

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 202

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 5, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman BRIAN BERGEN

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Urges Rutgers, The State University to memorialize United States Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg by naming a building on campus after her.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/5/2020)

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging Rutgers, The State University
2 to name a building in honor of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.
3

4 **WHEREAS**, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, only the second woman to
5 ever be appointed to the United States Supreme Court, was a legal
6 trailblazer whose tireless advocacy against gender discrimination
7 paved the way for women’s equality under the law and for women’s
8 rights to be seriously addressed by the courts and society; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Justice Ginsburg’s death on September 18, 2020, marked
10 the passing of a civil rights luminary who will be remembered as a
11 legal giant for her work as a Justice on the United States Supreme
12 Court, a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C.
13 Circuit, a trailblazing litigator for equal rights and justice, and a law
14 professor at Columbia University and Rutgers University Law
15 School; and

16 **WHEREAS**, One of her most notable majority opinions delivered
17 during her tenure on the Supreme Court came in the case of *United*
18 *States v. Virginia* in which the court struck down the Virginia
19 Military Institute’s male-only admissions policy and established a
20 new standard of review for sex discrimination cases; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Justice Ginsburg counted among her proudest
22 achievements, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 which was
23 passed in reaction to her blistering minority opinion in *Ledbetter v.*
24 *Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company*, the 2007 Supreme Court
25 ruling that said Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 imposed
26 strict time limits for bringing workplace discrimination suits.
27 Justice Ginsburg in dissent called on Congress to overturn the
28 decision, and it did; and

29 **WHEREAS**, Justice Ginsburg was considered a champion of
30 progressive causes on the Supreme Court, and although she may
31 perhaps be most renowned for her work in civil and women’s
32 rights, her liberalism extended to all areas of the law, including
33 criminal procedure, civil liberties, and economic disputes; and

34 **WHEREAS**, Justice Ginsburg’s interest in addressing gender
35 discrimination in the law and her journey to becoming a pioneer in
36 women’s legal rights began during her time as a faculty member of
37 the Rutgers Law School in Newark, where she served from 1963 to
38 1972; and

39 **WHEREAS**, Justice Ginsburg, in fact, has credited Rutgers University
40 students in sparking her interest in women’s legal rights and aiding
41 in the course she then pursued; and

42 **WHEREAS**, During her time at Rutgers Law School, Justice Ginsburg
43 was an inspiration to many women law school students and served
44 as the inaugural advisor to the *Women’s Rights Law Reporter*, the
45 first law journal in the United States focused on issues of gender
46 equality and justice; and

47 **WHEREAS**, One way in which Justice Ginsburg’s roots at Rutgers Law
48 School and her countless contributions to the United States’ judicial

1 landscape can be honored in this State is by naming a building on
2 the Rutgers University campus in her honor; and

3 **WHEREAS**, The action of naming a building after Justice Ginsburg will
4 serve to commemorate her legacy as a path breaking champion of
5 women's rights and a leading figure in the history of the Supreme
6 Court; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Such a commemoration will further serve as a reminder to
8 generations of students, faculty, and staff that, in order to honor
9 Justice Ginsburg's life fighting for the equality of all people, more
10 must be done to carry on her legacy; now, therefore,

11
12 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New
13 Jersey:

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15 1. This House respectfully urges Rutgers, The State University
16 to name a building on the university's campus after United States
17 Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, to honor and
18 memorialize her roots as a faculty member at Rutgers Law School
19 from 1963 to 1972 and the groundbreaking legal achievements she
20 accomplished throughout her career, most notably her work to
21 advance women's rights and address gender discrimination.

22
23 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
24 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
25 Board of Governors, the Board of Trustees, and the President of
26 Rutgers, The State University.

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29 **STATEMENT**

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31 Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, only the second woman to ever be
32 appointed to the United States Supreme Court, was a legal
33 trailblazer whose tireless advocacy against gender discrimination
34 paved the way for women's equality under the law and for women's
35 rights to be seriously addressed by the courts and society. Justice
36 Ginsburg's death on September 18, 2020, marked the passing of a
37 civil rights luminary who will be remembered as a legal giant for
38 her work as a Justice on the United States Supreme Court, a judge
39 on the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, a
40 trailblazing litigator for equal rights and justice, and a law professor
41 at Columbia University and Rutgers Law School.

42 Justice Ginsburg's interest in addressing gender discrimination in
43 the law and her journey to becoming a pioneer in women's legal
44 rights began during her time as a faculty member of the Rutgers
45 Law School in Newark, where she served from 1963 to 1972.
46 Justice Ginsburg has credited Rutgers University students in
47 sparking her interest in women's legal rights and aiding in the
48 course she then pursued. During her time at Rutgers Law School,

1 Justice Ginsburg was an inspiration to many women law school
2 students and served as the inaugural advisor to the *Women's Rights*
3 *Law Reporter*, the first law journal in the United States focused on
4 issues of gender equality and justice.

5 This resolution urges Rutgers University to memorialize Justice
6 Ginsburg's roots at Rutgers Law School and her legacy as a path
7 breaking champion of women's rights by naming a building on the
8 university's campus in her honor. Such a commemoration will
9 serve as a reminder to generations of students, faculty, and staff
10 that, in order to honor Justice Ginsburg's life fighting for the
11 equality of all people, more must be done to carry on her legacy.