

**Ability Guidebooks  
presents**

**Explore Washington, D.C.!**



# **I Am Going To The Supreme Court!**

**A Step-by-Step Guide On How To Visit The Supreme Court Building**

**by  
Brett Bigham**

# **The Supreme Court is a famous American building in Washington, D.C.**



**People come from all over the world and visit this important building. Be ready for lots of stairs at the Supreme Court!**

**There are rules about the stairs we have to learn.**

**There are two levels of stairs at the Supreme Court. There are lower stairs and upper stairs. To go into the building you have to go up the lower stairs to the plaza.**



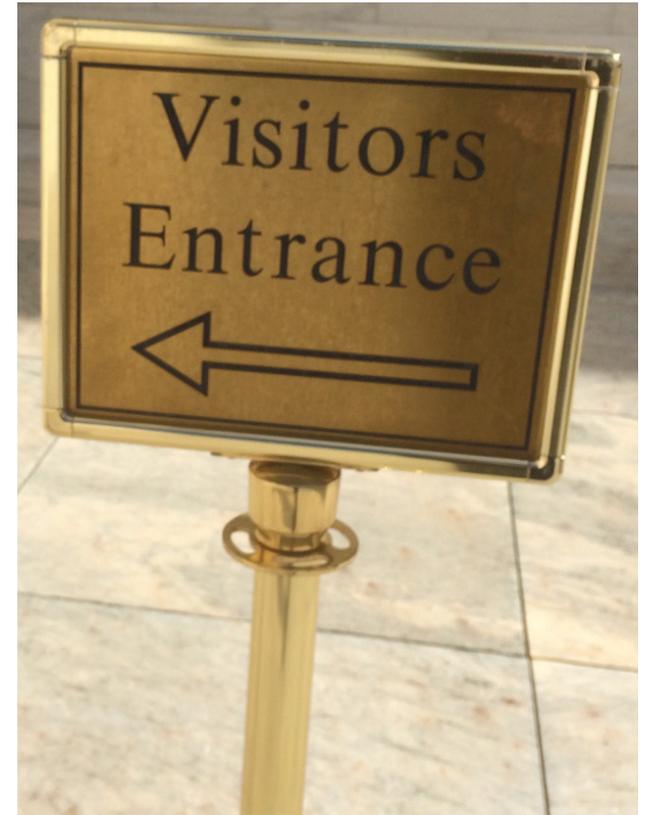
**You are not allowed to walk up the upper stairs. It is only for people coming out of the building. The guards will yell at you if you try to walk up the upper stairs. They are not mad, but they want people to follow the rules.**

**Instead of going up the upper stairs, you want to go to the right. This nice guard is showing people where the entrance door is.**



**These guards are very nice and want the visitors to find the entry. The guard knows that everybody enters through this door. You will too!**

**Look for the sign that says "Visitors Entrance."**



**Right inside the door is a security check. If you have a bag they want to x-ray it. Watch other people walk through the security check to see how it works.**

**You are now on the bottom floor of the Supreme Court Building! Remember, this is a serious place so you have to use a quiet voice. There is no running at the Supreme Court.**



**There are cases full of historic artifacts on this floor. It is like a museum for the Supreme Court.**

**These cases have some of the original statuary from when they were designing the Supreme Court Building.**



**This is a very quiet space. This is a good place to relax while you look at the sculptures.**

**There are some people who get stressed out when they go to a new place. The Supreme Court is a pretty quiet, easy-to-visit building.**



**You can go really slow and look at all the exhibits up close or find a quiet area to rest and chill out.**

**Now it is time to go upstairs!**

**To go upstairs you can either take the elevator or look for the signs that say "Courtroom."**



**Here is the Courtroom sign and here are the stairs!**

**These are the stairs going up! It is a very long staircase. Use your quiet voice while going up the stairs. It sounds kind of like a tunnel**



**The Courtroom is up on the next floor. This man is very interested in seeing the Courtroom.**

**The top floor has two main rooms you can visit. This is the main hall. It is a very large room with Doric columns. Because of all the marble the room is noisy.**



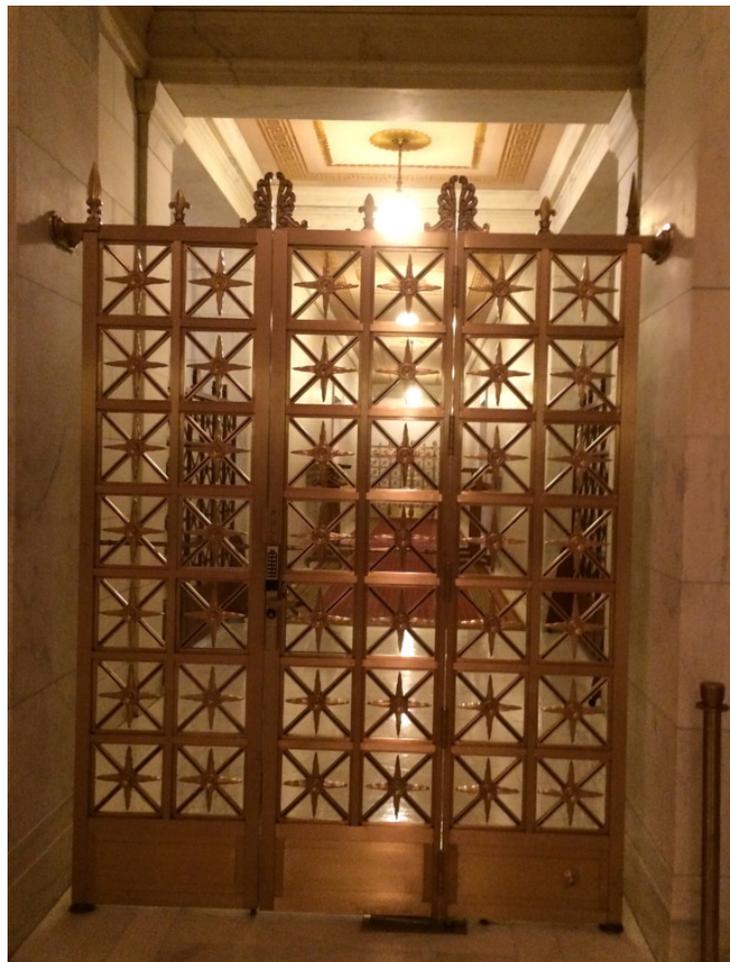
**Even if you whisper in here it echoes. Try to be extra quiet. Notice there are benches? Those are a good place to sit and relax for a moment.**

**This is the door to the Courtroom. This is where the Supreme Court hears cases. You can only go in here with a tour guide.**



**These people waited in line to join a tour of the courtroom. You can wait in line too. Check the signs to see when the tour starts!**

**There are some places that are off limits at the Supreme Court. These hallways have gates in front of them. Do not try to open the gates. Only people who work here can go through the gates.**

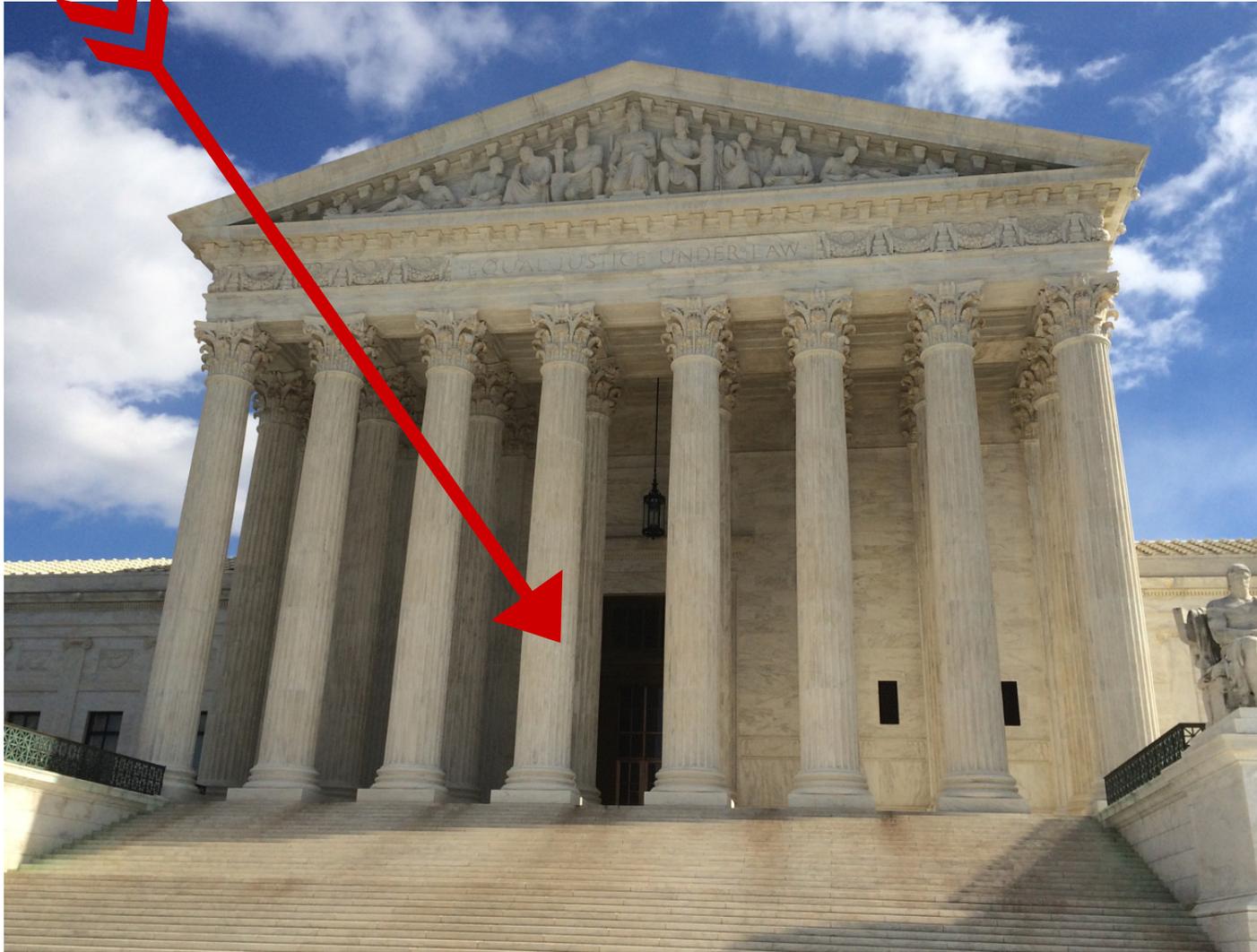


**This guard is making sure nobody is trying to go through the gate. The guards are very nice but they need everyone to follow the rules.**

**When you are ready to leave you go out the main door.**



**This is where you come out!**



**Stop and enjoy the view!**

**Even though you are outside, remember, this is a serious place. They don't allow running or goofing around.**

**This is a terrific place to take pictures. Look! Across the street is the United States Capitol Building!**



**This man did a great job visiting the Supreme Court. I bet you will have a great visit too!**

## **Things to know about the Supreme Court:**

**You will get yelled at if you try to go up the upper stairs. Because the sound bounces off all the marble, it can be very loud and scary. Even if you don't try to go up the stairs there is a good chance someone else will. Several people were yelled at during my visit and each time it made me jump. Yelling is a trigger for a lot of people so I'd suggest watching the steps for unwary tourists about to be yelled at. Try forewarning your students so they are ready, "Uh oh, someone is about to get yelled at."**

**The lighting at the Supreme Court is very soft. If you visit on a sunny day it is almost blinding when you exit the building onto the plaza of white marble. Be ready with sunglasses if light sensitivity an issue.**

**Noise in the Supreme Court is amplified by all of the marble. The long stairway also refracts sound like a tunnel. Students with sensitivity to noise might want to carry earplugs just in case you visit on a crowded day.**

**If Court is in session be prepared for crowds, loudspeakers, chanting and protesting.**

**There is an information desk near the exhibits on the first floor.**

**Visiting the Supreme Court is free. Visit their website for a visitor's guide, calendar and times when you can tour the Courtroom.**

**The closest Metro station is the Capitol Street Station. Taxis can drop you off on the corner near the building for the easiest access.**

**Ability Guidebooks are step-by-step instructions on how to access community destinations. For many people with autism new situations can cause stress and discomfort. Ability Guidebooks help to prepare people for new experiences.**

**This book will also help teachers prepare their students on how to visit the museum for field trips.**

**Brett Bigham is the 2014 Oregon State Teacher of the Year and recipient of the NEA National Award for Teaching Excellence. Bigham is the first Special Education teacher from Oregon to win these awards.**

**Visit [MrBsClassroom.com](http://MrBsClassroom.com) for more Ability Guidebooks.**

### **Special Thanks**

**Oregon Education Association and the NEA Foundation Global Fellowship Program. By naming me a 2015 Global Fellow I was able to travel to Peru and create my first international Ability Guidebook for the Inca Museum in Cusco.**

**Thanks to Mike for giving up part of his weekend for proofreading and for letting me stick the camera in his face so much!**

### **Care to Translate?**

**It is my hope to create access for all people with disabilities, not just English speakers. If you can translate this book or any other Ability Guidebook into another language, I would love to hear from you!**

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