty matters brought before the court. The artist used sheet copper—“painted” with gold leaf, transparent inks, and powders—to weave a design that enhances the experience, while honoring the serious nature of the business conducted within the room.

**Location:** Supreme Court Courtroom



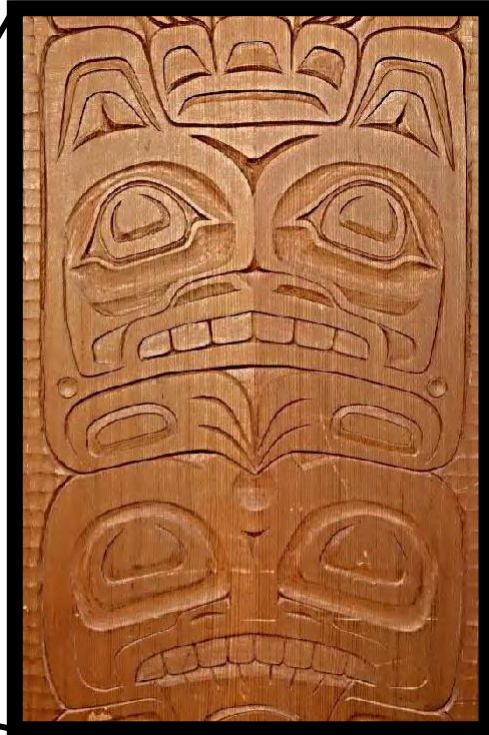


**"SPLIT EAGLE & RAVEN SUNRISE"**  
by Preston Singletary



**Location:** Main Lobby





## EAGLE CHIEF'S PANEL

By Alaska Indian Arts, Inc.

Ceremonial tribal houses used these panels on the four support posts that held up the main roof. This panel or house post is from an Eagle Chief's house.

From top to bottom:

1. Eagle: denotes the clan.
2. Brown Bear: his great size and strength are a symbol of Alaska and its strength and greatness.
3. Sea Bear or Wasco: mythical creature—half-whale, half-bear—holding a halibut in his mouth. He brought the halibut from the sea for the Tlingit people, as before that time they had only fished the rivers for salmon.

**Location:** Supreme Court Library

## “GRIZZLY SOW WITH CUB”

By Mike Sirl



This sculpture, fabricated from Corten steel, celebrates the essence of family, love, and protection. The artist states that it examines the complexity and paradox of “man in nature” and is an example of hand-crafted art in an impersonal, high-tech world. The life-size animals are not sited on a traditional base, but in a landscape setting. The bears invite touching, learning, conversation, and photography.

**Location:** Exterior Plaza

**“KKUSKKA KUSKUNO”**

By Kathleen Carlo



These sculptures are fabricated from Basswood, caribou antler, metal paint, hair, gold leaf, and ribbon.

**Location:** Supreme Court Lobby



# SERIES OF PHOTOGRAPHS

(2016)

By Linda Infante Lyons



“Power House I”



“Ship Creek Quonset”



“Power House II”



“Cook Inlet Mudflats”

**Location:** Basement, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Floor Lobbies

**SERIES OF PHOTOGRAPHS**

**(2016)**

By Linda Infante Lyons



**“Ship Creek Quonset II”**



**“Ship Creek Mudflats”**



**“Quonset Hut of Ship Creek”**



**“Quonset Hut of Ship Creek II”**

**Location:** Basement, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Floor Lobbies



ACRYLIC  
PAINTINGS  
(2016)

**“Watching Mom”**  
By Iris Sutton



**“Subterranean”**  
By Iris Sutton



**Location:** 1st Floor Customer Service

**“CELESTIAL SERIES”**  
**Vortex - Orb - Eye - Spin - Mandala**  
By Susan Joy Share



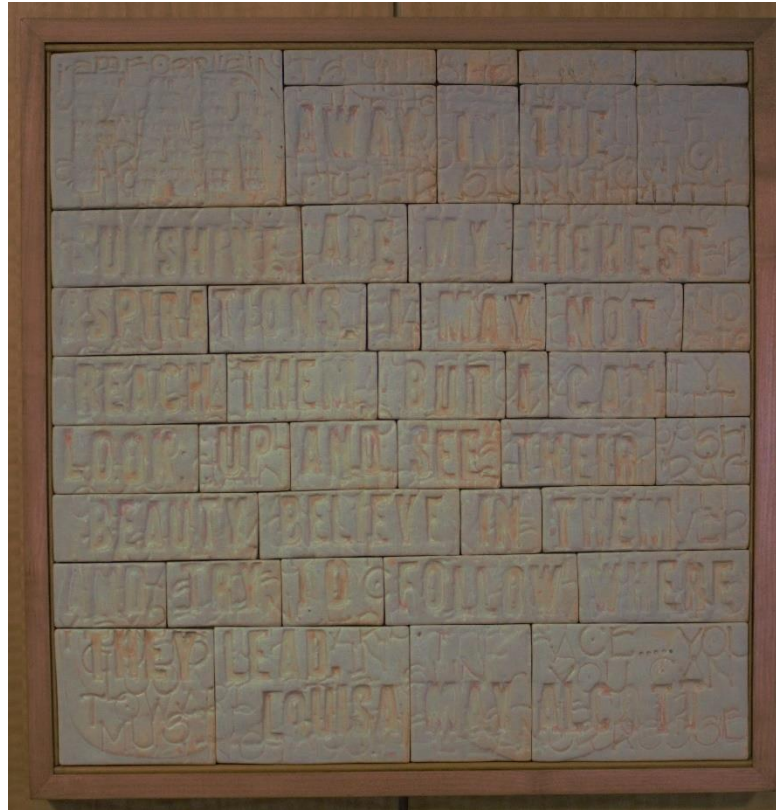
Ceramic Hand-Painted, 2010 - 2016

**Location:** Law Library



## **“FAR AWAY IN THE SUNSHINE”**

By Susan Joy Share



Ceramic Hand-Painted, 2016

**Location:** Law Library

For more information about this publication,  
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