



*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*  
1929-1968

**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

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## Press Release:

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Task Force, Inc.**

**Mourns the Loss of Supreme Court Justice Ruth  
Bader Ginsburg**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 20, 2020-----

-----The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Task Force, Inc. is deeply saddened by the enormous loss of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the first Jewish woman and the second woman to serve on the United States Supreme Court.

“Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a champion of women’s rights and justice and equality whose legacy of promoting equal civil rights will be forever remembered,” according to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. President Tracey Payne-Tellis.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg earned her Bachelors of Arts degree at Cornell University.

Justice Ginsburg started her law degree at Harvard Law School in 1956. It is reported that the Dean of Harvard Law School asked her and the other few females enrolled “Why are you at Harvard Law School taking the place of a man?” Justice Ginsburg subsequently transferred to Columbia Law School and became the first woman to be on two law reviews: Harvard and Columbia. Upon graduation from Columbia Law School, Justice Ginsburg tied for first in her class. She went on to become a Professor at Rutgers Law School and Columbia Law School.

Justice Ginsburg advocated for gender equality and women’s rights and won multiple arguments before the Supreme Court. In 1970, Justice Ginsburg co-founded the *Women’s Rights Law Reporter*, the first law journal in the United States to focus exclusively on women’s rights. She was the first female at Columbia Law School and co-authored the first law school casebook on sex discrimination. In 1972, Justice Ginsburg co-founded the Women’s Rights Project at the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and won five (5) of six (6) arguments before the Supreme Court.

Justice Ginsburg wrote the legal brief in the case of *Reed v Reed* in which the Supreme Court extended the protection of the Equal Protection Clause of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment to women in 1971. Justice Ginsburg was appointed to the United States Court of Appeals by President Jimmy Carter in 1980. She was nominated to the United States Supreme Court by President Bill Clinton in 1993. Justice Ginsburg was the second woman ever confirmed to that bench, following Justice Sandra Day O’Connor. “Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a trailblazer and pioneer for women’s rights and human rights,” Dorothy Dean, attorney and past president of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Task Force said. “Her formidable presence on the court will be missed by the people and legal community,” Dean added.

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Task Force, Inc. is an all-volunteer grassroots civic organization. Its purpose is to communicate to others in the local community the importance of celebrating the National Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday. The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Task Force, Inc. was established in 1985 and is comprised of local residents, private and public organizations and local government representatives. The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Task Force, Inc. is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization.

The first Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Walk was in Southfield, Michigan on January 20, 1986, thus commemorating the first observance of the national holiday for Dr. King. Our Founding member was former Councilwoman, Barbara Talley, and numerous Southfield residents were charter members. Justice Gingsburg quoted Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, 'The moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends toward justice.' "Justice Gingsburg leaves a remarkable legacy of seeking Justice as espoused by Dr. King. Justice Gingsburg was truly a Justice of the People and for the People. We will miss her wisdom and undying fight for justice and equality for all, and in particular women," Barbara Talley commented.

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