



NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION RUTH BADER GINSBURG MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

NOMINATION FORM

The New York State Bar Association is pleased to announce the **New York State Bar Association Ruth Bader Ginsburg Memorial Scholarship**. The Association has established the scholarship to honor the legacy of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States and a past recipient of the Gold Medal, NYSBA's highest honor, in recognition of her extraordinary contributions to jurisprudence, the legal profession and life-long commitment to advancing women's rights and gender equality. Justice Ginsburg's career exemplified her core values – a commitment to advancing the law, promoting legal reform, improving the administration of justice, elevating the standard of integrity, honor, professional skill and courtesy in the legal profession, fostering a spirit of collegiality among attorneys and to applying her knowledge of and experience in the law in order to promote the public good.

Each year, a \$5,000 scholarship will be awarded to a law student who, through written submission, research project, exemplary internship, externship or pro bono service, demonstrates the personal qualities which honor and further the legacy of Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

The New York State Bar Association Ruth Bader Ginsburg ("RBG") Scholarship

1. The scholarship, valued at \$5,000, will be awarded to one second- or third-year law student enrolled on a full time or part-time basis during academic year 2026-2027 in a New York State law school.
2. The 2026 scholarship recipient will be notified in March 2026 and will be invited to attend the April 2026 meeting of the House of Delegates for the presentation of the scholarship award.
3. The scholarship recipient will be a guest member of the NYSBA Women in Law Section and the Committee on Civil Rights during the 2026 calendar year.
4. The scholarship recipient will be invited to attend Executive Committee meetings of the NYSBA Women in Law Section during the 2026 calendar year and to work on one of the Section's many Committee projects and events.
5. The scholarship recipient will be invited to attend Executive Committee meetings of the NYSBA Committee on Civil Rights during the 2026 calendar year and to work on one of the Committee's many projects.
6. The scholarship recipient will be invited to attend the Annual Meetings of the Women in Law Section and the } Committee on Civil Rights in January 2026.
7. While the scholarship recipient is still enrolled in law school or just graduated, the scholarship recipient will be required to:
 - a. Submit an article for publication in the Women in the Law Section's "WILS Connect" and/or for presentation at the WILS' Women on the Move Program in the fall of 2026 or the WILS 2027 Annual Meeting
 - or
 - b. Submit an article to the Committee on Civil Rights for publication or use on its blog or any other publication platform in 2026 or 2027.
8. Per the Association Bylaws, any law student member shall have all the powers and privileges of an active member of the Association except those of voting, being an officer of the Association, serving as a member of the Executive Committee or House of Delegates, or serving as Chair of a Section or Committee (Bylaws III.D.2).

**Deadline:
April 14, 2026**

Eligibility

1. The scholarship is open to second- and third-year full time students enrolled in a law school in the State of New York during the fall 2026 and spring 2027 semesters. If attending part-time, the scholarship is open to second-, third- and fourth-year students enrolled in a law school in the State of New York during the fall 2026 and spring 2027 semesters.
2. The student must have attained a minimum 3.0 or equivalent GPA in law school and must have attained a ranking in the top quarter of the class as of the July 1 preceding their application.
3. The dean of each of the fifteen (15) New York State law schools may nominate one student annually for consideration.
4. The application must contain information supporting the fact that the student has actually demonstrated an interest in advancing women's rights and gender equality in their conduct and/or activities to date. This could take many forms, including without limitation, participation in high school, college or law school activities relating to the advancement of women's rights and/or gender equality or advocacy regarding such issues; involvement with women's initiatives at college or law school, a women's rights organization, workplace, or another public interest organization that works in the area of the advancement of women's rights and gender equality; course work, research and/or writing on issues relating to these topics; or an internship/summer associate position with an entity or law firm that focuses on these issues.

Payment of Scholarship

The scholarship award will be applied to the student's 2026-2027 academic year tuition. If the student participates in the Women in Law Section's 2026 Women on the Move program or has their article submitted for publication/presentation as set forth in paragraph 7 above, a check, made payable to the law school and the student, will be sent to the school no later than the end of February 2027. If the student does not participate in accordance with paragraph 7 above, then the check will be sent to the appropriate office at the school no later than the end of March 2027.

Scholarship Application Requirements

The following must be submitted for each nominee:

1. Completed application (form below).
2. Cover letter addressing student's interest in the advancement of women's rights and gender equality.
3. A resume describing prior employment and other relevant qualifications and activities.
4. Law school transcript.
5. Two letters of recommendation, at least one of which is from a law school professor unrelated to the nominee by blood or marriage.
6. An essay written by the student demonstrating why the student exemplifies Ruth Bader Ginsburg's core values. The essay should be no more than two pages, 12 point font, double spaced with 1 inch margins.

Deadline

All materials must be submitted by email on or before Tuesday, April 14, 2026.

Email submissions should be sent to eguerrero@nysba.org. Please include "Ruth Bader Ginsburg Scholarship" on the subject line.

Format

The attachment file will be accepted in Microsoft Word or a single PDF format.

Selection

Criteria for selection will include, but not be limited to:

1. Content and quality of application materials;
2. Demonstrated interest in advancing women's rights and gender equality;
3. Record of academic excellence;
4. Leadership and other experience;
5. Quality of written expression;
6. Work experience; and
7. Any other relevant factors.



2026

Application Form

Deadline

April 14, 2026

Name: _____

Permanent Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email address: _____

School Address (if different): _____

Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Law School Attending: _____

Day Student Night Student

Year of Law School Study as of September 1, 2026: _____

Prior Education:

Dates _____

College Name _____

Address _____

Major _____

Degree _____

Has the nominee previously received Scholarships? Yes No

If yes, please describe:

What is the nominee's GPA and class ranking in law school as of July 1, 2026?

What are the nominee's career goals?



2026

Application Form

Deadline

April 14, 2026

Attach the following materials to this application:

1. A cover letter indicating interest in the advancement of women and gender equality.
2. A law school transcript (transcripts need not be official; finalists may be asked to provide official transcripts).
3. A resume describing prior employment and other relevant qualifications and activities.
4. Two letters of recommendation, at least one of which is from a law school professor unrelated by blood or marriage to the nominee.
5. Two page double-spaced essay written by the nominee demonstrating why s/he exemplifies Ruth Bader Ginsburg's core values. The essay should be no more than two pages, 12 point font, double spaced with one inch margins.

Application Deadline:

All materials must be submitted by email on or before **Tuesday, April 14, 2026**.

Email submissions should be sent to mpeno@nysba.org

Please include "Ruth Bader Ginsburg Scholarship" on the subject line.

Certification:

I hereby certify that all of the statements contained and information provided in this application, including attachments, are truthful to the best of my knowledge, and that I meet the eligibility requirements for the New York State Bar Association's Ruth Bader Ginsburg Memorial Scholarship.

Nominee's Signature _____ Date _____

Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Associate Justice, United States Supreme Court

Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, was a past recipient of the Gold Medal, the New York State Bar Association's highest honor, in recognition of her extraordinary contributions to jurisprudence, the legal profession and life-long commitment to advancing women's rights and gender equality. Justice Ginsburg's career exemplified her core values – a commitment to advancing the law, promoting legal reform, improving the administration of justice, elevating the standard of integrity, honor, professional skill and courtesy in the legal profession, fostering a spirit of collegiality among attorneys and to applying her knowledge of and experience in the law in order to promote the public good.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg was born in Brooklyn, New York, March 15, 1933. She received her B.A. from Cornell University, attended Harvard Law School, and received her LL.B. from Columbia Law School. She served as a law clerk to the Honorable Edmund L. Palmieri, Judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, from 1959 - 1961. From 1961–1963, she was a research associate and then associate director of the Columbia Law School Project on International Procedure. She was a Professor of Law at Rutgers University School of Law from 1963–1972, and Columbia Law School from 1972–1980, and a fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences in Stanford, California from 1977–1978. In 1971, she co-founded the Women's Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union, and served as the ACLU's General Counsel from 1973–1980, and on the National Board of Directors from 1974–1980. She served on the Board and Executive Committee of the American Bar Foundation from 1979 - 1989, on the Board of Editors of the American Bar Association Journal from 1972 - 1978, and on the Council of the American Law Institute from 1978-1993. She was appointed a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in 1980. President Clinton nominated her as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, and she took her seat August 10, 1993. Justice Ginsburg died on September 18, 2020. She married Martin D. Ginsburg in 1954, and has a daughter, Jane, who is a Professor at Columbia University Law School, and a son, James.

Justice Ginsburg's majority opinions left a tremendous legacy of achievement in advancing women's rights and gender equality and ending discriminatory practices. Even in defeat, her dissents promoted significant change. For example, in *Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company* 550 U.S. 618 (2007), the Supreme Court had to determine whether a female employee could maintain an action under Title VII when the illegal pay discrimination occurred outside the statute of limitations. The Court upheld the ruling that the plaintiff's claim was barred by the statute of limitations. Justice Ginsburg's dissent, however, prompted Congress to draft and pass the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009, which provides that each paycheck containing discriminatory compensation is a separate violation no matter when the discrimination began. Justice Ginsburg was a tireless advocate for gender equality. As a litigator, she worked to persuade the Supreme Court to raise the standard of review applied to laws and policies that discriminated on the basis of sex. This work culminated in her decision for the majority in *United States v. Virginia*, 518 U.S. 515 (1996), where she squarely addressed whether the male-only admissions policy at the Virginia Military Institute violated the Fourteenth Amendment's Equal Protection Clause, and concluded that all gender-based classifications must be evaluated with "heightened scrutiny." The rationale behind her ruling was that categorization by sex could not be used to create or perpetuate the legal, social, and economic inferiority of women. With the VMI decision, the high court effectively struck down any law which, as Justice Ginsburg wrote, "denies to women, simply because they are women, full citizenship stature — equal opportunity to aspire, achieve, participate in and contribute to society." Lastly, in one of Justice Ginsburg's most widely celebrated decisions, the Court in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, 576 U.S. 644 (2015), held that the recognition and provision of same-sex marriage is a fundamental right guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

The Women in Law Section

The New York State Bar Association's Women in Law Section ("WILS" or "Section") is a dynamic group of attorneys – both women and men – and serves as a critical voice for women. Its mission is to advance women in the legal profession and all women under the law. The Section proposes legislation, promotes the adoption and implementation of policy by the NYSBA Executive Committee and the NYSBA House of Delegates, and takes other actions, including advocacy, education, networking and programming in order to further and ensure the fair treatment of women under the law and the full participation of women in the administration of justice and as members of the legal community. Membership in WILS offers many opportunities to address the professional, legal, policy and legislative issues impacting women. Members can also take advantage of educational programs (such as the annual Edith I. Spivack Symposium — the WILS Annual Meeting CLE program – and Women on the Move) and meet and network with other attorneys.

WILS members are invited to join one of WILS' committees, which give members an opportunity to be part of an engaging group, use their skills, voice, and commitment to benefit women; interact with members and leaders of our Section and the legal profession; expand their collective and individual networks and develop their careers; and advance critical change in the legal profession and for all women under the law. For example, the Partners Committee focuses on the unique challenges that affect women who are partners in law firms; the Equity in the Legal Profession Committee works to advance women in the legal profession and includes activities such as advocacy, programming, scholarship, research and reports; the Champions Committee engages men as partners to support women in the profession, in NYSBA and society-at-large – its activities include Events, Drinks & Dialogues, networking and business development, reports and publications, and commenting on news issues; and the

Gender Issues Committee works to address specific issues that may impact women, children and families, such as domestic violence, human trafficking and gender parity. The WILS Legislative Affairs Committee is responsible for identifying and recommending the WILS legislative agenda to the Section's Executive Committee for adoption and also identifies new or existing New York State legislation relating to issues of interest to women, among other activities. The WILS Committees are as follows:

- Annual Meeting, Program & CLE Committee
- Champions Committee
- Communications Committee
- Development & Sponsorship Committee
- Emerging Lawyers Committee
- Equity in the Legal Profession Committee
- Gender Issues Committee
- General Counsels Committee
- Legislative Affairs Committee
- Membership & Engagement Committee
- Partners Committee
- Reports, Surveys & Publications Committee
- Women on the Move
- Women on the Move Committee

WILS also encourages members to participate as organizers, speakers or attendees at our educational programs and networking events, and to contribute their views to the various issues the Section addresses.

The Section consistently has presented educational forums on gender concerns; sexual harassment in the profession; balancing professional and family responsibilities; career development beyond partnerships; women in politics; seeking service on the bench; generational issues within law firms; the Child-Parent Security Act; and explaining the legislative process in New York, focusing on legislation impacting women. Additionally, the Section presents forums for women law students on career issues and opportunities.

The Committee on Civil Rights

The term "civil rights" means many different things to many people. To some, the term evokes the epic struggle of the latter half of the 20th century for racial and gender equality, a struggle which still continues today. To others, it calls to mind the right of the individual to be free from arbitrary government restraint on one's liberty and the exercise of freedoms held dear, such as the freedom of speech, assembly and religion. Still others see "civil rights" as covering the rights chiseled into local, state and federal laws preventing discrimination in housing, in school and at the workplace. "Civil rights" fall under a broad umbrella of due process and equal protection guarantees found in our Constitution and laws. The understanding of a "civil right" has evolved and continues to evolve with the forward progress of our national conversation in the American experiment. The Committee on Civil Rights was founded in 1952 and over the years has worked on a broad range of issues affecting the public and legal profession in New York. The Committee has been active on issues of privacy and national security, Executive Detention and due process, the rights of immigrants, marriage equality, solitary confinement, discrimination in the workplace, and the links between Public Health and Environmental Laws to Civil Rights.

The Committee's participation on these various fronts takes many forms, from blog posts about current issues, to sponsoring programs that spark informed debate, to authoring encyclopedic reports and obtaining passage of relevant resolutions by the NYSBA's House of Delegates on signal issues of the day, to honoring those who have done the most in our community to bend the long arc of history toward justice. Today's political climate – with the growing political divide in our own country, and authoritarian rule throughout the world, bringing with it increased violence and a change in laws and government policy – makes protecting civil rights absolutely vital. The Committee endeavors to bring the latest news regarding civil rights to light and does its best to inform and advocate for everyone's civil rights.