

out that." I have never been happier about being right on something in my life.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Gunther follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF GERALD GUNTHER

I am personally overjoyed and proud as well as professionally heartened that this committee is considering the confirmation of Ruth Bader Ginsburg for a seat on the Supreme Court.

I speak as a teacher of constitutional law for more than thirty-five years, and as someone who has known Ruth Ginsburg well for almost as long a time. I am confident that she possesses all of the qualities you should cherish in a Justice.

Ruth Ginsburg was my student at Columbia Law School. She was a brilliant student; she demonstrated extraordinary intellectual capacities, as she has in everything she has undertaken throughout her life. In the 1950's, I set up Columbia's program for placing graduates as judicial law clerks, and I assisted her selection by a fine federal trial judge. I have followed her work closely in the years since; I admired her scholarly capacity as a faculty member at Rutgers and then at Columbia, and especially her work on behalf of women's rights, as a brief-writer and oral advocate before the Supreme Court.

As a teacher of constitutional law and the author of a casebook in my field, I am very familiar with her central, indeed historic, role in shaping the modern law of gender discrimination. To this day, I—and, I suspect, most teachers in my field—speak admiringly of her singular contribution.

In 1980, Ruth Ginsburg was named to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. I was asked to speak at her investiture ceremony. I had just begun work on a biography of one of our greatest federal judges, Learned Hand (a biography that will be published in a few months). In my address before the D.C. Circuit, I understandably spoke about Hand and compared Ruth Ginsburg's potential talents with those of my subject. (I am taking the liberty of attaching my 1980 address as an appendix to this statement.) Although I do not claim a great track record in predictions, I have taken special delight in the fact that my expectations about Ruth Ginsburg were fulfilled. I said then that I knew Ruth to be "modest, thoughtful, penetrating, fair and open-minded," and I suggested that these qualities equipped her ideally for the bench. I also said that "she has the character and temperament, the persistence, * * * the sense of responsibility, the modesty as well as the courage and strength reflected in Learned Hand's words and deeds." Hand's greatness, in my view, stems from a special combination of character and temperament and intellect that, in combination, produces the capacity to be a "modest but creative judge" who "is heedful of limitations stemming from the judge's own competence and [from] the presuppositions of our constitutional system." I read her opinions on the Court of Appeals for the last thirteen years with great interest as they were handed down, and she disclosed precisely those qualities.

In my close attention to Ruth's career over the years, especially her judicial career, some of Hand's words often come to mind as aptly describing Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Hand once said that the prime condition of great judging is a "capacity for detachment." He went on to say: "There are those who insist that detachment is an illusion; that our conclusions, when their bases are sifted, always reveal a passionate foundation. Even so; though they be throughout the creatures of past emotional experience, it does not follow that that experience can never predispose us to impartiality. A bias against bias may be as likely a result of some buried crisis, as any other bias." A great judge, he also said, acts "with patience, courage, insight, self-effacement, understanding, imagination and learning."

Ruth Bader Ginsburg, I am convinced, possesses the ingredients, the "moral" qualities, Hand thought essential for greatness. I am confident that she will confirm that greatness on the Supreme Court. She clearly possesses the requisite intellect, temperament, and character. Her opinions reflect an obvious belief in and fidelity to the law, careful attention to the records before her, and an appropriate respect for the force of precedent. She has demonstrated integrity and analytical skills. She is also characteristically sympathetic to the fact that the disputes before her involve human beings and that a court's rulings have an impact upon those human beings. One would expect no less in a person who is herself a splendid human being, who has managed to integrate with great skill her roles as lawyer and teacher and judge as well as wife and mother, and who overcame the many obstacles that confronted women when she entered the profession.

You have an opportunity to confirm an individual who will be a great Justice, a person who will contribute immensely to the collegiality, intellectual quality, and wisdom of the Court.

I fully expect to criticize Justice Ginsburg's opinions on the Court—after all, that is my professional task. I am confident, however, I will never have reason to doubt her integrity, her judicial temperament, and her analytical abilities. I know that I, like many of my fellow academics, look forward to evaluating the work of a court with Ruth Bader Ginsburg on it.

The CHAIRMAN. Dean Kay.

STATEMENT OF HERMA HILL KAY

Ms. KAY. Thank you, Chairman Biden. I want to say before I start that I do not yield to my colleague, Professor Gunther, in his admiration for our Senator from California, Senator Feinstein. It is a pleasure to see her here today on this committee.

It gives me great pleasure to be here and to participate in your deliberations as you prepare to recommend to the Senate the advice it should give to President Clinton on his nomination of Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg to the U.S. Supreme Court.

President Clinton's choice of Judge Ginsburg is wise and inspired, sound and practical. In Judge Ginsburg, President Clinton has found a constitutional scholar who knows from her own experience what it means to be excluded despite outstanding credentials solely because of sex. In the early 1970's, she brought that experience—and her flawless logic—to the bar of the U.S. Supreme Court, where she will soon take her seat. In case after case, she hammered home the point that for the law to assign preexisting roles to men and women is limiting to both sexes and is forbidden by the equal protection clause.

It is a point that, 20 years later, many regard as self-evident. But the High Court seemed unable to grasp that point prior to Judge Ginsburg's advocacy, instead taking as its starting position the belief that a legislative distinction drawn on the basis of sex was a rational classification that passed constitutional muster.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg's strategy of written and oral advocacy to help the nine men then sitting on the Supreme Court understand the irrationality of sex-based classification was one of patient instruction. She chose cases, as Judge Hufstедler said, in which the law's unequal treatment of men and women was evident and the consequent need for a broader interpretation of the equal protection clause could be clearly established and readily accepted. The result is that her cases are now constitutional classics: *Reed v. Reed*, 1971: A mother can administer a deceased child's estate as capably as a father. *Frontiero v. Richardson*, 1973: A service-woman's Air Force pay earns the same fringe benefits for her dependent spouse that a serviceman's pay provides for his. *Weinberger v. Wiesenfeld*, 1975: A widowed father is entitled to the same insurance benefits available to a widowed mother to help him care for his infant son after his wife's death. *Califano v. Goldfarb*, 1977: A deceased wife's earned income provides the same survivor's benefits to her widowed husband that a deceased husband's widow would receive.

These are some of the legal propositions that Judge Ginsburg established as an advocate, and she used them to help the Court forge a new understanding of the equal protection of the laws. It