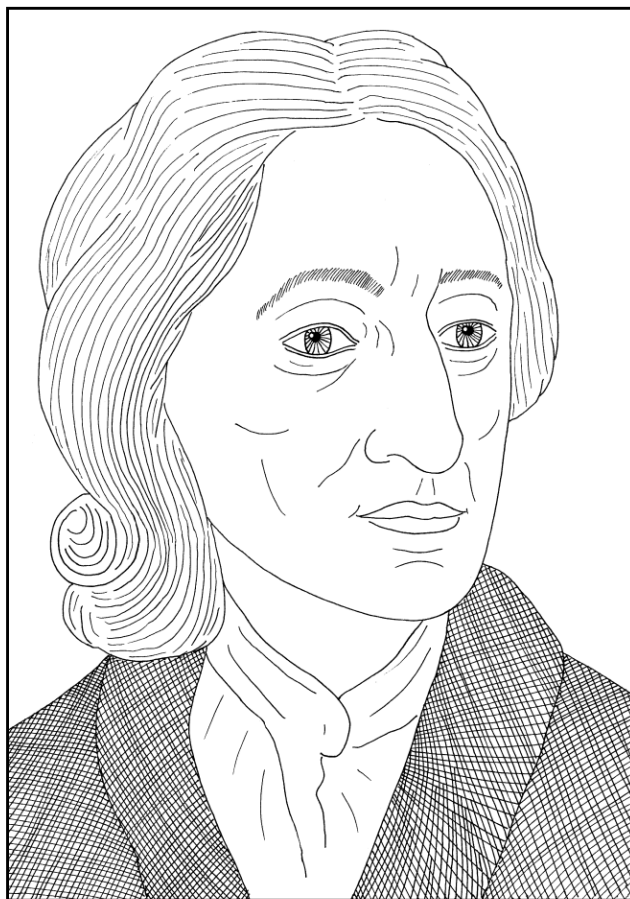


LAW



"The end of law is not to abolish or restrain, but to preserve and enlarge freedom. For in all the states of created beings capable of law, where there is no law, there is no freedom."
-- John Locke

For thousands of years, societies have imposed rules or "laws" that tell people what they can and cannot do. Without rules, anyone could do whatever they wanted, even if it hurt others and disrupted society. Greek philosophers, like Plato and Aristotle described this as the "rule of men" versus the "rule of law." Others pointed out the important difference between "rule of law" and "rule by law." With "rule by law", governments can make up any rules they wish and are above the law. With "rule of law" everyone must obey the law.

It is ironic that in a democracy where all are free and enjoy equal rights, we must also have equal responsibilities so that the rights and freedom of others are protected. However, in a democracy, laws must also be fair, clearly defined, and applied equally to all members of the society -- both citizens and rulers.

Nations have long relied on treaties and other legal agreements to help them get along better. In the past century, with two global wars taking place, the need for a more comprehensive set of international laws became more apparent. International bodies, like United Nations, were created in order to provide a forum for countries to work together. An important part of the UN Charter adopted in 1945 was the establishment of the International Court of Justice, to help settle legal disputes between nations. In 2002, the International Criminal Court was established to prosecute individuals for genocide, war crimes and other crimes against humanity. More than 100 nations are members, but 3 major powers - China, India and the United States - have refused to participate.

Law Day, celebrated on May 1, is an opportunity to bring attention to the importance of the rule of law as a necessary foundation for democracy.

Do One Thing for a Better World

1. Find out more
2. Write to national leaders urging them to support the International Criminal Court
3. Support organizations working to ensure that all receive equal protections and accountability under our laws including leaders

Rule of Law Links

- ABA Rule of Law Initiative (abanet.org)
- American Civil Liberties Union (aclu.org)
- Center for the Rule of Law (ruleoflaw.org)
- International Bar Association (ibanet.org)
- International Court of Justice (icj-cij.org)
- International Criminal Court (icc-cpi.int)
- Intl. Rule of Law Directory (roldirectory.org)
- Law Day (lawday.org)
- UN - International Law (un.org/law)

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**"Judicial bodies provide a forum for truth telling."
-- Louise Arbour**

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"I shall never accept that the law can be used to justify tragedy, to keep things as they are, to make us abandon our ideas of a different world. Law is the path of liberty, and must as such open the way to progress for everyone."

-- Oscar Arias

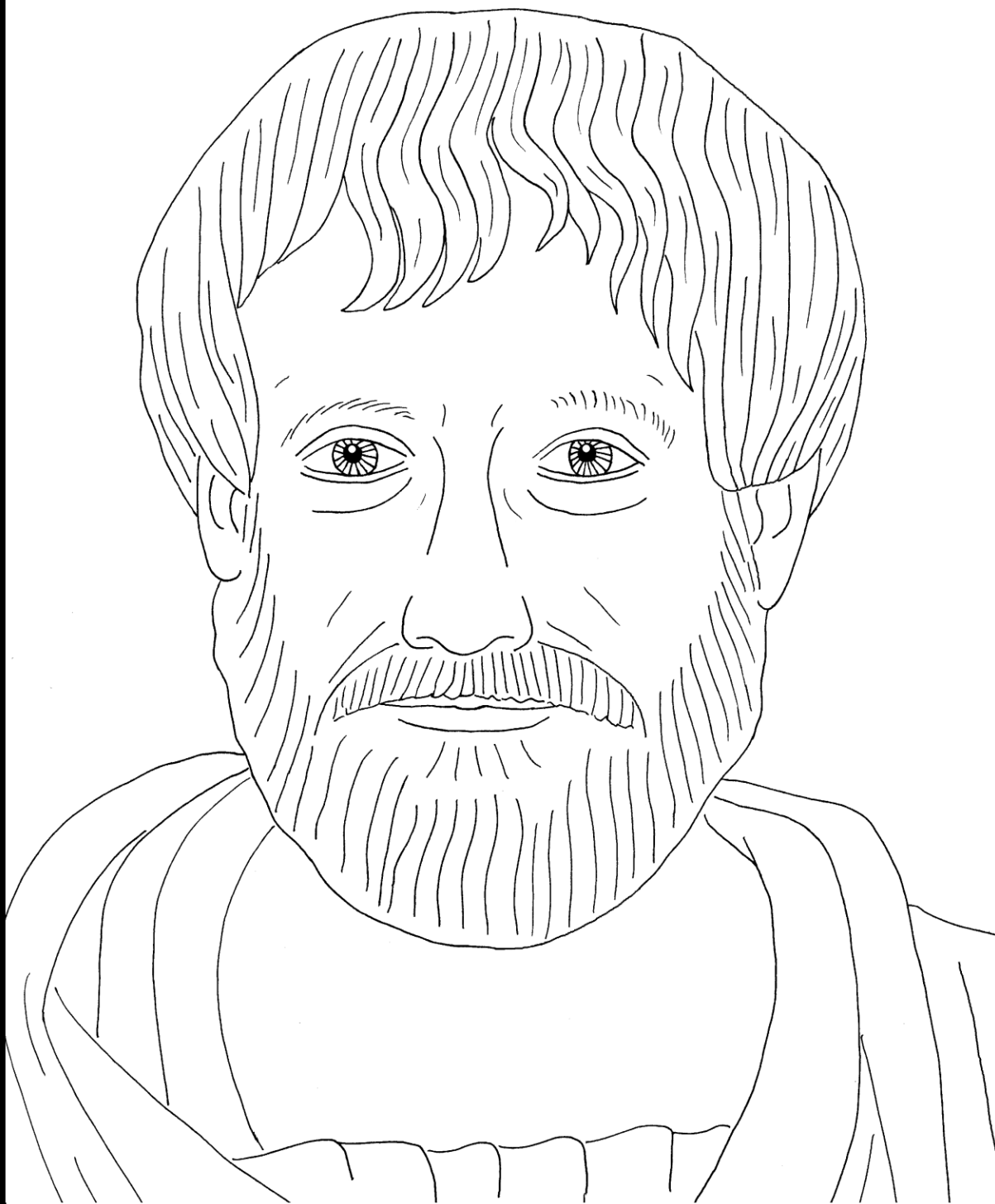
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**"The only stable state is the one in which all men are equal before the law."
-- Aristotle**

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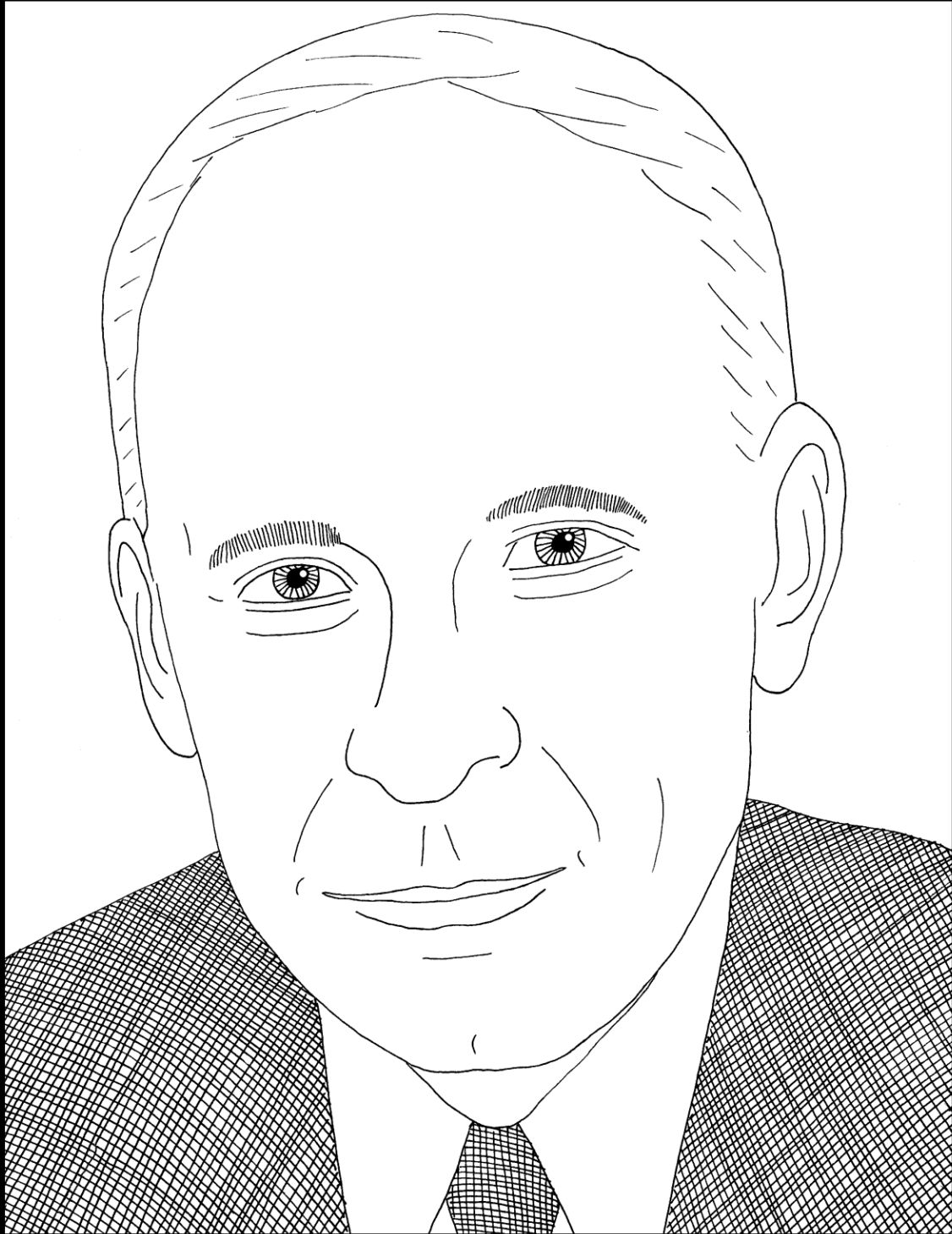
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"The rule of law in place of force, always basic to my thinking, now takes on a new relevance in a world where, if war is to go, only law can replace it."

-- Roger Nash Baldwin

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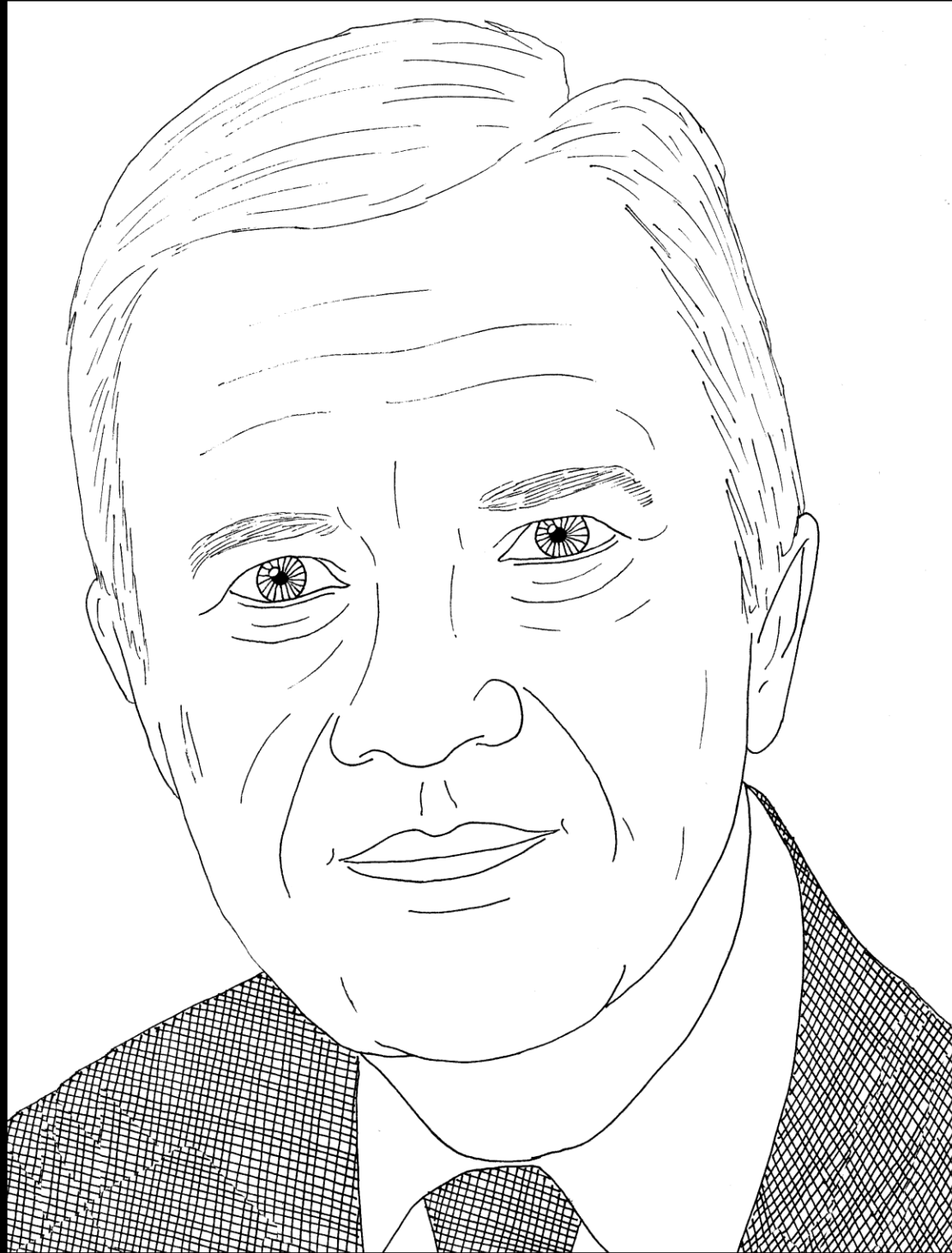
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"The law is not the private property of lawyers, nor is justice the exclusive province of judges and juries. In the final analysis, true justice is not a matter of courts and law books, but of a commitment in each of us to liberty and mutual respect." -- Jimmy Carter

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"It is rather astonishing that the United States does not play ball with the ICC, considering our country was the beacon of the idea of an international criminal court."

-- George Clooney

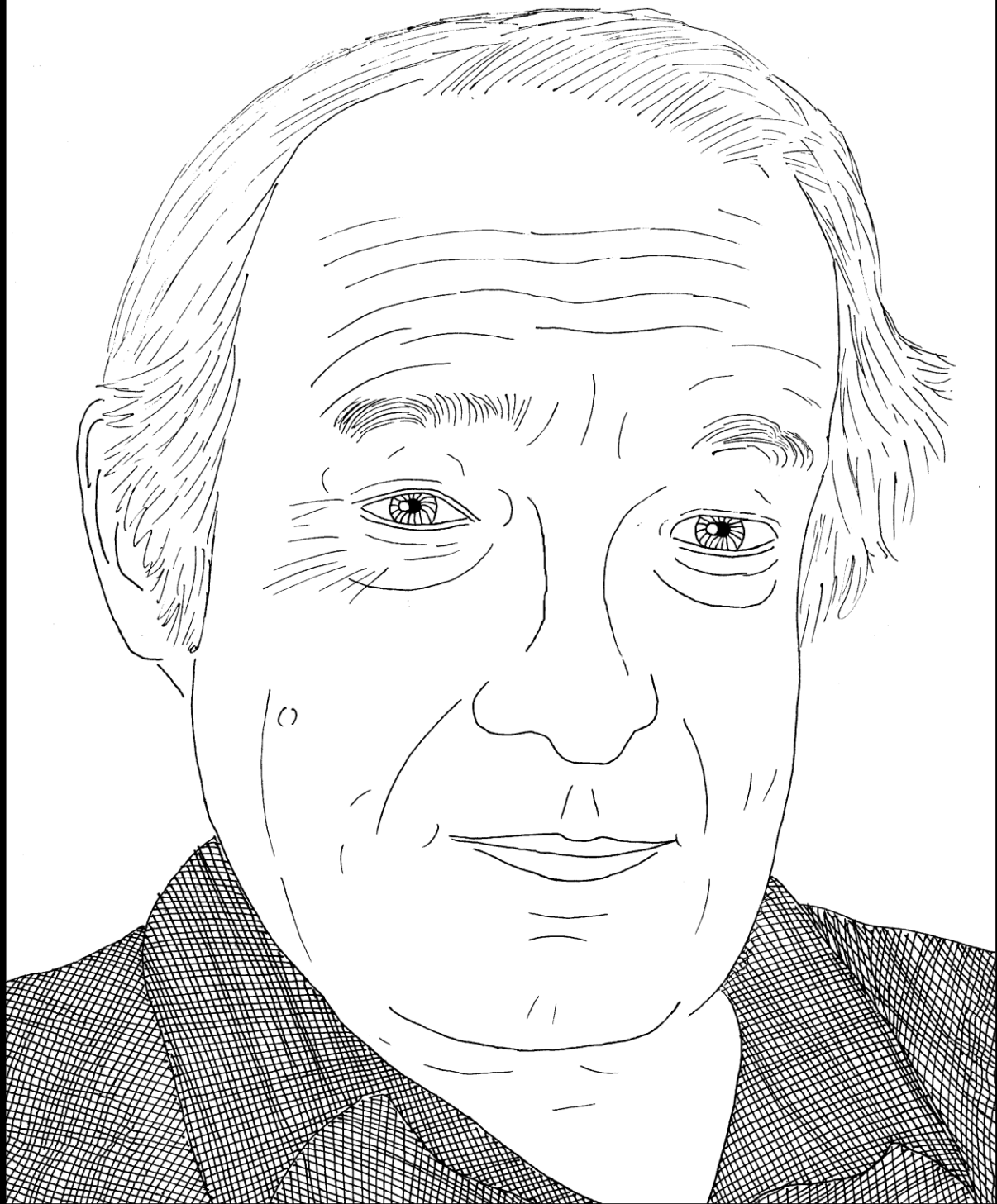
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**"We must be governed by the force of law, not by the law of force."
-- William Sloane Coffin**

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"Laws are important. But they can only be effective if the people know about the particular laws."

-- Waris Dirie

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"While we diminish the stimulant of fear, we must increase to prisoners the incitements of hope, in proportion as we extinguish the terrors of the law, we should awaken and strengthen the control of the conscience."

-- Dorothea Dix

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"World federation is an ideal that will not die. More and more people are coming to realize that peace must be more than an interlude if we are to survive; that peace is a product of law and order; that law is essential if the force of arms is not to rule the world."

-- Justice William O. Douglas

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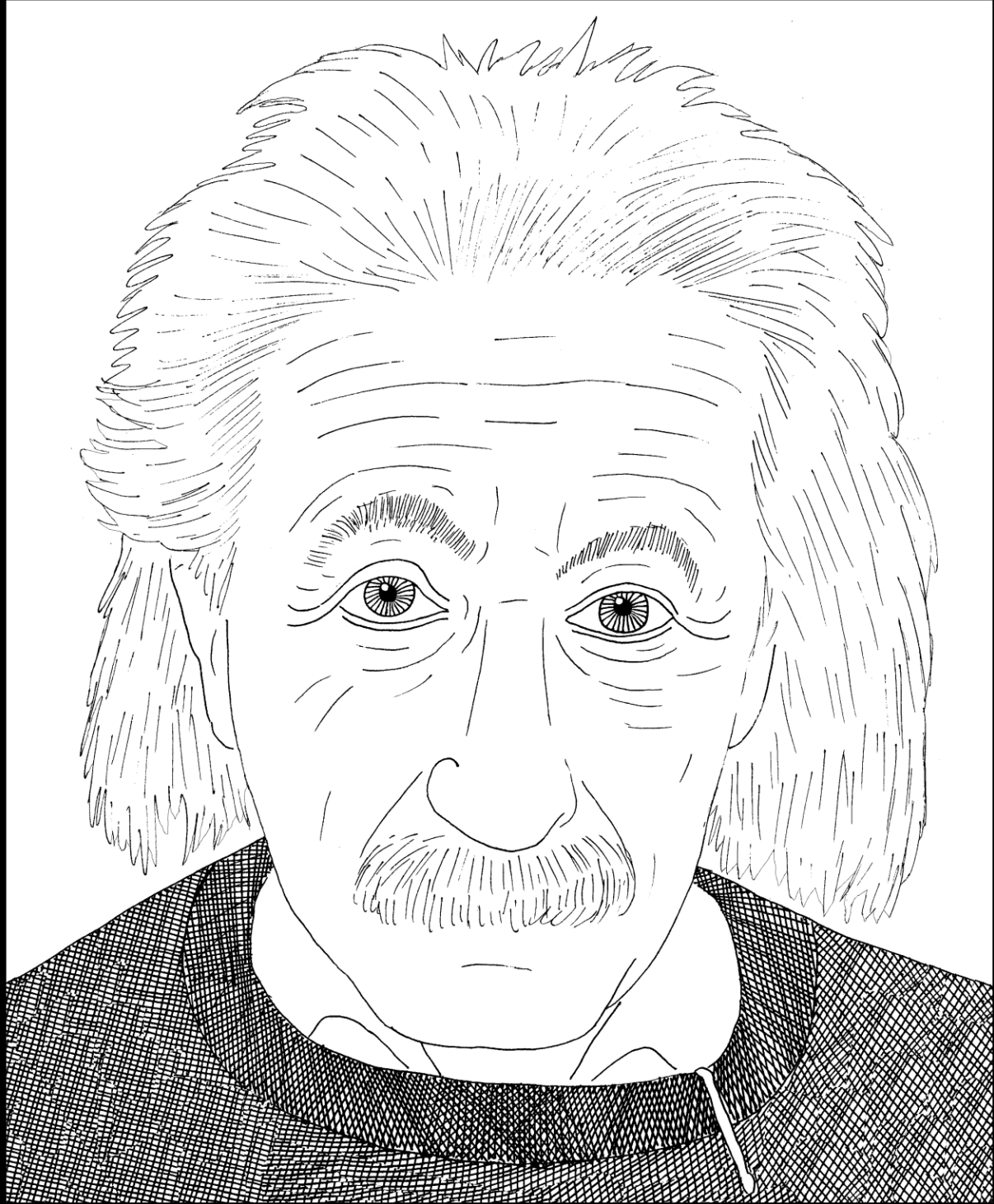
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**"...only world law can assure progress
towards a civilized peaceful community."
-- Albert Einstein**

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**"The world no longer has a choice between force and law;
if civilization is to survive, it must choose the rule of law."
-- Dwight D. Eisenhower**

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"Truth-telling to Congress and the public is not disloyal in America: it is an expression of the higher loyalty officials owe to the Constitution, the rule of law, and the sovereign public. It is a courageous, patriotic, and effective way to serve our country. The time to speak out is now."

-- Daniel Ellsberg

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**"I prefer law to war under all circumstances."
-- Benjamin Ferencz, Nuremberg prosecutor**

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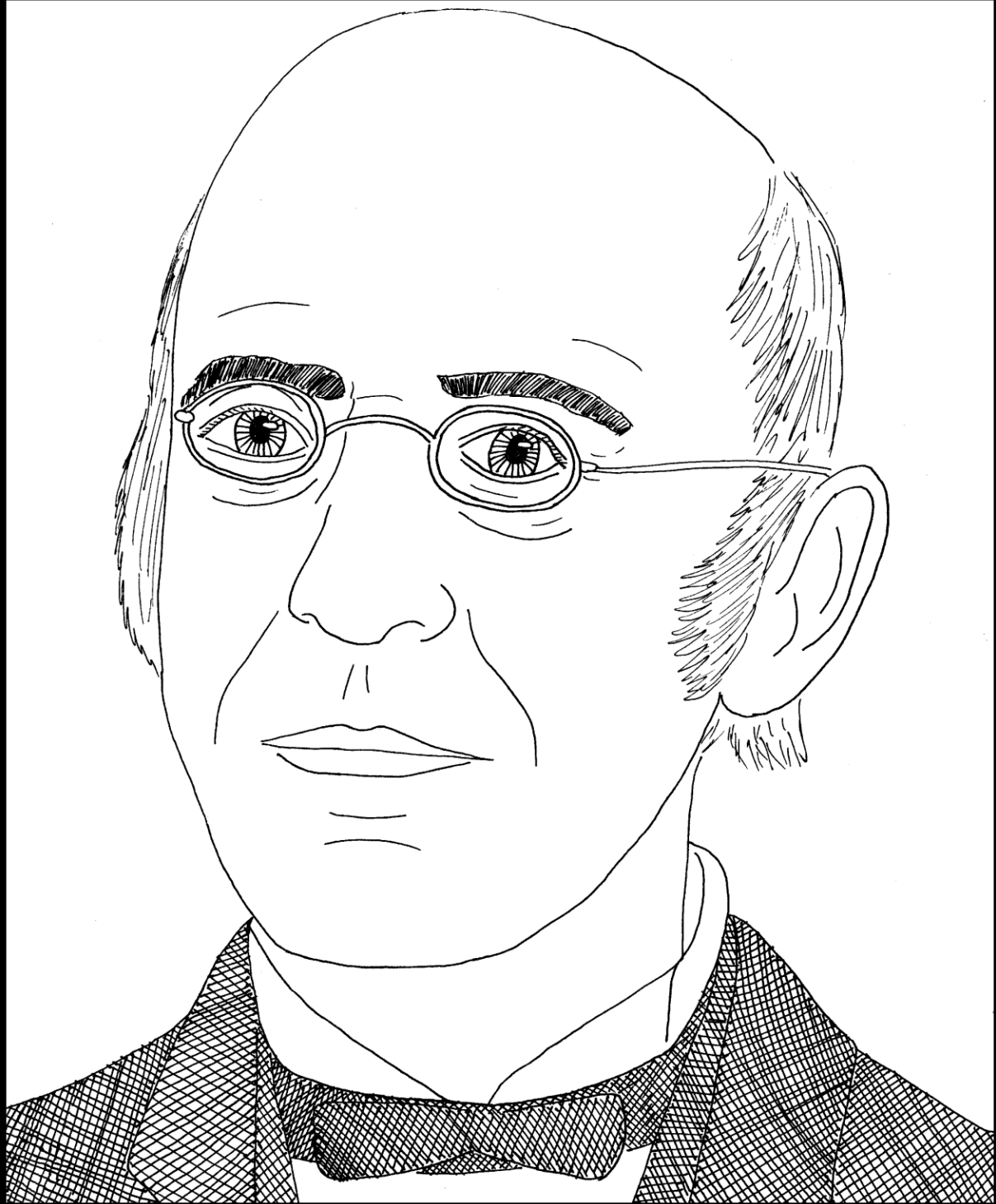
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**"That which is not just is not law."
-- William Lloyd Garrison**

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"...what the United States does, for good or for ill, continues to be watched by the international community, in particular by organizations concerned with the advancement of the rule of law and respect for human dignity."

-- Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

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**"There is no contradiction between effective law enforcement and respect for civil and human rights."
-- Dorothy Height**

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"There is so much each one of us can do to make a difference. We are at a dangerous juncture in the history of mankind. ... We need to defend our principles and values, human rights, civil liberties and the rule of international law. If we don't our world will further descend into a state of chaos."

-- Bianca Jagger

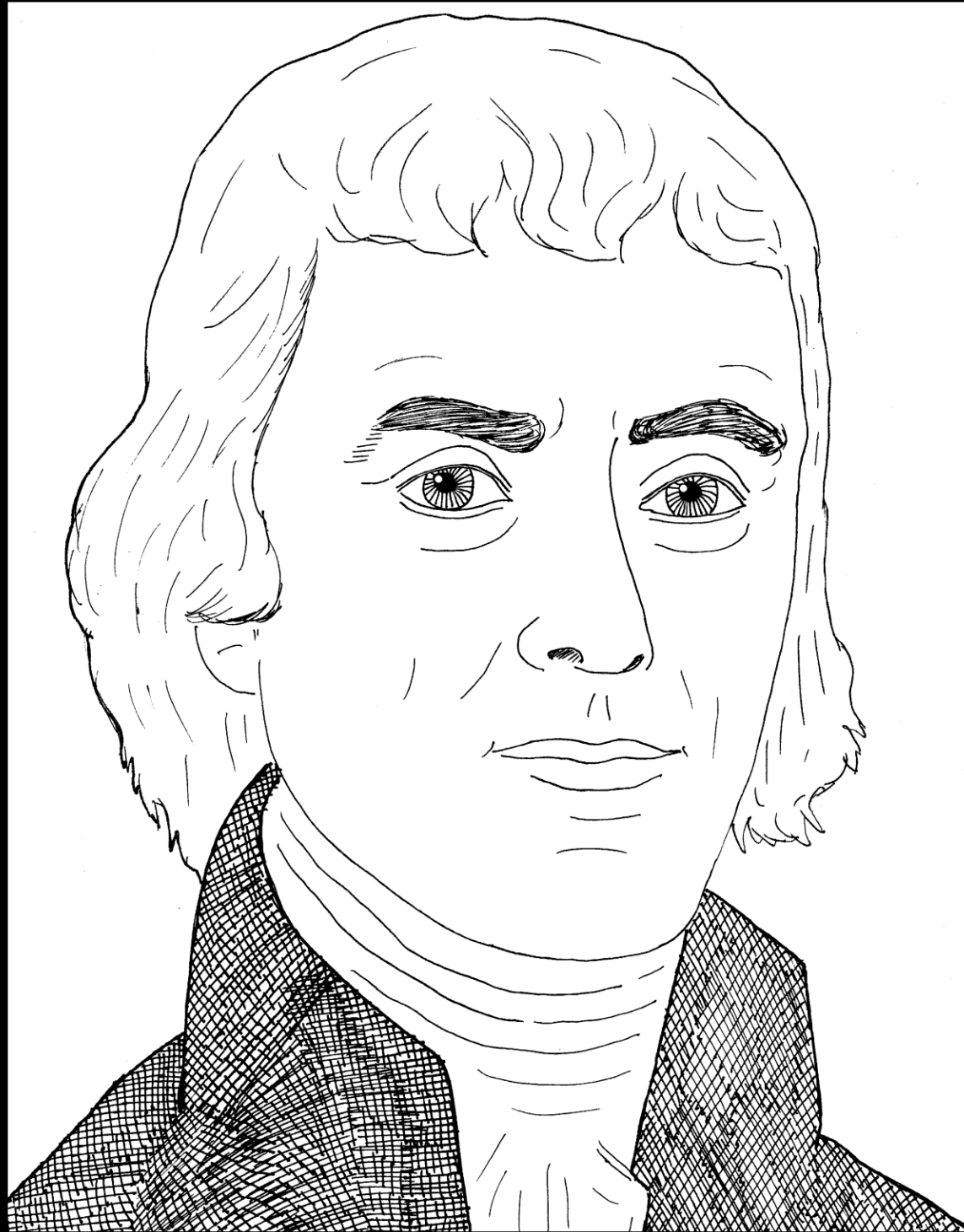
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"Bear in mind this sacred principle, that though the will of the majority is in all cases to prevail, that will to be rightful must be reasonable; that the minority possess their equal rights, which equal law must protect, and to violate would be oppression."

-- Thomas Jefferson

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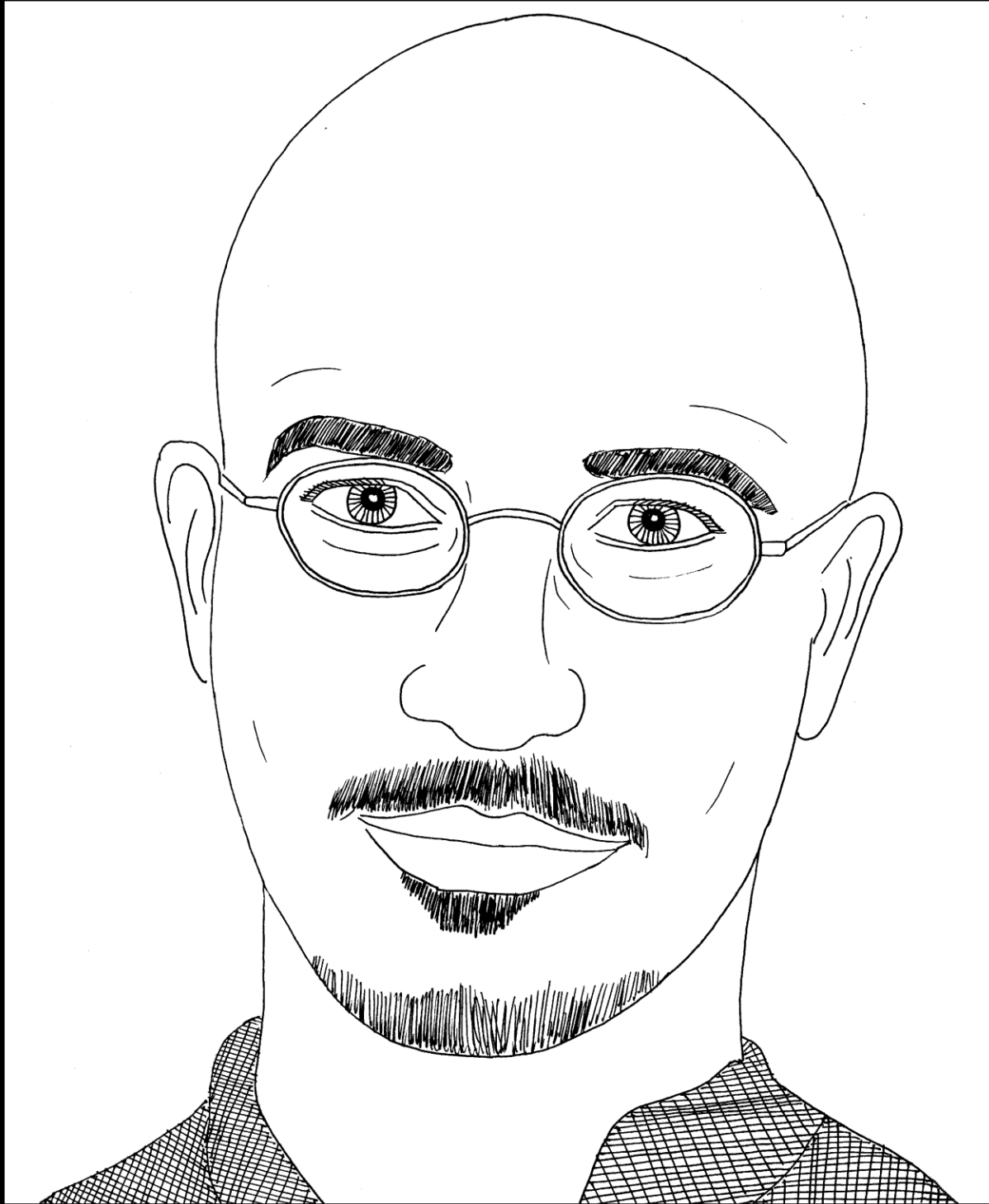
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**"No one is above the law, and no one is beneath the law."
-- Van Jones**

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MAKE A DIFFERENCE



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

"Our fathers gave us many laws, which they had learned from their fathers. These laws were good. They told us to treat all people as they treated us; that we should never be the first to break a bargain; that it was a disgrace to tell a lie; that we should speak only the truth; that it was a shame for one man to take another's wife or his property without paying for it." -- Chief Joseph

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**"We must create world-wide law and law enforcement
as we outlaw world-wide war and weapons"**

-- John F. Kennedy

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"Human security comes only with human rights and the rule of law. Human rights are the basis for creating strong and accountable states without which there can be no political stability or social progress."

-- Irene Khan

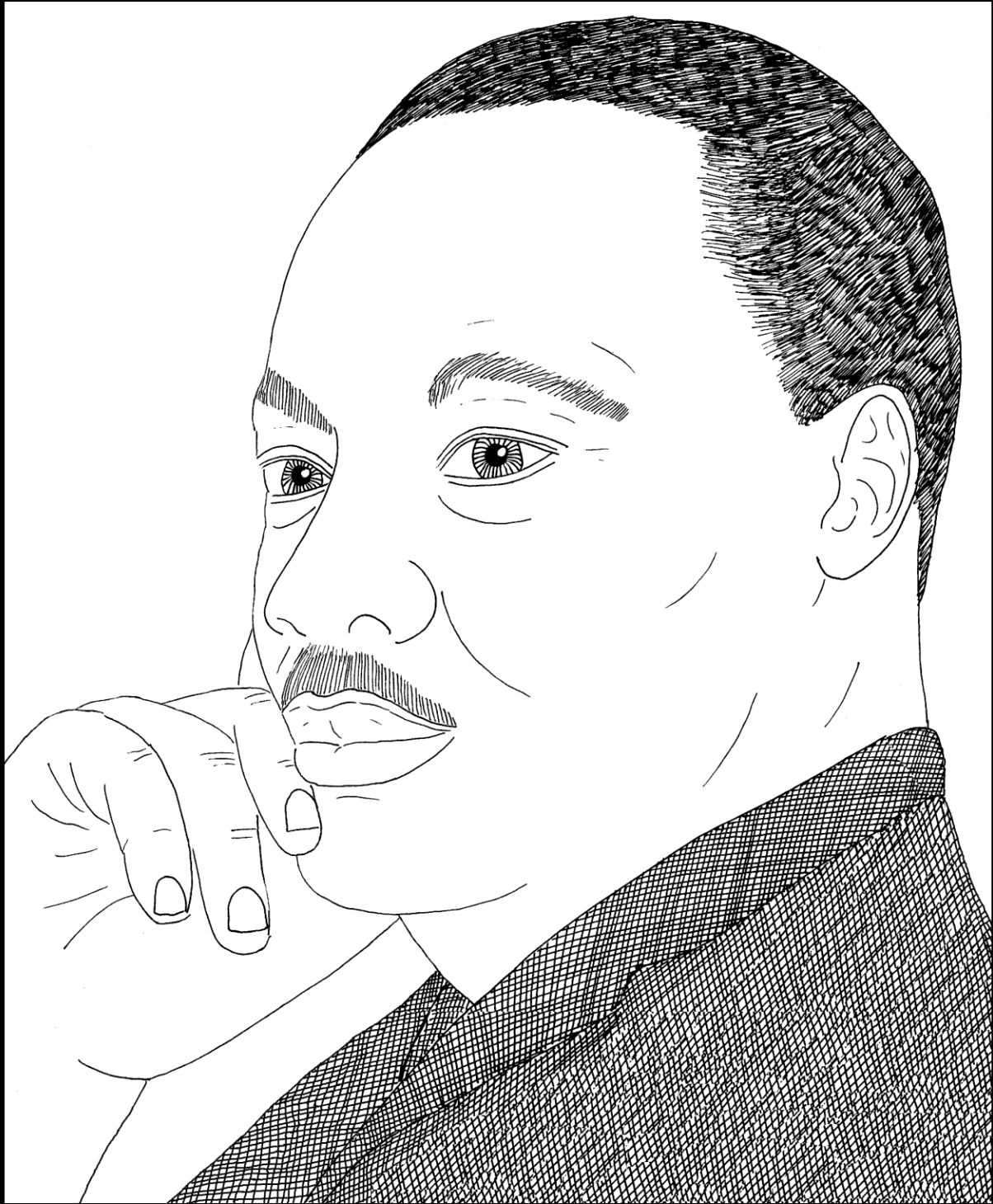
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"One who breaks an unjust law that conscience tells him is unjust, and who willingly accepts the penalty of imprisonment in order to arouse the conscience of the community over its injustice, is in reality expressing the highest respect for law."

-- Martin Luther King, Jr.

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"The legislation of the government has been directed rather to the protection of the rights of money and property than to the best good of the citizen."

-- Susette LaFlesche

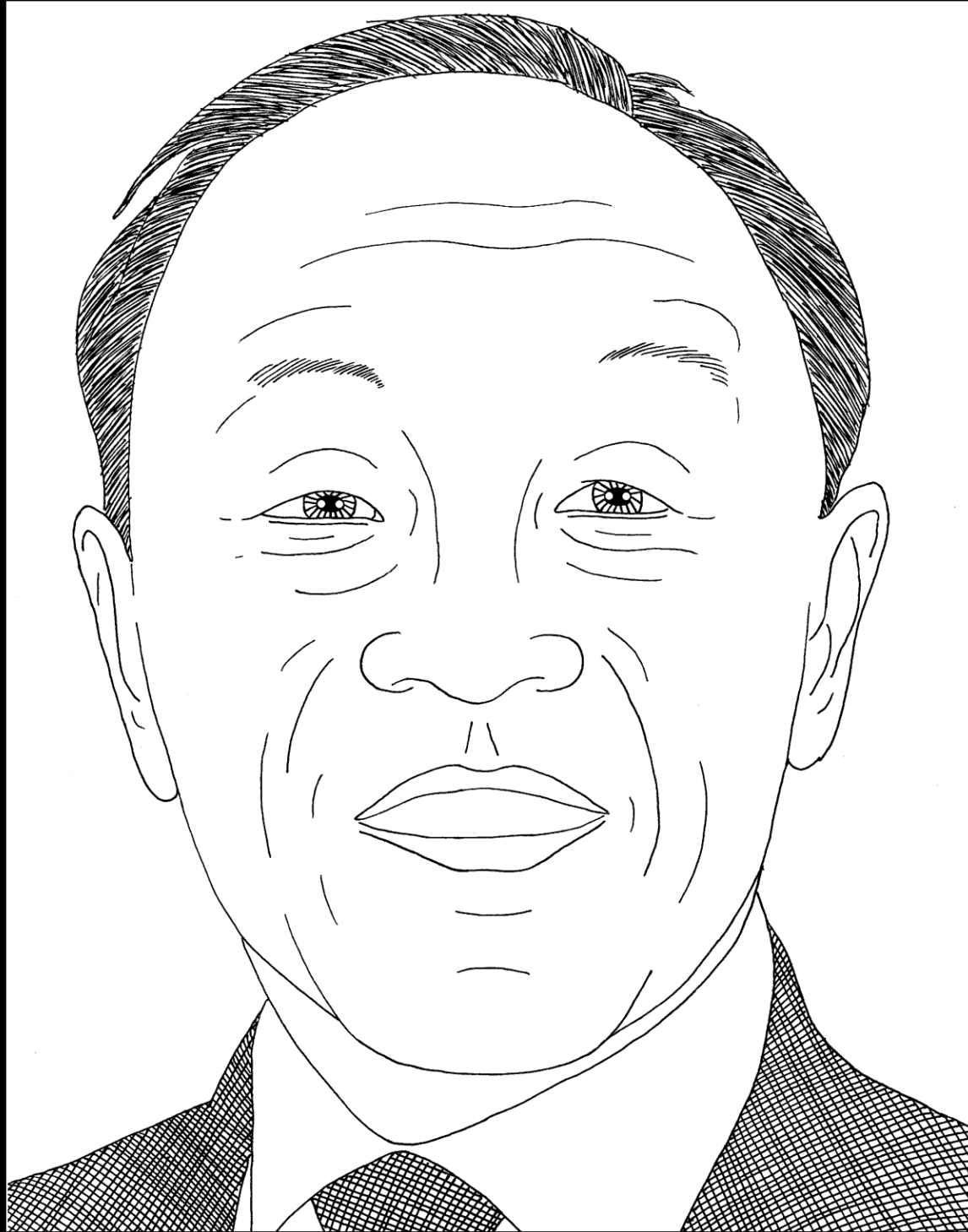
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"We should work together for more democratic and law-based international relations, and a harmonious environment in which countries respect one another, treat one another as equals, and different cultures can emulate and interchange with each other."

-- Li Zhaoxing

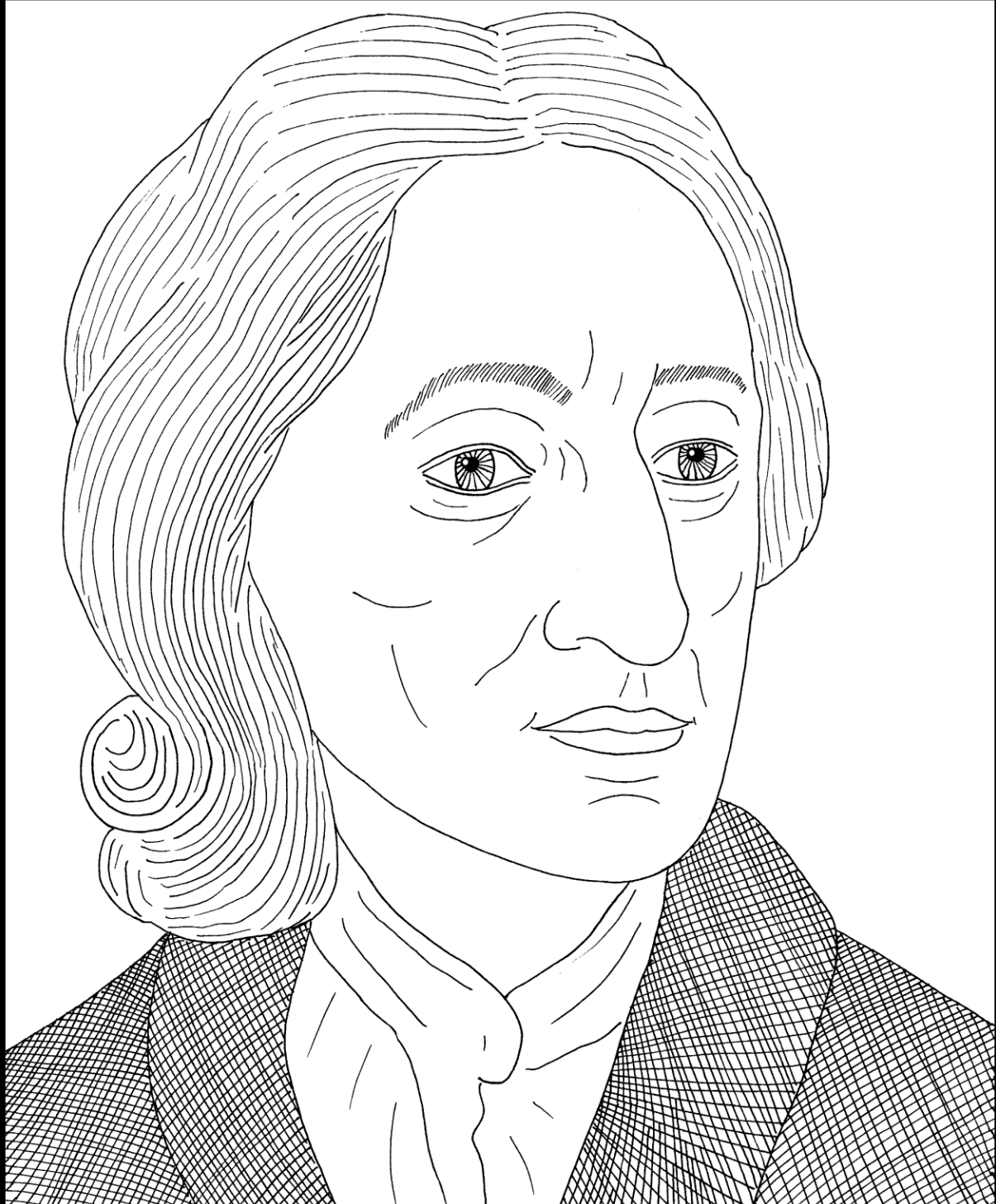
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"The end of law is not to abolish or restrain, but to preserve and enlarge freedom. For in all the states of created beings capable of law, where there is no law, there is no freedom."

-- John Locke

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"If nations could only depend upon fair and impartial judgments in a world court of law, they would abandon the senseless, savage practice of war."

-- Belva Ann Lockwood

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**"I believe that he who has less in life should have more in law."
-- Ramon Magsaysay**

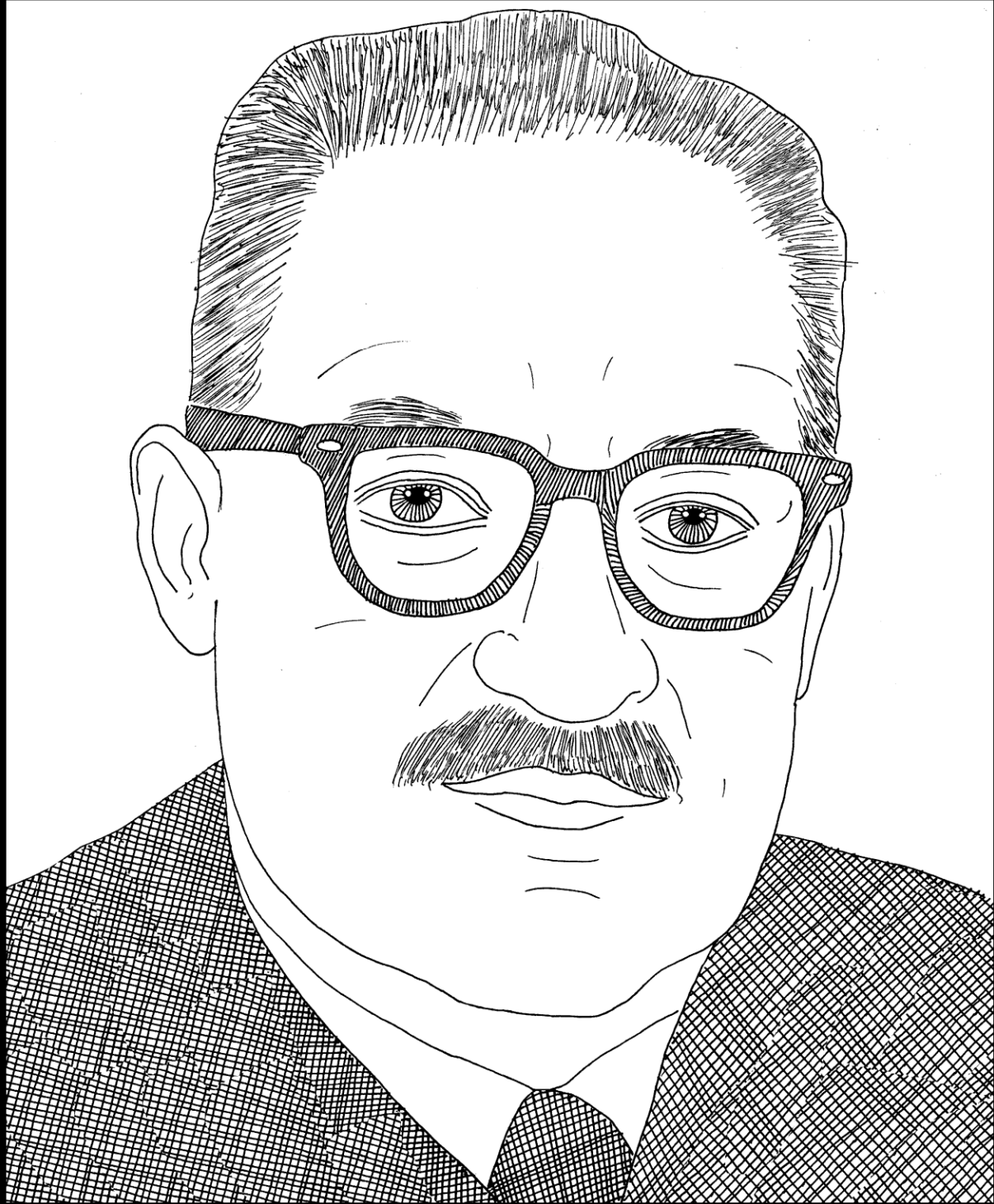
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"Lawlessness is lawlessness. Anarchy is anarchy is anarchy. Neither race nor color nor frustration is an excuse for either lawlessness or anarchy."

-- Justice Thurgood Marshall

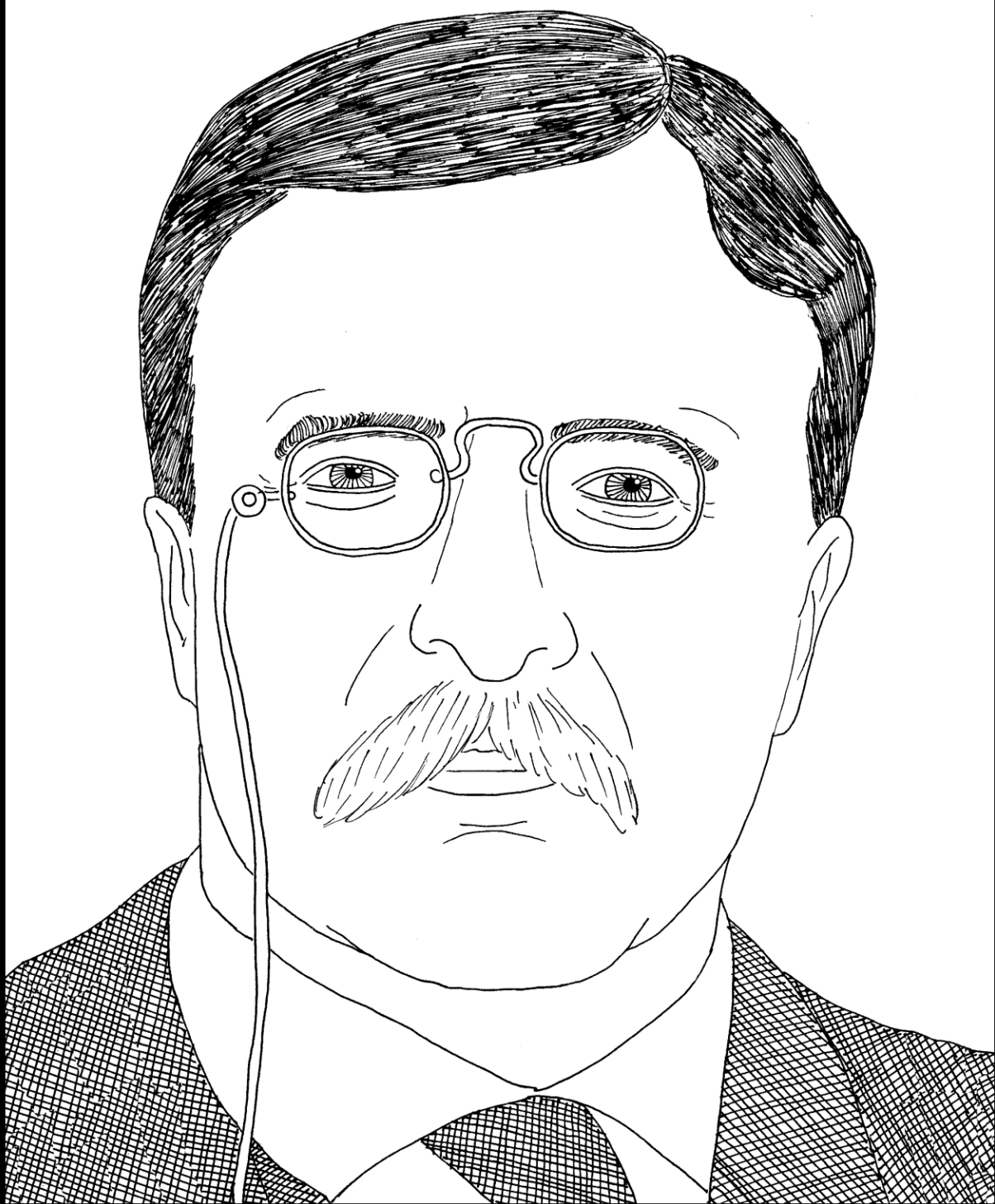
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**"No man is above the law and no man below it."
-- Theodore Roosevelt**

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**"As citizens of this democracy, you are the rulers and the ruled,
the law-givers and the law-abiding, the beginning and the end."
-- Adlai Stevenson**

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"This question of whether violence or law shall prevail between states is the most vital of the problems of our eventful era, and the most serious in its repercussions."

-- Bertha von Suttner

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"The greatness of nations is shown by their strict regard for human rights, rigid enforcement of the law without bias, and just administration of the affairs of life."

-- Mary Burnett Talbert

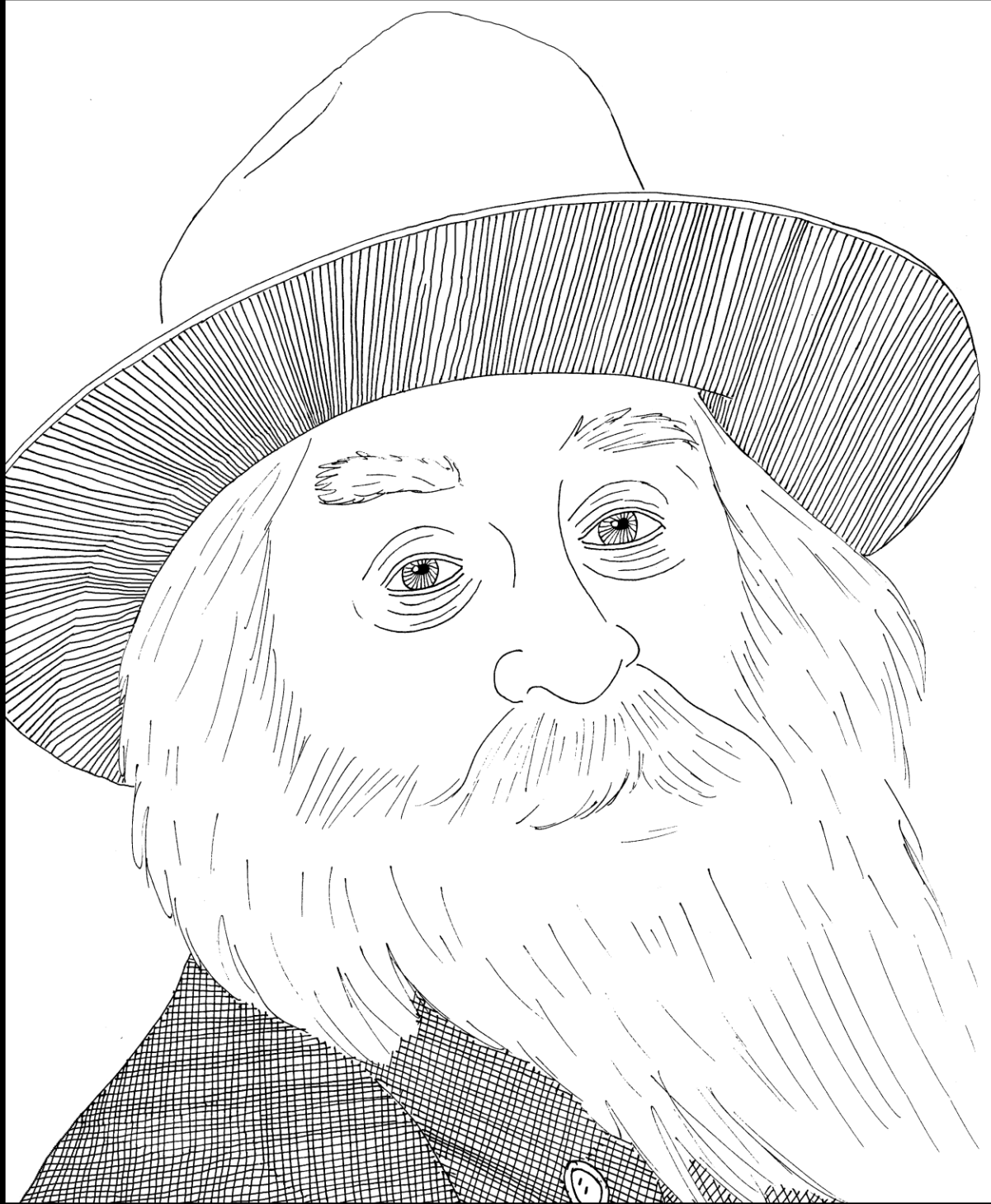
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"The shallow consider liberty a release from all law, from every constraint.
The wise see in it, on the contrary, the potent Law of Laws."
-- Walt Whitman

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