

On the Occasion of Justice Ginsburg's Fifteenth Anniversary of Investiture to the Supreme Court

CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE UNITED STATES
JOHN G. ROBERTS, JR.

Justice Ginsburg, I am very pleased to extend my warm congratulations on the occasion of your reaching the mid-point of your tenure as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

I have truly enjoyed sharing the bench with you over the past three years. I feel supremely fortunate to work with an individual of your extraordinary skill, expertise, love of the calling, and personal heroism.

As a lover of orchestral music, you appreciate as much as anyone that all nine of us work in concert on the Court. We strive to promote excellence in each other and achieve a result that exceeds the sum of our parts. We join our efforts most often in harmony, but you have demonstrated great skill in counterpoint as well.

Virtuosity requires talent, but it can blossom only through study and practice. You have never hesitated to go beyond the extraordinary. You excelled at not one but two fine legal academies: Harvard and Columbia. Your work as an attorney, paid and pro bono, advanced gender equality for both men and women.

Like other virtuosos, you have generously shared your knowledge through teaching. Many current and aspiring lawyers are grateful for your efforts. Your scholarship, particularly in the field of comparative civil procedure, is an enduring testament to your energy and intellectual force.

You could have excelled as a solo artist, in private practice or in the academy. But we are glad that public service attracted you to collaborative undertakings, first in trio performance on the District of Columbia Circuit, and then as part of our larger group. On both courts, you have earned acclaim for your work ethic, intellectual rigor, precision with words, and total disregard for the normal day/night work schedule adhered to by everyone else since the beginning of recorded history. Most of all, I appreciate your collegiality and friendship.

You should not be surprised that the public embraces you as an inspiring example for the legal profession. You once wrote, "Lawyers fare best in their own estimation, and in the esteem of others . . . if they do their part to help move society to the place they would like it to be for the health and well-

being of today's children and of generations to come.”¹ As a parent, mentor, attorney, teacher, author, and judge, you have touched countless others.

No artist is complete without a muse, but you have had the benefit of three. It is no secret that your husband Marty, and your children, James and Jane, are the sources of your strength and inspiration. Jane noted in her 1973 high school year book that her “[a]mbition” was “[t]o see her mother appointed to the Supreme Court.” She added, “If necessary, Jane will appoint her.” As it turned out, President Clinton seized the opportunity first. To commemorate the occasion, the President presented you with a signed photograph reading, “To Justice Ginsburg. What a day this was.” Fifteen years later, let me say, what a day *this* is. Thank you, Justice Ginsburg, for your service to Court and country.

Bravissima.

¹ Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Remarks for American Bar Association Initiative: Renaissance of Idealism in the Legal Profession (May 2, 2006), *available at* http://www.supremecourtus.gov/publicinfo/speeches/sp_05-04-06.html.