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2nd Annual Women In Law Leadership Lecture: A Fireside Chat with Debra Katz, Esq. 03-03-2021

Roger Williams University School of Law

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3/1/21

Dear RWU Law community,

The second annual [RWU Law Women in Law Leadership Lecture](#), featuring Debra Katz, Esq. will be held virtually on Wednesday, March 3, 2021, 6 – 7 p.m. This promises to be an inspiring event.

Attorney Katz is a founding partner of Katz, Marshall & Banks, LLP, where she concentrates her practice on employment discrimination, sexual harassment, whistleblower, and Title IX matters. She has developed extensive litigation experience in federal and local courts and has achieved significant courtroom successes in a number of high-profile cases. For her work representing victims of sexual assault and harassment, Ms. Katz has been called “The feared attorney of the #MeToo moment” by the Washington Post, and a “Leading #MeToo Lawyer” by Washingtonian Magazine. Ms. Katz represented Dr. Christine Blasey Ford in proceedings before the Senate Judiciary Committee in September 2018.

The library has created a resource guide to accompany this lecture. Please visit the guide to learn more about the speaker, the Kavanaugh Hearings, and Supreme Court nominations, generally: <https://lawguides.rwu.edu/WILL>

Thank you,
Nicole

Women in Law Leadership Lecture



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2021

6:00pm - 7:00pm

Virtual Program

Open to the Public

The second annual RWU Law Women in Law Leadership Lecture, featuring Debra Katz, Esq. A Fireside Chat with RWU Law Professor [Emily J. Sack](#).

Wednesday, March 3, 2021, 6 – 7 p.m. ET

Debra Katz is a founding partner of Katz, Marshall & Banks, LLP, where she concentrates her practice on employment discrimination, sexual harassment, whistleblower, and Title IX matters. She has developed extensive litigation experience in federal and local courts and has achieved significant courtroom successes in a number of high-profile cases.

Throughout her legal career, Ms. Katz has successfully represented hundreds of whistleblowers in the nuclear, financial, pharmaceutical and medical-device industries. Currently she represents

Dr. Rick Bright, the former director of the Department of Health and Human Services' Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, who was removed from his position after raising concerns over the administration's reckless response to the Coronavirus pandemic, and the subsequent interference into vaccine and treatment approval processes.

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In recognition of Ms. Katz’s work at the forefront of whistleblower and employment law, she has been recognized as "Civil Rights Lawyer of the Year" for Washington, D.C. by *The Best Lawyers® In America* for 2018, and as a “Titan of the Plaintiffs Bar” by *Law360*. In 2019, Washingtonian Magazine recognized Ms. Katz as one of "Washington's 150 Most Powerful Women," a biennial list honoring women in the D.C. area who have achieved great success.

Rhode Island MCLE Credit

This program has been approved for one (1) CLE hour in Rhode Island.

No recording of this event is permitted.

This virtual event is open to the public.

In addition to Ms. Katz, the event will feature our announcement of the winners of the [RBG Essay Contest for RI schoolchildren](#).

[REGISTER HERE](#)

This event is made possible by the generosity of sponsor [Cervenka Green & Ducharme LLC](#).



and individual support from [First Women](#) honoree Louise Durfee (1966).

Women in Law Leadership Lecture & RBG Contest: Home



Photo by Mateus Campos Felipe on Unsplash.

Women in Law Leadership Lecture (and RBG Essay Contest)

Please join the RWU Law community for the second annual RWU Law Women in Law Leadership Lecture, featuring Debra Katz, Esq. A Fireside Chat with RWU Law Professor [Emily J. Sack](#).

A virtual program will be held on Wednesday, March 3, 2021, 6 – 7 p.m. ET.

This program will also include a presentation by the winners of the essay contest:

How has Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg (RBG) inspired me?

- [Women in Law Leadership Lecture](#)

This event is open to the public. Registration at this link is required.

- [Essay Contest: How has Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg \(RBG\) inspired me?](#)

This link contains details about the contest.

Essay Contest: How has Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg (RBG) inspired me?



FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2021

5:00 pm

Contest Deadline

Open to the Public

Roger Williams University School of Law presents:
How has Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg (RBG) inspired me? Essay Contest

Categories:

Elementary School (Grades K-5)

-Create an original piece of artwork that symbolizes *How has RBG inspired me?* Artwork may not be traced or copied. Only original works will be accepted.

-Give your artwork a title or short description. Place title at the top of your page.

-Use materials that you have. i.e. pencil, crayons, water color, and markers.

-Paper size: 8 ½ x 11”.

-Artwork submissions may be photographed or scanned and then emailed.

Middle School (Grades 6-8)

-Create an original essay on *How has RBG inspired me?*

-Limited to one page, double spaced (about 250 words)

High School (Grades 9-12)

-Create an original essay on *How has RBG inspired me?*

-Limited to two pages, double spaced (about 500 words)

Instructions for All Categories:

-The essay/artwork title should be at the top of page one.

-Submissions may be emailed to RBGessay@rwu.edu. Artwork may be scanned.

-Mailed entries will not be considered.

-Email submission must include student's name, grade, school, title of artwork or essay, and parent or guardian name & contact information.

Prizes:

One winning submission will be selected from each category.

Elementary School (Grades K-5): \$75 and one copy of *I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark* by Debbie Levy

Middle School (Grades 6-8): \$100 and one copy of *Notorious RBG Young Readers' Edition: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg* by Irin Carmon & Shana Knizhnik

High School (Grades 9-12): \$150 and one copy of *Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg* by Irin Carmon & Shana Knizhnik

All winning submissions will be featured on the Roger Williams University School of Law website, published in *Rhode Island Lawyers Weekly*, and announced at the annual Women in Law Leadership Lecture on Wednesday, March 3, 2021.

Eligibility:

Students in grades K-12 and attending school in Rhode Island are eligible to participate. The contest is open to private, public and home-schooled students.

*Students who are the children of current Roger Williams University and Roger Williams University School of Law employees or students are ineligible to participate.

Judging:

Judging will be conducted by members of the Women's Law Society of Roger Williams University School of Law. Entries will be reviewed by grade level.

Deadline:

Friday, January 15, 2021 by 5:00 PM ET.

Questions may be directed to RBGessay@rwu.edu

Meet the RBG Essay Contest Winners!

With drawings and essays, Rhode Island students answer the question, "How has Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg inspired me?"

March 3, 2021 Michael M. Bowden



The winning RBG artwork by Millin Licht of the Jewish Community Day School in Providence.

Last December, Roger Williams University School of Law invited Ocean State students from grades K through 12 to submit essays and artworks on how they have been inspired by the legacy of late Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg of the Supreme Court of the United States, who passed away on September 18, 2020.

As part of the prize, *Rhode Island Lawyers Weekly* agreed to publish the winning entries. The winning students also received cash prizes and books.

“Justice Ginsburg cared about equality for all people,” said RWU Law Professor Emily Sack, who advises the Women’s Law Society, which co-sponsored the contest, with its members serving as judges. “When she started her fight for women’s equality under the law, it seemed like an impossible task, but she worked hard and persisted, and made great strides for the things she believed in.

“She also knew that this is not something she could accomplish alone, and that we all have a part to play in making a better world,” Sack added. “She famously said, ‘Fight for things you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you.’ We thought this essay contest would be a wonderful way for all of us, and especially our state’s students, to be inspired by Justice Ginsburg’s life and her call to action.”

The response was gratifyingly large and enthusiastic, and the judges found themselves making some very hard choices. But the winners have been selected and (drum roll) they are:

- Elementary School (original piece of artwork)

Millin Licht, *Jewish Community Day School, Providence*

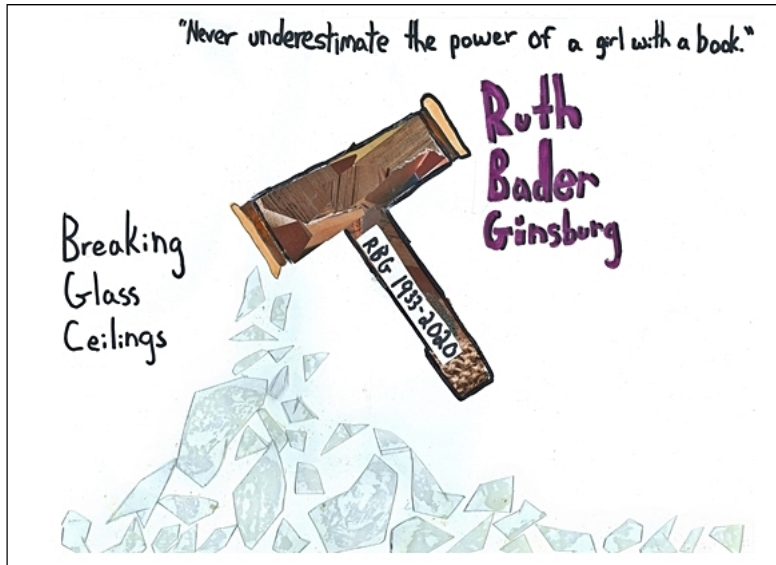
- Middle School Winner (one-page essay)

Mairead Lapierre, *Lawn School, Jamestown*

- High School Winner (two-page essay)

Jasmine Stevens, *St. Mary Academy - Bay View, East Providence*

And now, without further ado, here are the winning entries.



Jackpot and Ruth Bader Ginsburg

By Mairead Lapierre, *Lawn School, Jamestown*



Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg once said, "Fight for the things that you care about but do it in a way that will lead others to join you." RBG has inspired me in my life to fight for the things I care about.

RBG inspired me by not being afraid to work with almost all men. The first time I saw the boys playing Jackpot at recess, I thought "that looks fun." There were seven boys throwing and catching a football and yelling out numbers and different sayings, like "Pac Man" and "Mystery Box," as they were throwing the ball. There

were no other girls playing with them. I was really bothered, because while the boys were playing Jackpot, all the girls were playing Four Square.

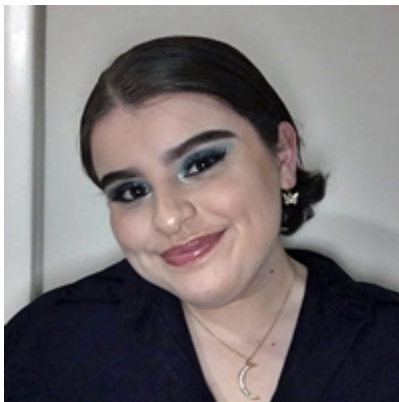
I went over to the boys and asked if I could play Jackpot with them, because it looked like fun and I wanted to try playing something new. The boys said that I had to be able to throw and catch a football. I remember getting ready to throw the football and all the boys moved up close to me –clearly thinking I wouldn't be able to throw the ball far. I threw the football in a spiral just like my Dad taught me and it went over their heads. Steve turned to Liam and said, "She throws better than you!" My throw impressed them enough, and they let me join the game. Once the other girls saw me playing, a few of them came over and asked if they could play, too. Steve asked them, "Can you throw the ball?" And I said, "Just let them play!" And the boys let them play.

RBG has inspired me in my life to help adjust things that are not equal. She inspired me to play games with boys, and that got some girls to join so that it wasn't just boys playing with boys and girls playing with girls.

* * * * *

A Seat at the Table

By Jasmine Stevens, *St. Mary Academy - Bay View, East Providence*



Ruth Bader Ginsburg was the epitome of a visionary. She knew what the world could be, and she sought to ensure that her vision became reality. Ginsburg was undeniably a mastermind, her levels of valor and genius were truly unmatched. And even though she grew up in a world where she was told to be quiet and proper by the society around her, she never let that affect her goals and ambitions.

Ginsburg's mind worked like clockwork: everything had a place and, if all parts were moving together and correctly, the clock would tick in harmony. She held herself with a silent confidence: she had nothing to prove, no need to justify herself or her actions, no second guessing, just her self-assurance keeping her going. I aspire to acquire the level of confidence she held, and use her as the visualization of what that would look like.

Ginsburg accomplished so much throughout her career. She adjusted with the times and, most of all, she was an excellent listener. She had the ability to empathize with those around her; the ability to see things from a third person's perspective. She was able to step back and view things from the perspective of those she was listening to, and to understand the disproportionate ways in which individual policies affected certain marginalized groups. Ginsburg seemed to hold all the qualities of an empath, in ways that make me want to see the world in the way she saw it. Her actions have made me strive to be more understanding and compassionate, to think of others and not only myself.

I cannot even fathom into words the level of genius which she possessed. The execution of her argued Supreme Court cases were unbelievably and undeniably brilliant. When I first listened to her court hearings, I was confused at first. I struggled to understand why she was so keen on finding male gender bias victims. It was upon hearing and reading the *Califano v. Goldfarb* case that it all clicked. Ginsburg got the judges to

unknowingly admit the existence of gender bias, an institution they refused to admit exists. Instead of attempting to discuss gender bias against women, where it was strongest, to non-listening ears, she thought to establish it first against men: genius.

Ginsburg understood that people, especially men, did not believe in gender bias, especially against women. Instead of trying to explain that gender bias against women existed, a topic that was and is still currently being forced into silence, she established gender bias against men. In establishing that gender bias against men existed, she established that the fundamental idea and policy of gender bias does in fact exist. And in establishing its overall existence, she established that gender bias against women exists as well. It never ceases to amaze me to look back on Ginsburg's accomplishments. This case specifically taught me that when people won't listen to what you have to say, you must make them listen. It taught me that tactical skill and execution are just as important as the facts in front of you, and that confidence in the information you are relaying is so utterly important.

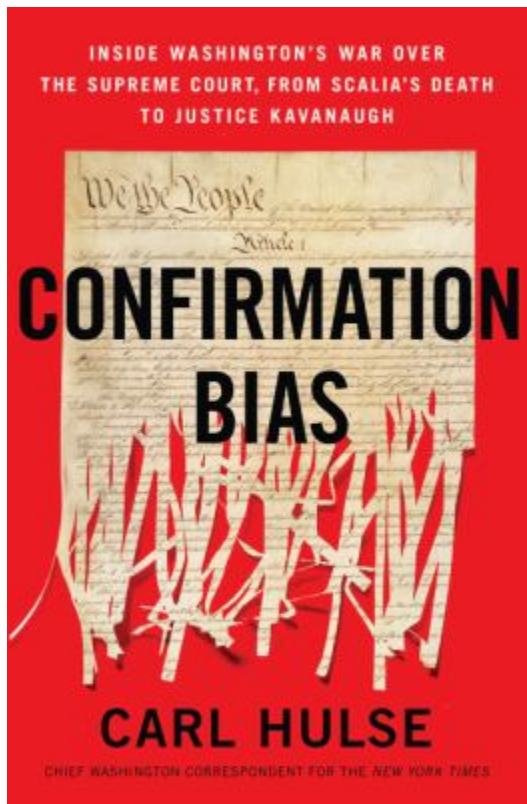
Ruth Bader Ginsburg taught me to not apologize for existing in a world where the odds are stacked against me, to question outdated and biased authority, and make the world a place I can openly and happily exist in. Not only was Ginsburg a women's rights activist, but she was also an LGBTQ+ ally. She fought against racial injustice, and sought to abolish classist infrastructures within this country. Ginsburg taught me to be confident in who I am, and to fight for what I believe in. She told me and many other girls my age and those older, that we deserve our seat at the table.

While we may have to fight for it more than our male counterparts, we are every bit as deserving as those who have been handed a seat, if not more. Ginsburg earned all that she had. She paved her own path, made her own way in this world, and that is exactly

what I intend to do. This past year of 2020 has taught me to be myself even if society will not accept me for it. And with Justice Ginsburg's guidance throughout my adolescence, I feel as though I'm finally owning my identity.

Books

- [Confirmation Bias](#) by Carl Hulse



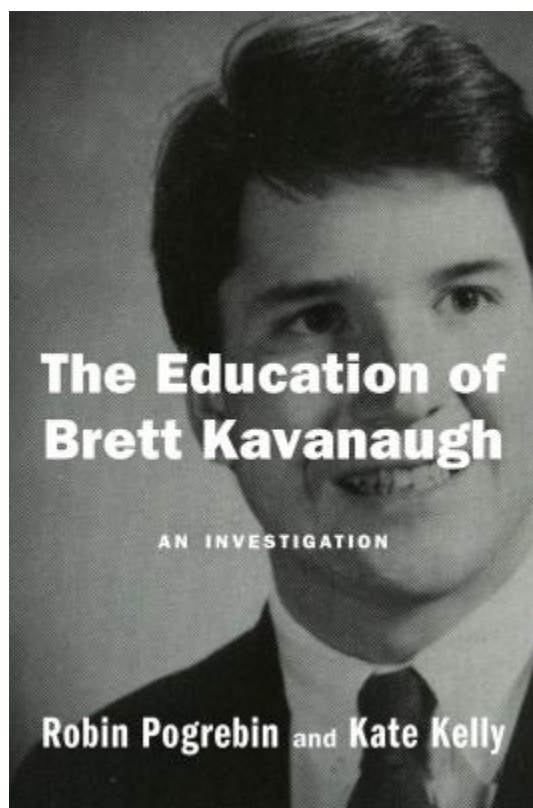
Call Number: KF8742 .H85 2019

ISBN: 9780062862914

Publication Date: 2019-06-25

Carl Hulse presents a detailed look at the unprecedented political fight to fill the Supreme Court seat made vacant by Antonin Scalia's death. The embodiment of American conservative thought and jurisprudence, Antonin Scalia cast an expansive shadow over the Supreme Court for three decades. His unexpected death in February 2016 created a vacancy that precipitated a pitched political fight.

• [The Education of Brett Kavanaugh](#) by Robin Pogrebin; Kate Kelly



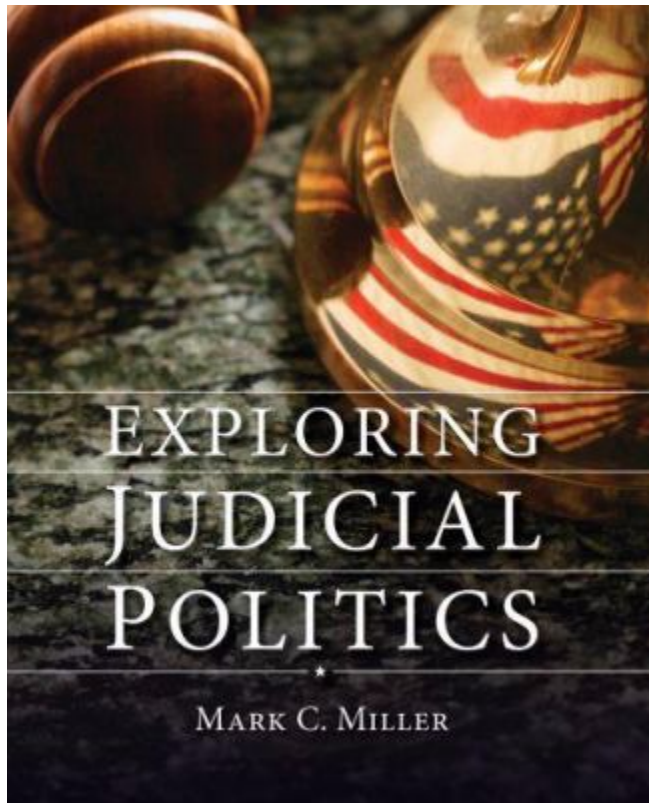
Call Number: KF8745.K38 P64 2019

ISBN: 9780593084397

Publication Date: 2019-09-17

Reporters Robin Pogrebin and Kate Kelly take a deeper look into Brett Kavanaugh and how his formative years led to one of the most important #MeToo stories of the decade.

• [Exploring Judicial Politics](#) by Mark C. Miller (Editor)



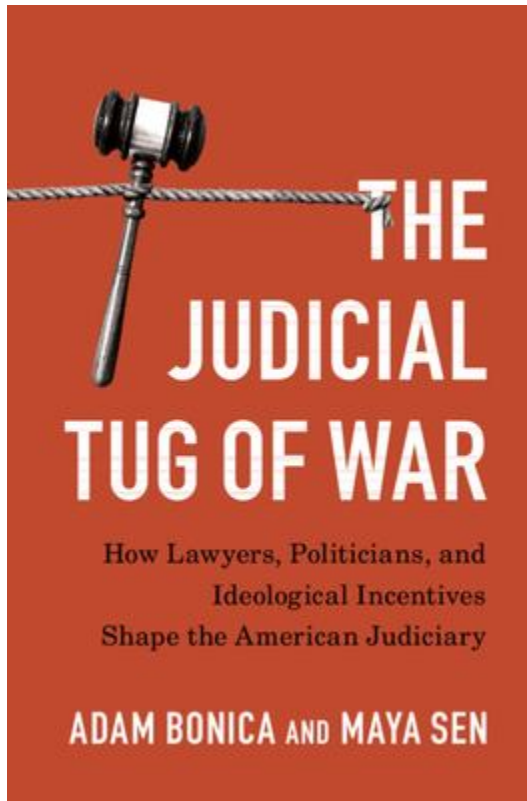
Call Number: KF8775 .M55 2009

ISBN: 9780195343076

Publication Date: 2008-04-11

This volume presents 20 original essays by political scientists and other judicial scholars on a variety of topics relative to the broad area of judicial politics. One theme of these essays is to explore the ways in which law and politics intertwine in the United States. Secondly, the essays provide insights into how scholars go about studying various subjects such as the role of judges, lawyers, and juries in our political system. The essays explore issues at the trial court level, at the intermediate appellate court level, and at the U.S. Supreme Court.

• [The Judicial Tug of War](#) by Adam Bonica; Maya Sen



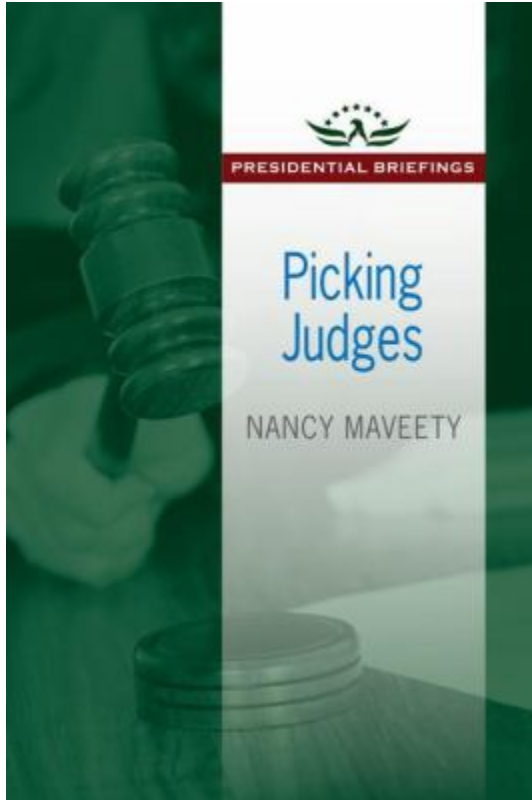
Call Number: KF5130 .B57 2021

ISBN: 9781108841368

Publication Date: 2020-12-17

This text introduces a new framework for thinking about the nation's courts, which not only explains current political clashes over America's courts, but also powerfully predicts the composition of courts moving forward. As the text demonstrates through quantitative analyses, a greater ideological rift between politicians and legal elites leads politicians to adopt measures that put ideology and politics front and center - for example, judicial elections. On the other hand, ideological closeness between politicians and the legal establishment leads legal elites to have significant influence on the selection of judges.

• [Picking Judges by Nancy Maveety](#)



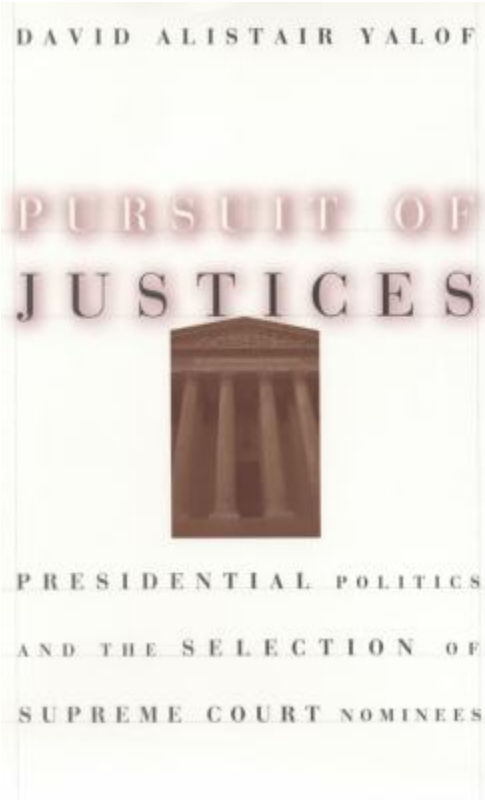
Call Number: KF8776 .M337 2016

ISBN: 9781412862745

Publication Date: 2016-02-28

In exercising their constitutional powers while paying heed to political opportunities, presidents and the Senate have together created our modern judicial appointment politics. Presidents consider a host of demographic and ideological factors, candidate qualities, and electoral politics. Nancy Maveety examines the dynamics of screening and choosing judicial nominees and analyzes the institutional calculus in securing their confirmation in the face of senatorial obstruction. Maveety shows how a president can adapt to particular circumstances and provides an outline for synergistically staffing the federal judiciary, thus securing a legacy for all time.

[Pursuit of Justices](#) by David Alistair Yalof



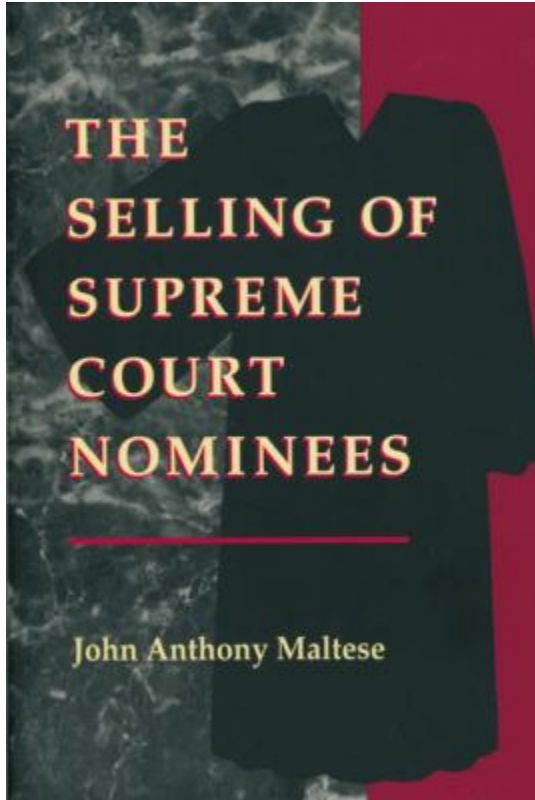
Call Number: KF8742 .Y35 1999

ISBN: 9780226945453

Publication Date: 1999-10-15

Although the Senate confirmation of Supreme Court nominees is the most public part of the nomination process, the most critical phase the initial selection of nominees is usually hidden from view. In this book, David Yalof takes the reader behind the scenes of what happens before the Senate hearings to show how presidents go about deciding who will sit on the highest court in the land. As Yalof shows, an intricate web of forces competing factions within the executive branch, organized interests, and the president's close associates all vie for influence during this phase of presidential decision-making. Yalof draws on the papers of seven modern presidents, from Truman to Reagan, and firsthand interviews with key figures, such as Ramsey Clark, Edwin Meese, and President Gerald Ford. He documents and analyzes the selection criteria these presidents used, the pool of candidates from which they chose, their strategies, and the political pressures affecting their decisions, both successes and failures.

• [The Selling of Supreme Court Nominees](#) by John Anthony



[Maltese](#)

Call Number: KF8742 .M26 1995

ISBN: 9780801858833

Publication Date: 1998-04-24

Politics has always been at the heart of the Supreme Court selection process. According to John Anthony Maltese, the first "Borking" of a nominee came in 1795 with the defeat of John Rutledge's nomination as chief justice. What is different about today's appointment process, he argues, is not its politicization but the range of players involved and the political techniques that they use. In this book, Maltese traces the evolution of the contentious and controversial confirmation process awaiting today's nominees to the nation's highest court. In this paperback edition, he includes a discussion of the recent nomination of Stephen Breyer, addressing various reform proposals made by critics of the current process and crediting President Clinton's protracted selection process with restoring some decorum to the proceedings.

Supreme Ambition by Ruth Marcus



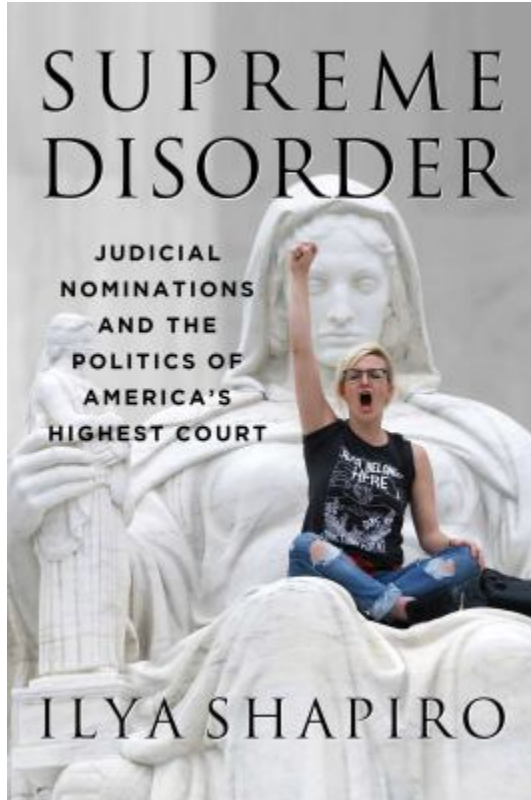
Call Number: KF8745.K38 M37 2019

ISBN: 9781982123864

Publication Date: 2019-12-03

The Kavanaugh drama unfolded so fast in the summer of 2018 it seemed to come out of nowhere. With the power of the #MeToo movement behind her, Christine Blasey Ford walked into a Senate hearing room to accuse Brett Kavanaugh of sexual assault. This unleashed unprecedented fury from a Supreme Court nominee who accused Democrats of a "calculated and orchestrated political hit." But behind this showdown was a much bigger one. In this book, journalist and legal expert Ruth Marcus goes behind the scenes to document what she sees as a thirty-year mission by conservatives to win a majority on the Supreme Court and the lifelong ambition of Brett Kavanaugh to secure his place in that victory.

Supreme Disorder by Ilya Shapiro



Call Number: KF8742 .S48 2020

ISBN: 9781684510566

Publication Date: 2020-09-22

Politics have always intruded on Supreme Court appointments. But although the framers would recognize the way justices are nominated and confirmed today, something is different. Why have appointments to the high court become one of the most explosive features of our system of government? The author of this book argues this problem is part of a larger phenomenon. As government has grown, its laws reaching even further into our lives, the courts that interpret those laws have become enormously powerful. If we fight over each new appointment as though everything were at stake, it's because it is. When decades of constitutional corruption have left us subject to an all-powerful tribunal, passions are sure to flare on the infrequent occasions when the political system has an opportunity to shape it. Shapiro weighs the many proposals for reform, from the modest (term limits) to the radical (court-packing) but shows that there can be no quick fix for a judicial system suffering a crisis of legitimacy. And in the end, the only measure of the Court's legitimacy that matters is the extent to which it maintains, or rebalances, our constitutional order.

Virtual Program Speaker

The Second Annual Women in Law Leadership Lecture

A FIRESIDE CHAT FEATURING DEBRA KATZ, ESQ.,
AND RWU LAW PROFESSOR EMILY J. SACK

Founding Partner, Katz, Marshall & Banks, LLP, Washington, D.C.



Wednesday, March 3, 2021

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. ET

An Online Event | Open to the Public

Register online at <https://bit.ly/3rnFavD>

The winners of RWU Law RBG Essay Contest will also be announced!

This program has been approved for (1) Rhode Island MCLE credit.

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Online Resources

- [BBC's The Conversation, #METOO: The Lawyers episode](#)

Atty. Katz and another lawyer who represent alleged victims of sexual assault and harassment join Kim Chakanetsa to discuss how #MeToo and other public movements have impacted their work.

- [Debra S. Katz's Speaking Engagements](#)

This is a list of Atty. Katz's recent speaking engagements, with links.

- [Frontline's Inside the Kavanaugh Hearings: An Oral History](#)

This piece takes you behind the decision to confirm Kavanaugh, from the viewpoint of Sen. Susan Collins and former Sens. Jeff Flake and Heidi Heitkamp.

- [National Constitution Center Podcast: The Kavanaugh Confirmation Hearings](#)

Nina Totenberg and Neal Katyal join Jeffrey Rosen to unpack Judge Kavanaugh's confirmation hearings.

- [Supreme Court Nominations \(1789-Present\)](#)

Since the Supreme Court was established in 1789, presidents have submitted 164 nominations for the Court, including those for chief justice. Of this total, 127 were confirmed (7 declined to serve). This chart lists nominations officially submitted to the Senate.

- [Supreme Court Nominations Research Guide](#)

This Georgetown Law Library guide explains the nomination process and suggests resources for further research into the nominations of more recently confirmed Supreme Court Justices.



Nicole Dyszlewski

[Email Me](#)