Ruth Bader Ginsburg, U.S. Supreme Court

Aaron Saiger, Fordham University School of Law

Abstract

PROFESSOR AARON SAIGER: It’s a signal honor for Fordham Law School and a personal honor for me and a pleasure to have Justice Ginsburg here tonight. We want to thank you for coming. I think I will not reiterate all of the thanks Dean Diller has offered, except to say that we are very grateful to the Levine family and deeply indebted to the students of the Law Review who have made tonight happen. The format of the evening is as follows: I will ask questions and the Justice will answer them.

Recommended Citation


Available at: https://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/flr/vol85/iss4/1

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg: M.L.B., as Linda said, involved a woman who had been stripped of her parental rights. In order to appeal that decision, she had to have a transcript. The law as it then existed was that, if you had a criminal case and were too poor to purchase a transcript, even if it was a petty offense, you were entitled to a transcript at state expense. So the challenge was to get the Court to make a small breach in the line between “yes” in criminal cases and “no” in civil cases—a small breach, but one that had growth potential. The opinion employs an amalgam of due process and equal protection, comparing first what was at stake for M.L.B., loss of her parental rights, and what was at stake for a petty offender who did not even face jail time. Ruth Bader Ginsberg is associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. Prior to her appointment, she served on the bench of the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. Previously, Ginsburg was a professor at Columbia University School of Law and on the law faculty of Rutgers University. She has taught at University of Amsterdam, Harvard Law School, New York University Law School, University of Strasbourg, the Salzburg Seminar in American Studies, and the Aspen Institute. Ginsburg was instrumental in launching the Women’s Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Uni – Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. As part of the Robert L. Levine Distinguished Lecture Series sponsored by the Fordham Law Review, Justice Ginsburg spent 90 minutes dispensing legal wisdom, practical advice, and not a little of her trademark sense of humor. Fordham Law School Professor Aaron Saiger, a nationally recognized education law scholar who clerked for Justice Ginsburg during the 2001-2002 term, served as moderator, posing questions from faculty and students.