

## PREPARED STATEMENT OF ANGELA M. BRADSTREET

Senator Biden and distinguished Senators: 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 United States Supreme Court.

California Women Lawyers is the largest women's bar association in the nation, representing the interests of over 30,000 women attorneys in the State of California. Our mission is the advancement of women in the legal profession and the eradication of all forms of gender bias in our society generally. We are privileged to currently be assisting Senator Dianne Feinstein in her tireless work on issues affecting women.

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 Bader Ginsburg to merit the highest legal rating possible to serve as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, that is, exceptionally well qualified.

Judge Ginsburg's contribution as a pioneer of women's rights cannot be overstated. For she won five of the most important sex discrimination cases that have ever been argued before the Supreme Court of the United States. Indeed, the case of *Frontiero v. Richardson* has been hailed as a landmark decision in establishing gender parity as a constitutional mandate in the workplace. When twenty years ago she persuaded a majority of the Justices that a law automatically allowing married men in the military, but not married women, medical care benefits for a spouse 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 change in society's previous stereotypical attitudes towards women in the workplace.

Indeed her explicit recognition that "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" (*Some Thoughts on Autonomy and Equality in Relation to Roe v. Wade*, R. Ginsburg, 63 N. Carolina L.R., 375) 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 clearly 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 be adopted, rather than simply 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, particularly apt that the appointment of one who has paved the way for women's equality all of her life as the second woman Justice on the Supreme Court of the United States 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 filled by women today (U.S. Department of Justice), Judge Ginsburg's appointment to the highest court in the land will take this nation a giant step forward in shattering the legal glass ceiling.

In conclusion, California Women Lawyers applauds President Clinton for his outstanding nomination and I respectfully urge the distinguished members of this Committee to vote in favor of this nomination.

Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much for your testimony.  
Mr. President. It has a nice ring to it, doesn't it?

## STATEMENT OF CARLOS G. ORTIZ

Mr. ORTIZ. It sounds OK.

Thank you very much, Chairman Biden and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. I bring you greetings from the many thousands of Hispanic-American attorneys from around the country, many of whom are your constituents in your respective States.

On behalf of the Hispanic National Bar Association, I want to tell you that we are privileged to once again appear before your