

Remembering

Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg



PBI Statement on the Passing of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Pro Bono Institute mourns the passing of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the second woman to serve on the nation's highest court, and a fierce advocate for civil rights and access to justice, during her impressive career as an attorney, law professor, and justice. Her 27-year tenure on the Supreme Court was marked by authoring some of the most important decisions and some of the most scathing dissents that deeply impacted our lives and made us better people. We join all those who grieve this champion of equal rights for all.

Justice Ginsburg was a true friend to PBI and its founder, Esther F. Lardent, for decades, and she spoke to the PBI community numerous times, once at an event held just a month after surgery for pancreatic cancer. This somewhat reluctant cultural icon continually inspired us, sharing her vision for a just legal system accessible to all.

She reminded us at a PBI event in 2018 that:

"The Pro Bono Institute and the lawyers devoted to its mission today play a vital part in promoting a legal system open and accessible to all. Without any government prodding, all gathered here, have taken the initiative to serve those without the wherewithal to pay for legal assistance. Your compensation is not monetary, it is the large satisfaction one gains from helping to repair tears in society from doing something outside yourself, from making people's lives a little better because of your aid."

Justice Ginsburg's passing occurs at a pivotal moment in our country as we continue to face the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, with protests continuing against racial injustice, and with the 2020 election already underway. At this critical juncture, may we draw strength from her inspiration, courage, and tireless efforts. May we also recharge our dedication to our pro bono work in her memory and with her passion for equal access to justice for all, as we champion the rights of the underserved and marginalized communities.

Founded in 1996, Pro Bono Institute (PBI) is a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit organization. With an unparalleled depth of knowledge, resources and expertise, PBI is the respected resource for all things pro bono. Through our work with law firms, in-house corporate legal departments, and public interest organizations, PBI is the global thought leader in exploring, identifying, evaluating, catalyzing, and taking to scale new approaches to and resources for the provision of legal services to the poor, disadvantaged, and other individuals or groups unable to secure legal assistance to address critical problems.

