

Article 6 of New York's State Law is the source of the legal and heraldic description of the Coat of Arms. Words and terms followed by the "°" symbol are defined in the glossary on the center panel.

Charge°. Azure°, in a landscape, the sun in fess°, rising in splendor or°, behind a range of three mountains, the middle one the highest; in base a ship and sloop under sail, passing and about to meet on a river, bordered below by a grassy shore fringed with shrubs, all in proper°.

Crest°. On a wreath azure and or, an American eagle proper, rising to the dexter° from a two-thirds of a globe terrestrial, showing the north Atlantic ocean with outlines of its shores.

Supporters°. On a quasi compartment formed by the extension of the scroll:

Dexter°. The figure of Liberty° proper, her hair disheveled° and decorated with pearls, vested° azure, sandaled gules°, a mantle° of the last depending° from the shoulders behind to the feet, in the dexter hand a staff ensigned with a Phrygian cap° or, the sinister arm embowed, the hand supporting the shield at the dexter chief point°, a royal crown by her sinister foot dejected°.

Sinister°. The figure of Justice° proper, her hair disheveled and decorated with pearls, vested or, about the waist a cincture° azure, fringed gules, sandaled and mantled as Liberty, bound about the eyes with a fillet° proper, in the dexter hand a straight sword hilted or, erect, resting on the sinister chief point of the shield, the sinister arm embowed, holding before her her scales proper.

Motto. On a scroll below the shield argent°, in sable°, Excelsior (Ever Upward).

Argent — a metallic color in heraldry° to represent silver

Azure — the heraldic color blue; or unclouded sky

Charge — a shield or armor-like insignia

Chief point — at the top or uppermost part of the shield

Cincture — a belt; or girdle

Crest — a heraldic device shown above the shield

Dejected — thrown down; also, lowered in rank

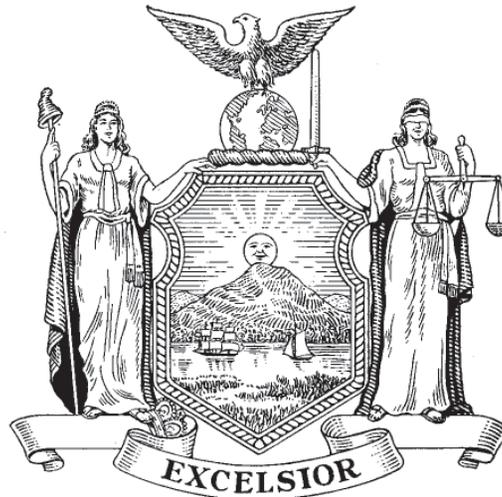
Depending — hanging down

Dexter — right; relating to the side of the shield to the right of the person holding it; or facing toward the right, considered a good omen

Disheveled — marked by disorder or disarray

Fillet — a narrow band of material or cloth

*New York State's
Coat of Arms*



Fess — a broad bar drawn horizontally across the middle of a heraldic shield; in fess — in a line in a direction of a fess

Gules — the heraldic color red

Heraldry — an armor-like ensign or insignia

Justice — means the quality of being just, impartial or fair

Liberty — the personification of freedom, the power of choice
Mantle — a loose sleeveless garment worn over other clothes

Or — golden color or a shade of yellow

Phrygian cap — symbolic of the cap given to a Roman slave upon the formal act of emancipation and freedom

Proper — represents natural colors

Sable — the heraldic color black

Sinister — left; relating to the side of the shield to the left of the person holding it; or facing toward the left; (evil)

Supporters — the two figures placed on each side of a shield and exterior to it

Terrestrial — constituting or representing the Earth

Vested — clothed in

The following description of the Coat of Arms is provided for those who may be unfamiliar with heraldic terms:

Shield. A blue, unclouded sky with the golden sun and its rays centered behind a range of three mountains, the middle one the highest; below, a ship and sloop under sail, facing each other and about to meet on a river, bordered by a grassy shore fringed with shrubs, all in natural colors.

Crest (above the shield). On a wreath of blue and gold, an American eagle in its natural colors, facing toward the right (considered a good omen) above a two-thirds globe drawing of Earth, showing the north Atlantic Ocean with outlines of its shores.

Supporters (the two figures on the outside of the shield) appear to be joined with the shield as a unit formed by the extension of the scroll:

On the right side of the shield. The figure of Liberty in natural colors, her unbound hair decorated with pearls. She is clothed in blue with red sandals, a loose robe of red hanging down from her shoulders to her feet. In her right hand, she holds a staff topped with a gold Phrygian cap; her left arm is bent at the elbow, the hand supporting the shield at its top right. A royal crown lies at her left foot, thrown down to illustrate the lessening of power of the English monarchy.

On the left side of the shield. The figure of Justice in natural colors, her unbound hair decorated with pearls. She is clothed in gold with a blue belt fringed in red, wearing sandals and a robe as Liberty and bound about the eyes with a narrow band of cloth. In her right hand she holds a gold handled sword, held erect, and resting on the top left point of the shield; left arm is also bent at the elbow, holding scales in front of herself.

Motto. On a silver scroll below the shield, in black type, the word "Excelsior" (Ever Upward).