



RBG: A Modern Icon

By: Linda Sanders

Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the second woman appointed to the US Supreme Court as well as the first Jewish female justice, was an inspiration to many and one of the most influential women in recent history. She fought for gender equality, the rights of workers and the separation of church and state. She was a role model for what every young girl can achieve. She became a pop culture icon. But what were the best, most historic, and important moments of her life?

Ginsburg was born and grew up in Brooklyn, New York. She earned her bachelor's degree at Cornell University and married Martin D. Ginsburg, becoming a mother before starting law school at Harvard, where she was one of the few women in her class. Ginsburg transferred to Columbia Law School, where she graduated first in her class.

In 1970, RBG co-founded the "*Women's Rights Law Reporter*" which was the first law journal to focus exclusively on the field of women's rights law and is still published at Rutgers School of Law. During the 1970's RBG briefed or argued virtually every major sex discrimination case before the Supreme Court. In six of these landmark cases she presented oral argument and won all but one of them! Ironically, her approach to combatting sexism was bringing lawsuits on behalf of men who were being treated unequally because of their sex as a way of showing gender discrimination was harmful to both men and women. She believed male judges would appreciate the injustice in a case where men were the victims, and in winning those cases she built the foundation for addressing the sexism women suffered. Taken together, Ginsburg's legal victories discouraged legislatures from treating women and men differently under the law.



Frontiero v. Richardson, Ginsburg won equal benefits for the dependents of women serving in our armed forces. *Weinberger v. Weisenfeld*, the Supreme Court struck down a provision of the Social Security Act that provided survivor benefits to a widow with minor children but not to widowers with minor children.

Edwards v. Healy, involved a challenge to a Louisiana law that exempted women from jury service unless they wrote in and declared they wanted to serve. The Supreme Court, after hearing oral argument, sent it back to the district court without opinion, but supported Ginsburg's position in a companion case, *Taylor v. Louisiana*.

Califano v. Goldfarb, Leon Goldfarb was denied survivor's benefits under the Social Security Act even though his wife had paid Social Security taxes for over 25 years. Goldfarb/Ginsburg challenged the ruling and won. The Government appealed to the Supreme Court which held that the generalization that a wife is more likely to be dependent on her husband was not sufficient to justify a widower being treated differently than a widow and was a violation of the Due Process Clause.

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Tips & Tricks

Ever forget to "save-as" and save changes to a document where you need the original?

How to recover an older version of a document

- 1) Open the document
- 2) Click File
- 3) Click info
- 4) Go to Manage Document- which will show you older versions that were saved.
- 5) Click on document and resave with different name.

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Calendar of Events for 2022

| | Date and Location |
|---|---|
| 12:00 Brown Bag CLE Topic– New Notary Guidelines | February 16, 2022 |
| 12:00 Brown Bag CLE | March 16, 2022 |
| 11:00 a.m. Board Meeting 1:00 p.m. Lunch (Provided by the Division) | Saturday, April 2, 2022 State Bar of New Mexico |
| 12:00 Brown Bag CLE | April 20, 2022 |
| Law Day CLE 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. | Saturday, May 14, 2022 State Bar of New Mexico |
| 12:00 Brown Bag CLE | June 15, 2022 |
| 1:00 p.m. Board Meeting | Saturday, July 16, 2022 TBD |
| 12:00 Brown Bag CLE | July 20, 2022 |
| State Bar Annual Meeting Bench and Bar Conference | August 11-13, 2022 Tamaya Resort |
| Paralegal Division Annual Meeting Lunch | August 12, 2022 |
| Paralegal Day Anniversary Celebration 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. | Saturday, August 27, 2022 TBD |
| Paralegal Day | August 26, 2022 |
| <u>2nd Annual Paralegal Symposium</u> 9:00 a.m. CLE 12:00 p.m. Lunch (Provided by the Division) 1:00 p.m. Board Meeting 2:00 p.m. Planning Session 3:00 p.m. Board Meeting Continued. 4:00 p.m. Executive Committee Planning Session 5:00 p.m. Member mixer Happy Hour | Saturday, September 17, 2022 Roswell, NM |
| 12:00 Brown Bag CLE | October 19, 2022 |
| 12:00 Brown Bag CLE | November 16, 2022 |
| The Institute CLE 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. | Friday, December 2, 2022 State Bar of New Mexico |
| Holiday Dinner | Friday, December 2, 2022 6:00p.m., Location TBD Albuquerque, NM |

“DO MORE THAN

BELONG:

PARTICIPATE.

DO MORE THAN CARE:

HELP.

DO MORE THAN

BELIEVE: PRACTICE.

DO MORE THAN BE

FAIR: BE KIND.

DO MORE THAN

FORGIVE: FORGET.

DO MORE THAN DREAM:

WORK.” — WILLIAM

ARTHUR WARD

“Fight for the things that you care about. But do it in a way that will lead others to join you.” ~ RBG

RBG... continued

Duren v. Missouri, Ginsburg argued and won on behalf of a male convict who felt his right to a jury chosen from a fair cross-section of his community was violated because it didn't include women, whose jury duty was voluntary.

As a Supreme Court Justice, Ginsburg became known for her fiery dissents.

In *Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co.* the Court majority found the female plaintiff's claim to sex-based pay discrimination was not valid because the statute of limitations had run out. Ginsburg's dissent pointed out that women often do not know they are being paid less, and therefore it was unfair to expect them to act at the time of each paycheck. She also called attention to the reluctance women may have to make waves by filing lawsuits over small amounts, choosing instead to wait until the disparity accumulates. The dissent was a classic example of Ginsburg pointing out how ludicrous the majority's approach to the law was in light of how discrimination operates in the real world. The decision resulted in the enactment of the Lilly Ledbetter

Fair Pay Act which relaxed the statute of limitations on fair pay complaints.

In 1999, Ginsburg wrote the majority opinion in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, in which the Court ruled that mental illness is a form of disability covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Ginsburg authored the Court's opinion in *United States v. Virginia*, which struck down the Virginia Military Institute's (VMI) male-only admissions.

RBG took her crusade to end sex discrimination even further with her support of same-sex marriage. Ginsburg became the first Supreme Court justice to officiate a same-sex marriage. "I think of how the constitution begins: 'We the people of the United States, in order to form a perfect union,'" Ginsburg said of Constitutional rights in a 2014 interview. "But we're still striving for that more perfect union. And one of the perfections is for 'we the people' to include an ever enlarged group."

Coming full circle, RBG has inspired the next generation of women to pursue the law—including her own daughter, Jane, who became a law professor at Columbia. "

Before her death, Ginsburg was at the height of her popularity as young people continued to embrace her as a role model for justice, perseverance, and female empowerment. Her trademark glasses, bun, and fancy jabots (the lace collars she's fond of) make her a favorite for Halloween costumes.

These Ruth Bader Ginsburg quotes reveal what will now be her legacy: a call to action for future generations to continue her life's work.

"I didn't change the Constitution; the equality principle was there from the start. I just was an advocate for seeing its full realization."

"Whatever you choose to do, leave tracks. That means don't do it just for yourself. You will want to leave the world a little better for your having lived."

"I would like to be remembered as someone who used whatever talent she had to do her work to the very best of her ability."

"RBG HAS
INSPIRED THE
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GENERATION OF
WOMEN."

Personal Development and Growth- "Clear the Clutter"

Too much clutter can and **DOES** negatively affect your mental well-being and leave you feeling stressed, overwhelmed and unproductive.

This includes mental clutter as well as physical clutter.

- ⇒ Turn off notifications on electronic devices so you aren't bombarded by texts, emails etc. Set a time to check those only once an hour.
- ⇒ Create a notes folder for

every file and scan your notes into those so you can shred the paper copies.

- ⇒ Color-code files and notes for quick reference.



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PARALEGAL DIVISION

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Devany Whipple

Ad Hoc: Oral History Project

New Notary Regulations

The February 16th Brown Bag CLE will cover all the new requirements to be a Notary. Applicants who are renewing their commission **do not need to retake** the qualification course and exam, so long as their commission has not been expired more than one year. Within 45 days of the notary application being approved the notary must purchase and provide proof of their official stamp by submitting the Stamp Registration Form. **Official Stamp requirements for a Notary Public:**



- Shall be in 10 point font
- Shall contain the words "State of New Mexico" and "Notary Public"
- Shall list the notary's legal name identically as listed on the issued Certificate of Commission
- Shall list the issued commission number and expiration date as listed on the issued Certificate of Commission.
- The official stamp **CANNOT** contain the New Mexico State seal

Link to notary forms: [Notary Forms](#) | [Maggie Toulouse Oliver - New Mexico Secretary of State](#)

A Message from the Chair Linda Sanders

2022 is off to an unexpected start. After careful consideration, Emmalee Atencio made the difficult decision to resign as incoming Chair of the SBNM Paralegal Division. I wish Emmalee all the best. I want to thank Angela Minefee for her direction, dedication, and service in 2021. Through her leadership, our Division continued to offer important services and programs to our members despite the difficulties of COVID-19. Our Bylaws require that we hold a special election to fill the vacant Chair-elect position. Look for communication regarding this in mid-January from our Nominating and Elections Committee Chair, Ruby Silva.

In retrospect, 2021 was a great year for the Division. We welcomed 18 new members for a total of 130 active members. We implemented a new scholarship program, brought back the brown bag discussion

group and volunteered at three Wills for Heroes events. Had COVID not interfered, we would have held our 1st Symposium and we met a Division goal of holding a Board meeting outside of Albuquerque. We achieved a lot! And I'm very hopeful the momentum will continue.

Moving forward, I want to challenge each of you to become involved in our Division. Join a Division committee. Volunteer at the pro-bono events we support. Attend our Brown Bag sessions and bring a co-worker! We offer something for everyone. Take a look at our website, <https://www.sbnm.org/Leadership/Divisions/Paralegal> for information on meetings, CLEs, and upcoming events.

My goal for this year is to promote awareness of our Division and our profession. I intend to serve on at least one committee of the Board of Bar Commissioners as well as a

State Bar committee. I hope our Officers and Directors will do the same. I also am going to work on improving our presence at the State Bar Annual Meeting through a breakout session specific to paralegals and an informational table at the event. Finally, I want to rely on each of you to promote our Division among your co-workers and attorneys. Let them know you are a member and the value this adds to your firm through our ability to network and our educational/CLE requirements for membership. Did you know we have SBNM Paralegal Division merchandise? Go to www.zazzle.com and search for SBNM to see what is available.

If you have any questions or ideas, *please* contact me, pd@sbnm.org. I look forward to serving as your Chair.

