

## About Ruth Bader Ginsburg (1933 – 2020)

## Supreme Court Justice

## "Fight for the things you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you."

Born in Brooklyn, Ruth graduated from Cornell where she met her husband Martin. She graduated from Columbia Law School having begun her studies after their first child was born.

She became a law professor – one of only 20 female law professors in the country at the time. She taught at Rutgers and Columbia and was a fellow at Stanford University. During her early career she was passed over for positions because of her gender and paid less than her male counterparts.

She co-founded the Women's Rights Project with the ACLU in 1972 and became the legal counsel for the project, winning 5 of the 6 gender discrimination cases she argued before the Supreme Court. She made the case that gender inequality was detrimental to both men and women.

In 1980 she was confirmed to a judgeship on the DC circuit court of appeals where she became known for being a consensus builder.

When she was confirmed to the US Supreme Court in 1993, she became the 2nd woman and 1st Jewish female to serve on the highest court in the land.

She is credited with inspiring the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, signed into law by President Obama, which makes it easier for employees to fight pay discrimination.

She continued to serve on the Supreme Court through multiple bouts with cancer, famously working with a personal trainer to help her regain her strength. She also became known for wearing her signature neck collars over her black robe, and became a pop-culture icon in her later years. She was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 2002.