

Foreword: Justice Ginsburg's Benchwork

MARC SPINDELMAN*

The academic commentaries that comprise the vast bulk of this Symposium, marking Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's fifteenth anniversary as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, speak for themselves. Trained on the singular topic of Justice Ginsburg's work on the Supreme Court, each essay is its own free-standing piece, written from its own distinct vantage point in its own distinct voice for its own distinct ends. Read along with all the rest, though, patterns emerge. If these contributions do not yet collectively point to a full-fledged jurisprudential method in Justice Ginsburg's work on the Court, they unquestionably refer to, and capture, a perceptible and distinct style—ever smart, careful, attentive to detail—that epitomizes a judicial craft.

Recognizing the significance of each individual contribution to the volume, which happily also includes tributes from Chief Justice John Roberts, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi, and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, as well as a published “conversation” with Justice Ginsburg herself, the Symposium was initially conceived as an academic investigation that would prove indispensable and illuminating, both now and in the future, for those who wish to gain a handle on one part of Justice Ginsburg's larger legacy in law, and in particular an extended (and still ongoing) moment in time when she served her country from its highest bench. It was more than a passing hope that the volume would contribute to future histories of that great institution. Time will tell.

All academic symposia require tides of work to put together, both because the live events that define them are major productions to staff and stage, and because the published volumes that commemorate them can entail their own coordination demands. In this case, the “Ginsburg Symposium,” as it was known around the College of Law, was a unique event in the College's history, not least of all in terms of how many members of the community—faculty, staff, and particularly students—gave so generously of themselves to make it a success. Frankly, more thanks are owed for this than can be given here. Some absolutely cannot go without mention. In addition to the talents and efforts of the contributors themselves, notably including Justice Ginsburg and her “conversation” partners, Wendy Webster Williams and Deborah Merritt, as well as a Keynote address by Justice Peter Rubin, scores of dedicated students on the *Ohio State Law Journal's* staff went above and beyond the ordinary call of duty for this Symposium under the leadership of

* Copyright © 2009 by Marc Spindelman. All rights reserved. Professor of Law, The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, and Faculty Advisor for the Ginsburg Symposium.

no fewer than three Editors-in-Chief: Chad Eggspuehler (who committed the Journal to the project), Dylan Griffiths (who, supported by the irrepressible energies of Symposium Editor Jeremy Lime, helped bring it to life), and Peter Glenn-Applegate (who, with Executive Editor Abigail André, shepherded it to print). Without all of them, and the support of two law school deans, Nancy Rogers and Alan Michaels, and one very special associate dean, Garry Jenkins, none of this would have happened. Additional debts of thanks incurred along the way must also be publicly repaid. Kathleen Arberg, J.D. Barlow, Patricia Estrada, Sam Goodstein, Serena Hoy, Richard Lazarus, Pam Lombardi, Kimberly McKenzie, Tim Meager, Jeffrey Minear, Diane Nelson, Joe Onek, Barbara Peck, Rob Phillips, Lauren Ray, Peter Swire, Michael Tecklenburg, Edward Turner, Cathy Vaughn, all helped make the Ginsburg Symposium what it was, some portion of which is, and some portion of which unfortunately cannot be, captured on the written page.