



Ruth Bader Ginsburg

1933-2020

Ruth Bader Ginsburg was born Joan Ruth Bader in March 1933. She was an associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States from 1993 until her death in September 2020. She was nominated by President Bill Clinton, replacing retiring justice Byron White and at the time was generally viewed as a moderate consensus-builder. She eventually became part of the liberal wing of the Court as the Court shifted to the right over time. Ginsburg was the first Jewish woman and the second woman to serve on the Court, after Sandra Day O'Connor. During her tenure, Ginsburg wrote notable majority opinions, including *United States v. Virginia* (1996), *Olmstead v. L.C.* (1999), *Friends of the Earth, Inc. v. Laidlaw Environmental Services, Inc.* (2000), and *City of Sherrill v. Oneida Indian Nation of New York* (2005).

Born and brought up in Brooklyn, New York; her older sister died when she was a baby and her mother died shortly before Ginsburg graduated from high school. After earning her bachelor's degree at university, she married and became a mother shortly before starting law school at Harvard, where she was one of the few women in her class. Later transferring to Columbia, Ginsburg graduated joint first.

In the early 60's she moved to Sweden for a legal research project. It was there, whilst also co-writing a book that the future Supreme Court justice discovered a world that challenged every assumption she had about women in the work place. Later becoming a professor at Rutgers Law School and Columbia Law School, Ginsburg taught civil procedure as one of the few women in her field.

She spent much of her legal career championing gender equality and human rights.

Ginsburg was credited with inspiring the 'Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay' Act which made it easier for employees to win pay discrimination claims. At the age of 80 she received attention when she was nicknamed the Notorious RBG, which she later embraced. The moniker was inspired by Ginsberg's powerful dissent defending voting rights.

Named by Forbes magazine as one of 100 Most Powerful Women from 2004 -2011; she was also became the first Supreme Court justice to officiate at a same-sex marriage ceremony in 2013. Having experienced discrimination for most of her life, she turned the tables to fight it.

Notable quotes from Justice Ginsburg;

'My mother told me to be a lady. And for her, that meant be your own person, be independent.'

'Women will only have true equality when men share with them the responsibility of bringing up the next generation.'

'The state controlling a woman would mean denying her full autonomy and full equality.'

'Reading is the key that opens doors to many good things in life. Reading shaped my dreams, and more reading helped me make my dreams come true.'





September 29, 2020 Ginsburg is laid to rest in a private ceremony after her numerous battles with cancer. Not only the first woman to lie in state in the US Capitol, but also the first Jewish person to be given that honour.

Supreme Court Justice Ginsburg continues to make history, even after her death.