

Ms. BRADSTREET. That is correct, Senator.

The CHAIRMAN. Carlos Ortiz is the national president of the Hispanic National Bar and has been before this committee—the bar has been represented here and is one of the premier organizations in the country, and we are delighted to have you here to testify.

John Feerick is the president of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. He is also the dean of one of the fine law schools in the country, Fordham Law School.

Also from a previous panel—and we apologize if we have confused you, Mr. Wiesenfeld, as to when we were going to ask you to be here, but thank you for being here. I am looking for your bio here as I go through my—anyway, you were a client of the soon-to-be-Justice.

Mr. WIESENFELD. Stephen Wiesenfeld from *Weinberger v. Wiesenfeld*.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes, but we had more information about you as well I was going to read in the record, but if you are satisfied with that description and that introduction we'll let it stand.

Why don't we begin in the order that I have asked you to testify and, Ms. Bradstreet, why don't you begin your testimony. Thank you for coming across the country to be here.

PANEL CONSISTING OF ANGELA M. BRADSTREET, CALIFORNIA WOMEN LAWYERS, SAN FRANCISCO, CA; CARLOS G. ORTIZ, PRESIDENT, HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION; JOHN D. FEERICK, PRESIDENT, ASSOCIATION OF THE BAR OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK; AND STEPHEN WIESENFELD, FORT LAUDERDALE, FL

STATEMENT OF ANGELA M. BRADSTREET

Ms. BRADSTREET. Thank you, Senator. It has been the thrill of a lifetime.

Chairman Biden, distinguished members of this committee, I am deeply honored to be here on behalf of California Women Lawyers to express our strong support of President Clinton's nomination of Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

California Women Lawyers is, in fact, the largest women's bar association in the Nation, representing the interests of over 30,000 women attorneys in the State of California.

The CHAIRMAN. Excuse me for interrupting. When you say represent the interests, does that mean there are 30,000 women who are dues-paying members of the bar association?

Ms. BRADSTREET. We have about 10,000 who are actually dues-paying members of our organization, Senator.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

Ms. BRADSTREET. By the way, I did get the statistics for your State, if you are interested.

The CHAIRMAN. I am.

Ms. BRADSTREET. Well, I got them from the American Bar Association yesterday, and there are 495 women attorneys out of a total of 2,150.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, 25 percent; we are getting there.

Ms. BRADSTREET. Yes.

Our mission, Senator, is the advancement of women in the legal profession and the complete eradication of gender bias in our society. We are privileged to currently be assisting Senator Feinstein in her tireless work on issues affecting women, and it is a special honor to be appearing before our first senior woman Senator from California.

After a thorough and formal evaluation process involving a review of her legal opinions, cases argued, writings, and interviews with respected peers which examined her intellectual qualifications, judicial temperament, lack of bias, and analytical skills, California Women Lawyers found Judge Ruth Ginsburg to merit the highest rating possible to serve as an Associate Justice.

Judge Ginsburg's contribution as a pioneer of women's rights cannot be overstated, for, as has been noted, she won five of the most important sex discrimination cases that have ever before been argued before the Supreme Court of the United States. Indeed, the case of *Frontiero* has been hailed as a landmark decision in establishing gender parity as a constitutional mandate in the workplace.

When only 20 years ago she persuaded a majority of Justices that a law which, in essence, denied a working woman equal pay to a working man, Judge Ginsburg forged not only a dynamic reinterpretation of the equal protection clause, but also a fundamental positive change in society's previous stereotypical attitudes toward women in the workplace.

Her explicit recognition that, and I quote:

The shape of the law on gender-based classification indicates and influences the opportunity women will have to participate as men's full partners in the Nation's social, political and economic life.

is cause for great optimism that this nominee's presence on the Supreme Court will make a major difference in the achievement of complete gender equality for all.

Her prolific writings also demonstrate that Judge Ginsburg recognizes and will work earnestly to protect a woman's right to choose. Her approach to choice, suggesting that a constitutionally protected sex-equality perspective should also be adopted, in addition to a due process privacy perspective, is a well-reasoned one, for the notion that we as women should be in control of our own destiny is crucial to our attaining an equal place in society.

It is therefore, Mr. Chairman, particularly apt that the appointment of one who has paved the way for women's equality as the second woman Justice on the Supreme Court should symbolize an historic departure from the tokenism that has traditionally existed in the appointment of women to positions of power.

With still only 14.5 percent of circuit court positions and barely 13 percent of district court positions being filled by women today, Judge Ginsburg's appointment to the highest court in the land will take this Nation a giant step forward in shattering the glass ceiling of our legal profession and indeed in other professions, too.

In conclusion, California Women Lawyers most respectfully urges the distinguished members of this committee to vote in favor of the nomination of this outstanding woman to whom all women today owe a great debt.

Thank you so much.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Bradstreet follows:]