SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

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JUSTICE RUTH BADER GINSBURG MEMORIAL
MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME COURT BAR

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1	SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
2	JUSTICE RUTH BADER GINSBURG MEMORIAL
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5	MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME COURT BAR
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9	1:45 p.m.
LO	Friday, March 17, 2023
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L9	Upper Great Hall
20	Supreme Court of the United States
21	Washington, D.C.
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2	PROCEEDINGS
3	(1:45 p.m.)
4	CALL TO ORDER
5	HONORABLE ELIZABETH B. PRELOGAR,
6	SOLICITOR GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
7	GENERAL PRELOGAR: Good afternoon,
8	members of the Ginsburg family, members of the
9	Court, members of the Bar, and friends.
LO	This meeting of the Bar of the Supreme
L1	Court of the United States has been called to
L2	honor the memory of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg,
L3	who served as an Associate Justice of the
L 4	Supreme Court from 1993 until 2020.
L5	In addition to her time on the Court,
L6	Justice Ginsburg served as a judge on the United
L7	States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, as
L8	the first tenured female professor at Columbia
L9	Law School, and as founder and director of the
20	Women's Rights Project at the ACLU.
21	She was a visionary as an advocate who
22	championed equal citizenship for all persons and
23	as a judge who fought every day to fulfill this
24	nation's promise. She was a person of
2.5	principle, graced with a brilliant mind, guick

- 1 wit, tireless nature, and courageous soul. She
- was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and
- 3 great-grandmother, a cherished colleague, an
- 4 inspiring teacher, and a historic figure in
- 5 American law.
- 6 She revered the rule of law and the
- 7 Constitution. The Court and this country are
- 8 forever honored by her service.
- 9 I want to express my appreciation to
- 10 Judge Paul Watford and Hajin Kim, who co-chaired
- 11 the Arrangements Committee for this meeting, and
- 12 to the members of that committee, Justice Rachel
- Wainer Apter, Judge John Owens, and Amanda
- 14 Tyler. I also want to express my gratitude to
- 15 Judge John Owens and Amanda Tyler, who
- 16 co-chaired the Resolutions Committee, and to the
- 17 members of that committee: Payvand Ahdout,
- 18 Jennifer Clark, Kelsi Brown Corkran, Beatrice
- 19 Franklin, Abbe Gluck, Justice Goodwin Liu,
- 20 Michael Klarman, Amy Marshak, Deborah Jones
- 21 Merritt, Trevor Morrison, and Daniel Rubens.
- 22 The meeting today will be chaired by Judge
- Owens, and Scott Harris will be the secretary.
- 24 I had the incredible honor of clerking
- for Justice Ginsburg, so before I turn the

1	podium over, I wanted to share a few reflections
2	on three roles that defined the Justice's life
3	and career as a lawyer, a mentor, and a fighter.
4	Perhaps the most natural place for me
5	to begin is with Justice Ginsburg's role as an
6	advocate. It's natural not only because I'm
7	speaking on behalf of the Supreme Court Bar but
8	also because Justice Ginsburg is the person who
9	moved my admission to this Bar and was one of
10	the first people who encouraged me to apply for
11	a job in the SG's Office. Although I didn't get
12	to argue before her as Solicitor General, I like
13	to think that she'd be happy that I'm able to
14	speak about her today in that capacity.
15	Justice Ginsburg's accomplishments as
16	an advocate are extraordinary, the stuff of
17	legend. She argued six cases in this Court
18	between 1972 and 1978 at a time when few women
19	were arguing in any court, much less this one,
20	and she made those cases count, winning five of
21	them and establishing the principle of gender
22	equality as constitutional law, often through
23	her ingenious strategy of bringing sex
24	discrimination cases on behalf of men.
25	One of her big cases, litigated in the

- 1 Tenth Circuit alongside her husband, Marty, was
- 2 Moritz versus Commissioner. It involved a tax
- 3 code provision that allowed single women but not
- 4 single men to deduct the cost of caring for an
- 5 elderly dependent. The case is memorably
- 6 depicted in the movie "On the Basis of Sex," but
- 7 I'll always remember hearing the story firsthand
- 8 at a dinner that the Ginsburgs hosted for us
- 9 clerks during our clerkship year. As they told
- 10 it, Marty learned about the case through his tax
- 11 practice and ran into Justice Ginsburg's room to
- 12 tell her that she needed to read the lower court
- 13 decision. She said, Marty, you know I don't
- 14 read tax cases.
- 15 (Laughter.)
- 16 GENERAL PRELOGAR: He said, well, you
- 17 need to read this one.
- 18 At the oral argument, they divided the
- 19 argument time, and Marty went first. He told us
- 20 that as he was delivering his argument, she
- 21 started tugging on his sleeve because he was
- 22 going on too long.
- 23 (Laughter.)
- 24 GENERAL PRELOGAR: Without missing a
- 25 beat, the Justice quipped, you were cutting into

- 1 my time.
- 2 (Laughter.)
- 3 GENERAL PRELOGAR: Of course, they won
- 4 the case. When the Solicitor General sought
- 5 review in this Court, he attached an appendix
- 6 listing all of the federal statutes that would
- 7 be called into question by the Tenth Circuit's
- 8 decision because they classified based on sex.
- 9 Justice Ginsburg later described the appendix as
- 10 a treasure trove.
- 11 (Laughter.)
- 12 GENERAL PRELOGAR: It turned into a
- 13 sort of target list, and she took aim at many of
- 14 these statutes in the year ahead. So, whatever
- 15 else I do as Solicitor General, I won't be
- 16 filing any appendices like that.
- 17 (Laughter.)
- 18 GENERAL PRELOGAR: Although Justice
- 19 Ginsburg's advocacy transformed an entire area
- of constitutional law, she never focused only on
- 21 abstract legal principles. Decades later, she
- 22 still remembered every client and the injustices
- that brought them to court. Stephen Weisenfeld,
- 24 for example, lost his wife, Paula, during
- childbirth, but he wasn't eligible for the

- 1 Social Security benefits that a similarly
- 2 situated widow would have received.
- Justice Ginsburg won his case
- 4 unanimously in the Supreme Court, but she didn't
- 5 stop there. She kept in touch with the
- 6 Weisenfelds for the rest of her life, and almost
- 7 30 years later after the Court's decision, when
- 8 the little boy at the center of the case got
- 9 married, Justice Ginsburg officiated the
- 10 wedding.
- 11 That enduring commitment to people
- 12 animated the second of Justice Ginsburg's roles
- 13 that I wanted to highlight, her role as a
- 14 mentor. First, Justice Ginsburg recognized the
- 15 importance of her own mentors. In the brief she
- 16 filed in the landmark case Reed versus Reed, she
- insisted on including in the signature block
- some of the lawyers and scholars whose work had
- 19 inspired her. As she put it, she stood on their
- 20 shoulders and should give them credit.
- 21 And here at the Court, she mentored
- 22 her law clerks in countless ways. She insisted
- on mastering the facts of every case, reminding
- 24 us that the Court's cases are about real people
- 25 with real problems.

1	Clerking for her was also a master
2	class in legal writing. She edited opinions by
3	hand, so we would triple-space the drafts to
4	leave plenty of room for her notes, and she had
5	no trouble filling that space with red ink. If
6	she wanted to reorganize the draft, she would
7	literally cut out a paragraph and tape it
8	somewhere else on the paper. So it was an
9	old-school cut-and-paste. And then, when she
10	finished, she would call the law clerk into her
11	office and go over the revisions one by one to
12	explain her thinking. It was an amazing
13	opportunity to learn about the craft of legal
14	writing from an extraordinary writer.
15	She modeled her incredible work ethic
16	in many other ways. She was a famous night owl
17	who would often stay up half the night poring
18	over a draft line by line. The story was that
19	she and Justice Kennedy, a well-known early
20	bird, would pass each other going in opposite
21	directions in the garage.
22	For all of her devotion to her work,
23	Justice Ginsburg also reminded us that there's
24	more to life. She took us to the opera and
25	patiently explained what was going on when I

1 confessed at intermission that I had no idea 2 what was happening on stage. She was a fitness 3 enthusiast who lifted weights and did pushups well into her 80s, often while wearing a Super 4 Diva sweatshirt. And perhaps thanks to Marty, 5 6 she appreciated good food, especially sweets. 7 One of my favorite memories came at 8 the annual Supreme Court Christmas recess party, 9 where I spotted the Justice across the room, making a beeline for the chocolate fountain. 10 11 But she didn't pick up a strawberry or a piece 12 of cake to dip. Instead, she put her spoon directly under the chocolate flow --13 14 (Laughter.) 15 GENERAL PRELOGAR: -- and ate it 16 straight. 17 (Laughter.) 18 GENERAL PRELOGAR: As with so many other things, the Justice knew exactly what she 19 wanted and didn't waste time with filler. 20 21 (Laughter.) 2.2 GENERAL PRELOGAR: The final aspect of

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Justice Ginsburg's legacy that I want to touch

certainly the physically smallest person ever to

on is her fighting spirit. She was almost

23

24

- 1 serve on this Court, but I doubt that anyone has
- 2 ever punched further above their weight.
- 3 She faced profound adversity in every
- 4 phase of her life. Her mother died the day
- 5 before her high school graduation. Marty was
- 6 diagnosed with cancer early in their marriage.
- 7 She endured discrimination based on sex and
- 8 pregnancy and religion. She faced multiple
- 9 bouts with cancer. And she overcame again and
- 10 again, demonstrating a resilience, fearlessness,
- and independence matched by few others. She was
- 12 the epitome of unrelenting grace.
- 13 And she was unyielding in fighting for
- 14 the things she believed in.
- When she was preparing for her Supreme
- 16 Court confirmation hearings, a White House
- 17 staffer wrote a memo describing her "disdain for
- 18 the confirmation process."
- The memo added that Judge Ginsburg
- 20 views the White House's interests and her
- 21 interests as being at odds with each other. She
- 22 sees us as having a stake in presenting her as a
- 23 moderate and in getting along well with the
- 24 Senate. She sees her interests as "being
- herself, preserving her dignity, and promoting

- 1 her independence." I'll add only that Justice
- 2 Ginsburg was confirmed 96 to 3.
- I witnessed one of Justice Ginsburg's
- 4 most difficult battles up close during my
- 5 clerkship. That was the year that Marty was
- 6 again diagnosed with cancer. The Justice
- 7 lovingly cared for him, juggling his medical
- 8 appointments and hospitalization with his --
- 9 with her work at the Court.
- The morning after he passed away was
- 11 the final decision day of the term, and Justice
- 12 Ginsburg had a majority opinion in one of the
- 13 leading cases. The grief was so evident in
- 14 Court as Justice Ginsburg delivered her opinion.
- 15 As usual, her voice wasn't
- 16 particularly loud or particularly fast, but it
- was steady and sure, confident in her decision
- in the case and in her knowledge that by coming
- 19 to Court to hand down the decision, she was
- doing what Marty would have wanted.
- Justice Ginsburg's fight ended in
- 22 September 2020 following yet another hard-fought
- 23 battle with cancer. I stood guard with her
- 24 other former clerks as she lay in repose at the
- 25 Court.

1 Because of the pandemic, her casket 2 was placed outside the Court at the top of the 3 front steps rather than in the usual indoor location, and as I thought about it, I decided 4 that it was fitting that she was outside, 5 6 accessible to the public. 7 Her life was a quintessentially American story. She was born to a family of 8 9 immigrants and grew up with modest means. She faced profound adversity and discrimination. 10 11 Yet, through her intellect, hard work, and force 12 of will, she not only reached the top of her profession, she reshaped it. 13 She broke barriers for those who came 14 15 after her and she inspired multiple generations. 16 So many people came to pay their final respects 17 as she lay in repose, as I walked to the Court down East Capitol Street, the line of mourners 18 stretched for block after block after block. 19 20 almost all the way to Lincoln Park. 21 There were all kinds of people, young 2.2 and old, women and men, parents with their small 23 children. Some cried. Some kneeled and prayed. 24 And many of them looked from her flag-draped 25 casket up the majestic columns of this Court to

Τ	the words inscribed in marble on the lacade,
2	words that inspired Justice Ginsburg throughout
3	her career and that she brought to life for
4	generations to come: Equal justice under law.
5	May her memory be a blessing.
6	INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKERS
7	HONORABLE JOHN B. OWENS
8	JUDGE, UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
9	FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT,
LO	CHAIR OF THE MEETING
L1	JUDGE OWENS: Good afternoon,
L2	everyone. Madam Solicitor General, Mr. Chief
L3	Justice, Associate Justices, members of the
L4	Ginsburg family, Mr. Attorney General, and
L5	members of the Supreme Court Bar, it is a great
L6	honor to be with you here today to remember
L7	Justice Ginsburg. And I want to thank you,
L8	Solicitor General, for your opening remarks.
L9	Now, when I speak with high school and
20	college and law students, they usually look
21	pretty bored. They don't really ask any
22	questions about me. I was a federal prosecutor
23	for 10 years, I'm a federal judge, but, when
24	they find out I clerked for Justice Ginsburg,
25	wow, now they're interested. What did she teach

- 1 you? What was she like? Tell us about her.
- Where do you start? How do you
- 3 describe who Justice Ginsburg was? You could
- 4 spend hours on her childhood in which she
- 5 overcame incredible family tragedy to rise to
- 6 the top. You could talk about her college and
- 7 law school career, where she had a baby, her
- 8 husband had cancer, and she finished first in
- 9 her class. You could explore her career as a
- 10 law professor, where she learned Swedish to
- 11 better understand the American civil procedure
- 12 system.
- 13 (Laughter.)
- 14 JUDGE OWENS: Or you could delve into
- 15 her efforts as a litigator which were just
- 16 detailed where she was a first ballot Hall of
- 17 Famer. I haven't even talked about the D.C.
- 18 Circuit yet. I haven't talked about this Court
- 19 yet.
- 20 Simply put, this is hard sometimes for
- 21 younger people to understand, you can't
- 22 Wikipedia-ize the life and career of Justice
- 23 Ginsburg. She was one of the most extraordinary
- 24 people to ever walk into this building and,
- frankly, on the face of this earth. And today

- 1 we're going to do our best to highlight what
- 2 made her so special.
- 3 So what do I tell the students? They
- 4 always want to talk about the dissents, but I
- 5 stress to them Justice Ginsburg was a winner.
- 6 She understood how to persuade people. She was
- 7 a big-time winner. And she understood that
- 8 patience and calmness was much more effective
- 9 than yelling or demeaning someone who might not
- 10 initially agree with you.
- I tell them that her love for civil
- 12 procedure was genuine and intense. This
- 13 surprises many law students. I describe when
- she received the assignment in Baker versus
- 15 General Motors, which was honestly a somewhat
- obscure civil procedure case, she was so
- 17 excited, so excited.
- 18 If you could imagine Justice Kagan if
- 19 the Jets, Mets, and Knicks all won the title in
- the same year, not going to happen, but that's
- 21 what it was like for --
- 22 (Laughter.)
- JUDGE OWENS: -- for Justice Ginsburg.
- I also tell them it's important to
- follow your passions, even if they are civil

- 1 procedure and opera. But -- but what I always
- 2 come back to, no matter how many times I've
- 3 spoken with students, is her mental toughness.
- 4 She is the toughest person I've ever met.
- 5 And I don't mean rough or uncivilized.
- 6 I mean, she had the gloves, the purse, the
- 7 outfits. We all know that. I mean, I've never
- 8 met someone who was so determined to make it, to
- 9 never let anything or anyone stop her and to
- 10 never ever make excuses for why you didn't get
- 11 something done. Just get it done. And I doubt
- 12 that anyone in this room -- and, Justice Thomas,
- 13 you've served here for a long time -- I don't
- 14 think you ever heard her make an excuse about
- 15 work. Never happened.
- 16 We all know she had plenty of excuses,
- 17 a lot of good excuses, as to why she couldn't
- get to do something, but she always had the will
- 19 to fight through whatever the barrier was in
- 20 front of her.
- Now I used to box, so I spent a lot of
- 22 time around tough guys. And boxers are tough
- 23 guys. But, honestly, none of them had the
- 24 mental toughness that she did.
- You know, she taught me early on, if

- 1 you want to win a case, you could not be the
- 2 second-most prepared person in the room. Number
- 3 two is not going to cut it. She was always
- 4 number one when it came to being prepared, and I
- 5 cannot imagine a better lesson for young
- 6 lawyers.
- Now sometimes students will ask, well,
- 8 why was she so tough, so determined, and why
- 9 didn't she just give up after everything that
- 10 happened to her? Well, look, I'm sure her life
- 11 circumstances made her feel like she couldn't
- 12 give up because, if she stepped out for a
- 13 second, the game would pass her by.
- But I also think it's more -- more
- 15 than that. I think it's the Justice's love of
- 16 this country compelled her to never quit.
- 17 Justice Ginsburg loved the United States. She
- 18 said many times that only in America could
- 19 someone from her background rise to the level
- 20 that she did.
- 21 She once told me in effect that there
- 22 never would have been a Notorious RBG if there
- wasn't the Good Old USA. And she passionately
- 24 believed that while America's pendulum might
- swing wildly at some times, it eventually will

- 1 settle into a more stable rhythm, and she wanted
- 2 everyone to have the same opportunities that she
- 3 did to enjoy the American dream.
- 4 And so, when students ask me about her
- 5 judicial philosophy, I struggle at times to put
- 6 it into a few words, but I like to say that her
- 7 philosophy is that the United States is the
- 8 greatest country in world history, may not be
- 9 perfect, but it is, and that the Constitution,
- 10 especially the Fourteenth Amendment in her view,
- 11 was designed so everyone can take full advantage
- of it. And that's why I think she fought so
- hard for so long and busted through all those
- 14 roadblocks that stood in her way.
- 15 So we will now hear from some fellow
- 16 clerks about what made her so special. My
- 17 colleague, the Honorable Paul Watford of the
- 18 Ninth Circuit, the Honorable Justice Rachel
- 19 Wainer Apter of the Supreme Court of New Jersey,
- 20 Professor Amanda Tyler of Berkeley, and
- 21 Professor Hajin Kim from Chicago.
- 22 And Professor Kim will then move the
- adoption of the resolutions to be presented to
- the Court, and as Justice Ginsburg law clerks,
- 25 we promise to be concise and stay on schedule.

1	(Laughter.)
2	REMARKS BY HONORABLE PAUL WATFORD
3	JUDGE, UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
4	FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT
5	JUDGE WATFORD: It's an honor to be
6	here this afternoon and to have been asked to
7	provide some brief remarks paying tribute to
8	Justice Ginsburg, whose impact on the shape of
9	our society is probably too profound to measure
LO	I'd like to focus my remarks on the
L1	Justice's role as an advocate for equality,
L2	women's equality most importantly, but a quality
L3	for other marginalized groups as well during the
L4	years that she spent litigating cases before
L5	this Court and during her four decades of
L6	distinguished service as a federal judge.
L7	A common thread runs through the
L8	briefs she filed in this Court, beginning the
L9	influential brief in Reed versus Reed. The
20	legal principle she sought to vindicate there
21	and in the cases that followed in the 1970s was
22	a simple but essential one, the desire to be
23	judged on one's individual merits, not on the
24	basis of overbroad generalizations or
25	stereotypes.

1	The Idaho statute at issue in Reed
2	versus Reed was a poster child for laws of the
3	latter sort. It mandated that as between
4	individuals equally equally entitled to
5	administer a decedent's estate, males must be
6	preferred to females. As Justice Ginsburg wrot
7	in her brief seeking to invalidate that statute
8	the law was based on the unfounded assumption
9	that, in general, men are better equipped to ac
10	as an administrator than are women.
11	What Justice Ginsburg objected to in
12	Reed was not, of course, the notion that in a
13	particular case a man might prove to be better
14	qualified to administer an estate than a woman
15	seeking the same appointment and thus could be
16	selected on the basis of his personal abilities
17	It was the notion that the state could do away
18	with any inquiry into the individual merits of
19	the competing applicants and simply presume
20	conclusively that the male applicant was better
21	qualified.
22	She urged the Court to view
23	discriminatory classifications of this sort, in
24	which gender bears no necessary relationship to
25	ability, as no less suspect than discriminatory

- 1 classifications based on race or religion. She
- 2 wrote: "Surely this Court would find offensive
- 3 to the Constitution and to common sense a
- 4 fiduciary selection statute that preferred
- 5 whites to blacks or Christians to Jews. A
- 6 statute preferring men to women should fare no
- 7 better."
- 8 Given her pivotal role as an advocate
- 9 for women's -- for women's equality, it seemed
- 10 entirely fitting when, nearly 25 years later,
- 11 Justice Ginsburg authored the majority opinion
- in the VMI case, captioned United States versus
- 13 Virginia. Her opinion for the Court vindicated
- 14 the same principle she had successfully
- championed as a lawyer, the right simply to be
- judged on one -- on one's individual merits.
- 17 There, in -- in the VMI case, Virginia
- 18 excluded women from the opportunity to attend
- 19 VMI based in part on the assumption that the
- 20 adversative method the school used to train its
- 21 cadets was inherently unsuited to educating
- 22 women. But the expert testimony established
- that while many women would not want to be
- 24 educated in a VMI-type environment, just like
- 25 many men would not either, some women would

- 1 prefer that option and would be capable of all
- 2 of the individual activities required of VMI
- 3 cadets. Those women, Justice Ginsburg wrote,
- 4 could not be categorically excluded in total
- 5 disregard of their individual merit from the
- 6 unique opportunities for military training and
- 7 civilian leadership development that VMI
- 8 afforded.
- 9 Justice Ginsburg's impact extended
- 10 beyond the principle of formal equality
- 11 enshrined in Reed versus Reed and the VMI
- decision. She also showed by example that when
- 13 members of marginalized groups gain access to
- institutions, they bring with them useful
- insight and perspective that can advance the
- 16 cause of equality.
- 17 Two examples that come to mind stem
- 18 from the period in which Justice Ginsburg was
- 19 the lone woman on the Court. First, dissenting
- 20 in Ledbetter versus Goodyear Tire & Rubber
- 21 Company, a case interpreting the statute of
- 22 limitations applicable to pay discrimination
- 23 claims, Justice Ginsburg observed that women
- working in male-dominated fields might be averse
- to making waves over a small discrepancy in pay

- 1 that later compounds into a large discrepancy.
- 2 Although that practical consideration did not
- 3 carry the day at the Court, Congress later
- 4 amended Title VII in a way that accounted for
- 5 Justice Ginsburg's concern.
- 6 Two years later, the Court was called
- 7 upon to decide whether the strip search of a
- 8 13-year-old girl at school was reasonable in
- 9 Safford Unified School District versus Redding.
- 10 Justice Ginsburg voiced the view that a strip
- 11 search might be particularly intrusive for a
- 12 girl of that age, a perspective she found absent
- in some of the questions asked during oral
- 14 argument. The majority opinion ultimately found
- 15 the search unreasonable, citing a previous
- 16 holding that the permissible scope of a search
- depends on the age and sex of the student.
- In these two instances, Justice
- 19 Ginsburg brought a sensitivity to real-world
- 20 gender dynamics into the law, further securing
- 21 the promises of equality.
- Justice Ginsburg's work as an advocate
- and a judge helped transform our society into
- one in which all people can more fully utilize
- 25 their skills and talents unencumbered by, as she

- 1 put it in VMI, artificial constraints on an
- 2 individual's opportunity. Her influence on the
- 3 Court serves as a forceful example of the
- 4 benefits that follow when opportunities are
- 5 available to all.
- I think it's fair to view the Justice
- 7 as a transformative legal figure akin to Justice
- 8 Thurgood Marshall, although she tended to resist
- 9 those comparisons despite the obvious
- 10 similarities between their roles as advocates
- 11 for equality, first as lawyers and then as
- 12 members of this Court.
- Justice Ginsburg resisted those
- 14 comparisons not because she failed to recognize
- the significance of her own contributions but
- 16 because, she said, her work as a lawyer for
- women's rights never exposed her to -- to the
- 18 kind of life-threatening danger Justice Marshall
- 19 faced when pursuing his work, particularly in
- 20 the Deep South.
- 21 What seems to me remarkable in
- 22 retrospect, and I think you'll hear others today
- echo this view, is just how humble Justice
- 24 Ginsburg was in the face of all that she
- 25 achieved over the course of her career. For

2.7

- 1 example, I cannot recall a single instance
- 2 during the year I clerked for her or in any
- 3 conversation -- any of the conversations we had
- 4 during the many years that followed in which she
- 5 even brought up her victories as a litigator or
- 6 her role as a leader of the women's rights
- 7 movement during the 1970s.
- 8 Nevertheless, despite her innate
- 9 modesty, the Justice did seem to enjoy the fame
- 10 that came toward the end of her career when she
- 11 was crowned "the Notorious RBG." Any
- incongruity between her innate modesty and her
- joy in seeing her life and career garner so much
- 14 attention is easily explained, I think. What
- 15 the Justice seemed most taken with was not that
- 16 her story would reveal to the world her
- 17 greatness but that it would reveal to others
- 18 like her their potential for greatness.
- 19 That she became such a powerful role
- 20 model and inspiration for others must be, I
- 21 imagine, one of the things from which she drew
- 22 the greatest satisfaction in an extraordinarily
- 23 rich and fulfilling life.
- 24 During her confirmation hearing in
- 25 1993, Justice Ginsburg said to members of the

1 Senate Judiciary Committee: In my lifetime, I 2 expect to see three, four, perhaps even more 3 women on the high court bench, women not shaped from the same mold but of different complexions. 4 She did largely see that vision come 5 6 Today, the Court reflects that ideal to pass. 7 to an even greater extent, due in no small measure to the trail Justice Ginsburg helped 8 blaze. 9 REMARKS BY THE HONORABLE RACHEL WAINER APTER 10 11 JUSTICE, NEW JERSEY SUPREME COURT 12 JUSTICE WAINER APTER: Good afternoon, 13 everyone. I'm honored to be with you here 14 today. 15 When Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt eulogized 16 Justice Ginsburg from this lectern, she compared 17 her to a modern-day prophet, with the vision to 18 see beyond the world as it was and the courage, 19 strength, and steadfastness to build a more just world within her own lifetime. 20 21 As an advocate, Justice Ginsburg 2.2 persuaded this Court to enshrine equal 23 citizenship for women into the United States

Constitution. As a judge and then a justice,

she protected and defended the rule of law.

24

- 1 And, as the notorious RBG, she became a Supreme
- 2 Court celebrity, with her face emblazoned on
- 3 T-shirts, tote bags, and even tattoos. The
- 4 Justice was also an incredible boss, mentor, and
- 5 friend.
- I want to speak about four things that
- 7 made the Justice extraordinary that did not get
- 8 as much play in the RBG memes.
- 9 First, Justice Ginsburg took language,
- 10 both written and spoken, extraordinarily
- 11 seriously. The Justice fundamentally believed
- in the equal dignity of all people. As she put
- it, "equal opportunity for all to aspire,
- 14 achieve, participate in, and contribute to our
- 15 national life."
- She brought many around to this
- 17 vision, largely with words. In both her briefs
- and opinions, she used carefully chosen words to
- 19 help lawyers, members of the public, and even
- 20 her colleagues understand that which they may
- 21 otherwise have been unable to see, whether it
- 22 was a complicated point of civil procedure,
- 23 which the Justice so loved, or the idea that
- stereotypes undermine all of us.
- When we handed in draft opinions to

- 1 the Justice, as General Prelogar mentioned, we
- 2 did so in 14-point font triple spaced. With her
- 3 red pencil, she would scrutinize each word,
- 4 revising until it was perfect. But the
- 5 Justice's edits were not confined to opinions.
- 6 She once even edited a Post-It note that I had
- 7 placed on a cert petition.
- 8 (Laughter.)
- 9 JUSTICE WAINER APTER: After a draft
- of an article about what the Justice had taught
- 11 me about balancing work and parenting, I
- 12 e-mailed it to her to read. Two days later, I
- 13 received this response: "Dear Rachel, your
- 14 comment is excellent. I've marked a few
- 15 suggestions for you to consider, but it's fine
- 16 as is."
- 17 (Laughter.)
- 18 JUSTICE WAINER APTER: Attached was a
- 19 scanned copy of the draft that I had sent but
- 20 printed out in 14 point font, triple spaced,
- 21 with edits written in the Justice's famous red
- 22 pencil. I, of course, immediately incorporated
- 23 all of them.
- 24 The Justice was the same in her
- 25 everyday speech. She paused to think before

- 1 speaking, never resorting to like, um, uh, or
- oops. She also had an incredible memory. When
- 3 entering her office, we always had a notebook in
- 4 hand just in case.
- 5 Once, I walked in expecting a brief
- 6 conversation. Instead, after several of her
- 7 signature pauses, the Justice dictated a full
- 8 page court order, including a citation from a
- 9 case to the 1980s, with no notes, no revisions,
- 10 and no detours midstream. She asked me to check
- 11 the citation, but, of course, she had it
- 12 correctly.
- 13 Second, the Justice worked tirelessly.
- 14 The Justice recognized that each case before the
- 15 Court was significant not only to the litigants
- 16 but to every person who would be affected by the
- 17 Court's decision.
- 18 She painstakingly reviewed facts and
- 19 analyzed legal arguments, dedicated to truth and
- 20 precision. But she also focused on how the law
- 21 operates in the real world and how it impacts
- the lives of real people. That's what kept her
- 23 up until all hours of the night, sometimes
- leaving telltale red marks on the page if she
- 25 nodded off while editing at 2 a.m.

1	(Laughter.)
2	JUSTICE WAINER APTER: Nothing was
3	more important to the Justice than the work of
4	this Court, and she expressed that reverence
5	through her superhuman work ethic.
6	Third, the Justice was humble.
7	Although she was a national hero before she even
8	became a judge, I never heard the Justice tout
9	her own accomplishments. Instead, she credited
10	those who came before her.
11	As General Prelogar mentioned, in her
12	first brief to this Court as an advocate,
13	Justice Ginsburg listed as her co-counsel
14	Dr. Pauly Murray and Dorothy Kenyon, two civil
15	rights lawyers who worked at the intersection of
16	discrimination based on race and gender.
17	Although neither had actually worked
18	with the Justice on the case, she sought to
19	illustrate that it was because of their
20	path-marking work that she was able to argue
21	that gender discrimination violated the United
22	States Constitution.
23	Incidentally, path-marking was one of
24	the Justice's favorite words and likely one that
25	she coined.

1	(Laughter.)
2	JUSTICE WAINER APTER: And in her
3	remarks upon her nomination to this Court,
4	Justice Ginsburg called her mother the bravest
5	and strongest person I have known and said, "I
6	pray that I may be all that she would have been
7	had she lived in an age when women could aspire
8	and achieve."
9	Fourth, the Justice was endlessly
10	generous. She made others feel brighter in her
11	presence. As law clerks, we felt this
12	generosity in small kindnesses and grander
13	gestures. She celebrated our birthdays with
14	champagne and fancy pastries. She took us to
15	the opera and spent time with our parents and
16	spouses and children.
17	In the years following my clerkship,
18	whenever I returned to visit the Justice, she
19	would sit with me, sometimes for an hour or
20	more, even towards the end of the Court's term,
21	as if there was nowhere else that she needed to
22	be.
23	When I brought my two daughters to
24	visit, who were then 8 and 10 years old, she
25	showed them the same kindness.

1	Alongside her vision, courage,
2	strength, and persistence, the Justice brought
3	these attributes to bear in striving for a more
4	just and equal world. Through her attention to
5	language and tireless work ethic, her humility
6	and generosity, she coaxed others to join her in
7	creating it.
8	May her memory be a blessing.
9	REMARKS BY PROFESSOR AMANDA L. TYLER
LO	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,
L1	BERKELEY SCHOOL OF LAW
L2	PROFESSOR TYLER: It is a tremendous
L3	honor to be with all of you here today to
L4	celebrate the great life of Justice Ruth Bader
L5	Ginsburg.
L6	Justice Ginsburg has been described as
L7	a prophet, an American hero, a rock of
L8	righteousness, and a national treasure. She was
L9	all of those things and so much more.
20	A Brooklynite born and bred, as she
21	introduced herself at her confirmation hearings,
22	Justice Ginsburg was a first-generation American
23	on her father's side and barely
24	second-generation on her mother's.
25	She liked to say, what has become of

1 me could happen only in America. Like so many 2 others, I owe so much to the entry this nation 3 afforded to people yearning to breathe free. That gratitude fueled her deep love of 4 this country and spearheaded a life of public 5 service. Begin with Justice Ginsburg's time as 6 7 an advocate before this Court, when she changed the course of American history by successfully 8 9 promoting gender equality as fundamental constitutional principle. 10 11 Forty years of service as a federal 12 judge followed, including 27 years on this Court. Throughout, Justice Ginsburg left an 13 14 indelible mark on the law while playing a 15 crucial role in what she celebrated as the prime 16 part of the history of the Constitution, namely, 17 the extension of constitutional rights and protections to people once ignored or excluded. 18 19 Serving on this Court, Justice 20 Ginsburg amassed a record that represents the 21 best qualities a judge can have: lawyerly 2.2 precision, an abiding dedication to procedural 23 integrity, a commitment to opening up access to 24 the justice system to ensure, as she liked to

say, that the least shall be heard and

- 1 considered side by side with the greatest,
- 2 recognition of the importance of government
- 3 accountability under law, and an acute
- 4 appreciation of how the Court's work intersects
- 5 with the lived experiences of persons from all
- 6 walks of life.
- 7 Central to Justice Ginsburg's legacy
- 8 are the votes and opinions in which she advanced
- 9 the principle that real equality means, as she
- wrote in her 1996 opinion for the Court in the
- 11 VMI case, allowing all persons to achieve their
- 12 full human potential.
- 13 The law was not some abstract notion
- 14 to Justice Ginsburg. In her hands, it was a
- vehicle for progress and for making people's
- 16 lives better.
- 17 To be sure, the Justice found herself
- 18 sometimes in the minority during her time on
- 19 this Court, and when that was the case, she
- 20 recorded her position for posterity, embodying
- 21 the dissenter's hope that one day her opinions
- would hold sway.
- 23 Here, as elsewhere, Justice Ginsburg
- 24 played the long game. Along the way, she gave
- us the gift of her precise prose that could,

- 1 just as her college professor, Nabokov, taught
- 2 her, paint pictures with words.
- 3 Case in point, her dissent in Shelby
- 4 County versus Holder in which she wrote that
- 5 throwing out preclearance when it has worked and
- 6 is continuing to work to stop discriminatory
- 7 changes is like throwing away your umbrella in a
- 8 rainstorm because you are not getting wet.
- 9 To serve as Justice Ginsburg's law
- 10 clerk was a privilege beyond measure, one that
- 11 led all of her clerks to appreciate what Gloria
- 12 Steinem has said of our boss, her heart was as
- 13 great as her mind.
- During our clerkships and in the years
- that followed, the Justice taught us countless
- 16 lessons about the law and about life. We
- 17 learned the importance of humility and engaging
- 18 with different viewpoints. She liked to quote
- 19 Judge Learned Hand for the proposition that the
- 20 spirit of liberty is not too sure that it is
- 21 right and so seeks to understand the minds of
- those with whom it disagrees.
- These were more than just words to
- 24 Justice Ginsburg. Case in point, her great
- 25 friendship with Justice Scalia.

1	Through her legendary work effort	
2	work ethic and exacting standards moreover, the	
3	Justice brought out the very best in her clerks,	
4	revealing to us our own potential. I can recall	
5	sitting down with her this is going to be a	
6	familiar story in these speeches to go over	
7	literally every single word in an opinion to	
8	make sure that each one was accomplishing	
9	something.	
LO	And that attention to detail never	
L1	waned. In the last year of her life, I had the	
L2	great honor of working with her on a book	
L3	project. Even in her final weeks and while	
L4	hospitalized, she was still marking up my drafts	
L5	so much I could barely read the type script	
L6	underneath.	
L7	More embarrassing yet, here we go	
L8	again, she also sent back corrections on my	
L9	cover letters to her.	
20	(Laughter.)	
21	PROFESSOR TYLER: Justice Ginsburg	
22	modeled for her law clerks the importance also	
23	of lifting up others and paying it forward,	
24	which she did for us on countless occasions to	
2.5	advance our careers.	

Τ	And the Justice always made sure that
2	we all knew that in every aspect of our lives,
3	she was in our corner rooting for us, whether
4	celebrating our successes and important life
5	moments or supporting us with her wise counsel
6	during the most trying of times.
7	Through her example, Justice Ginsburg
8	likewise taught us the importance of leading a
9	well-rounded life. For her, this included,
10	among other things, her great love of the arts,
11	most especially opera. A good life, she taught
12	us, also includes plenty of laughter. The
13	Justice possessed a great sense of humor. How
14	could she not? After all, she married her
15	beloved Marty, who regularly called chambers to
16	request an audience with Her Highness.
17	(Laughter.)
18	PROFESSOR TYLER: Able to land a joke
19	and bring the house down in her own right,
20	Justice Ginsburg also taught us the importance
21	of never taking ourselves too seriously. Along
22	these lines, I recall fondly a visit to chambers
23	a few years ago when she welcomed me into her
24	office and ushered me around behind her desk
25	because she wanted to play a movie trailer for

- 1 me on her computer. After it finished, she
- 2 turned to me, shaking her head, and said: Just
- 3 what the world needs, another documentary about
- 4 RBG.
- 5 (Laughter.)
- 6 PROFESSOR TYLER: Justice Ginsburg
- 7 also taught us the centrality of family to a
- 8 life well lived. Her family was everything to
- 9 her, and one of the greatest privileges of
- 10 clerking for her while Marty was still alive was
- 11 witnessing their grand love affair and seeing
- 12 all that a marriage and true partnership could
- 13 be.
- 14 Finally, her law clerks saw firsthand
- 15 just how much Justice Ginsburg loved this
- 16 country, the rule of law, and the Constitution.
- 17 Over the course of her lifetime, she had
- 18 witnessed generations of progress in the
- 19 continuous march toward equality. Right up
- 20 until the end, she remained steadfast in
- 21 continuing the work toward achieving the more
- 22 perfect union to which the Constitution aspires.
- 23 She likewise remained ever optimistic for the
- 24 future of this nation.
- In the time since her passing, I have

- 1 reflected often on our last conversation. It
- 2 was just a few weeks before she died and during
- 3 the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. I recall
- 4 talking with her about Marty, who remained as
- 5 ever at the center of her universe. And I
- 6 recall she asked about my children. She was
- 7 curious if they would return to school in the
- 8 fall of 2020 in person or online. She then
- 9 expressed deep concern for children everywhere,
- 10 who were being so profoundly affected by the
- 11 ongoing pandemic. That was Justice Ginsburg,
- 12 always thinking about others and always thinking
- 13 about the future.
- I keep coming back or I kept coming
- 15 back to that conversation as I ushered our book
- 16 project across the finish line. After her
- passing, I took the liberty of adding a handful
- of images beyond those she and I had assembled.
- 19 These included images of her law clerk family
- 20 standing on the steps of this Court to honor her
- 21 service, tell her how much we loved her, and
- thank her for changing our lives.
- I added as well an image of her lying
- in state at the Capitol, still making history
- 25 even in death as the first woman and first

1 Jewish person ever to be so honored. 2 I took the liberty of adding one more 3 It is of a child dressed in a Supergirl costume saluting the Justice as she lay in 4 repose just outside the doors of this Great 5 6 Hall. I love the image. For one, it 7 underscores how Justice Ginsburg's legacy is woven into the fabric of this country's soul, 8 something those of us who were here during those 9 10 solemn days witnessed in the droves of mourners 11 who came to pay their respects to her. 12 I also love the image and I believe Justice Ginsburg would have loved it too 13 14 because, in that little girl, one sees the 15 embodiment of the Justice's unwavering optimism 16 and hope for the future. 17 MOTION TO ADOPT COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 18 ASSISTANT PROFESSOR HAJIN KIM 19 UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LAW SCHOOL PROFESSOR KIM: It is an honor to be 20 21 Justice Ginsburg was a superhuman and an here. 2.2 inspiration. I clerked for the Justice in the 2016-2017 term. Life since then has made me 23 appreciate the Justice and her wisdom all the 24

25

more.

1	Her law school years read a little
2	like the horrible first part of a fairy tale
3	written by an author who wanted to hit you over
4	the head with how hard life was for the main
5	character. Beyond the burden of overt gender
6	discrimination, the Justice also had on her
7	plate, as Judge Owens described, a beloved
8	husband ill with cancer whose notes and papers
9	she typed and a then two-year-old daughter who,
LO	no matter how well behaved, surely did not
L1	consistently lighten the load. I always found
L2	that story incredible, but it hits so much
L3	harder after dealing and experiencing a
L4	real-live two-year-old.
L5	(Laughter.)
L6	PROFESSOR KIM: The Justice was
L7	superhuman. Yet still more incredible than the
L8	mere fact of her survival and she did not
L9	just survive, she thrived, graduating at the top
20	of her class was her attitude. Rather than
21	complain that she had fewer working hours than
22	the rest of her classmates and certainly fewer
23	hours of rest, she was grateful, she said. Each
24	part of her full life gave her respite from the
2.5	other.

1	The Justice was an inspiration. Many	
2	law professors, if forced to choose between	
3	spending an hour on research or on teaching	
4	prep, would often choose their research, present	
5	company, of course, excluded. Justice Ginsburg	
6	was, as we all know, reshaping the very	
7	landscape of constitutional law in an ambitious	
8	and critically important project that has made	
9	our nation more equal and more just. Yet, she	
10	always emphasized the importance of her	
11	students, of her teaching too. She chose to	
12	call herself a law teacher, not professor.	
13	She also showed us all by example how	
14	to approach disagreement and friendship with	
15	grace and a strong belief that good people could	
16	hold diverging and, from one's perspective,	
17	terrible opinions.	
18	As an advocate, the Justice did not	
19	view the nine men considering whether sex	
20	discrimination to be unconstitutional as	
21	potential villains if they disagreed. Rather,	
22	if they did not understand the problem, it was	
23	her role to explain, to teach them, and so she	
24	did.	
25	That same perspective is what allowed	

- 1 her famous and longstanding friendship with
- 2 Justice Scalia to flourish. They both had the
- 3 remarkable ability to separate their love for a
- 4 person from their dislike of their views, and
- 5 that friendship and deep mutual respect helped
- 6 them both sharpen their battling opinions.
- 7 Justice Scalia, Justice Ginsburg
- 8 reports, gave her an advance look at his VMI
- 9 dissent so that she would have more time to
- 10 respond. Even in opposition, they each wanted
- 11 the other to be their best.
- Now, in all the stories, Justice
- 13 Scalia and Marty get all the credit for being
- the funny ones, casting Justice Ginsburg in the
- 15 role of appreciative audience. But, as
- 16 Professor Tyler mentioned, the Justice had a
- 17 delightful sense of humor all her own.
- 18 When a staff member confessed
- 19 admiration for a particular football player, the
- Justice responded with a small smile, ah, he is
- 21 handsome, yes? She brought pompoms to
- 22 conference on a case about cheerleader uniforms.
- The Justice got and gave great joy
- 24 from life. Sweets gave her so much joy, in
- 25 fact, that she had to keep them in the room far

- 1 away from her in Kim and Lauren's office.
- 2 The justice shared her joy and good
- 3 humor and even her candy with those around her.
- 4 The term I clerked, the Justice had a small but
- 5 thrilling role in the opera "The Daughter of the
- 6 Regiment." She invited us to attend the dress
- 7 rehearsal. The Justice owned the stage. I
- 8 cannot do this justice, but you have to imagine
- 9 Justice Ginsburg doing this. Upon her entry,
- 10 she announced: "I am the Duchess of
- 11 Krackenthorp."
- 12 And she didn't stop there. Justice
- 13 Ginsburg had license to write the lines of her
- 14 performance. She talked about how the best
- 15 Krackenthorpians had open but not empty minds
- 16 and were willing to listen and learn and that
- 17 the most valorous of them had thus
- 18 unsurprisingly been women.
- The Justice was superhuman. We all
- 20 know that. As a legal thinker and advocate,
- 21 jurist, and teacher, she was an inspiration, but
- 22 above all else, Justice Ginsburg was a wonderful
- 23 human. She was a terrible singer and apparently
- 24 driver but a hilarious stage performer.
- 25 She cared deeply about those before

- 1 her, her clerks, her staff, her family, her
- 2 friends, this great nation. She approached life
- 3 with an open and far from empty mind and was
- 4 willing to listen and learn as well as teach and
- 5 explain.
- 6 It is an understatement to say that it
- 7 was our great good fortune to have Justice
- 8 Ginsburg in our lives and in our nation.
- 9 The Committee on Resolutions has
- 10 prepared resolutions summarizing and honoring
- 11 Justice Ginsburg's immense contributions to this
- 12 nation and its laws. Together with the
- 13 Committee co-chairs, Judge Owens and Professor
- 14 Tyler, I have the honor to move their adoption.
- 15 CALL FOR SECOND AND CLOSING REMARKS
- 16 HONORABLE JOHN B. OWENS,
- 17 CHAIR OF THE MEETING
- 18 JUDGE OWENS: Thank you, Professor
- 19 Kim. We do have a motion. Is there a second?
- 20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.
- JUDGE OWENS: Thank you.
- The resolutions are now before us for
- adoption. If adopted, they will be presented to
- 24 the Court by the Solicitor General. I now put
- 25 the resolutions to a vote.

1 All in favor of adopting the 2 resolutions, please signify by saying aye. 3 (Chorus of ayes.) JUDGE OWENS: Any opposed? 4 5 (No response.) JUDGE OWENS: Hearing no opposition, I 6 7 declare the resolutions adopted, and I want to thank Professor Tyler for taking the laboring 8 9 oar in putting these together. 10 Now this completes our work here. 11 just want to say in closing that since I clerked 12 for the Justice, hard to believe, 25 years ago, over the years, I always made it a point to 13 14 visit Chambers while I was in Washington, D.C. 15 Now the excuse that I always gave was, 16 oh, I need to give See's Candy to the law 17 clerks. That wasn't the reason why I was coming by. I was coming by to visit the Justice and 18 19 see how she was doing. 20 And I remember one time I was here to 21 deliver See's Candy and Judge Watford was here 22 with me, and we were told, no, she's not 23 available right now, but meet her in the gym, 24 which is different than the gym we worked out. 25 They have a special gym now for the Justices.

_	And we went there, and, interactly, she did the	
2	workout in front of us and talked to us, asked	
3	how we were doing, doing the pushups and the	
4	whole thing, you know. It was a good day.	
5	(Laughter.)	
6	JUDGE OWENS: But, look, that's you	
7	know, it's part of life. That's changed now,	
8	and I can't make those visits and none of us	
9	can. But, thankfully, her wisdom and way of	
10	doing things will never leave me, the law	
11	clerks, the Court, or our nation.	
12	Now, before we proceed to the Court	
13	session, I would like to thank Counselor to the	
14	Chief Justice, the Honorable Robert Dow, Marsha	
15	Gail Curley, Clerk Scott Harris, Kim McKenzie,	
16	and all their staff for helping us with this	
17	memorial. Thank you very much.	
18	(Applause.)	
19	(Whereupon, at 2:37 p.m., the Bar	
20	Memorial in the above-entitled matter	
21	adjourned.)	
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