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4-4-2024

## 5th Annual Women In Law Leadership Lecture

Roger Williams University School of Law

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# 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Women In Law Leadership Lecture, April 4, 2024

5th Annual Women in Law Leadership Lecture featuring Director Rosie Hidalgo, Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Dept. of Justice

Roger Williams University  
SCHOOL OF LAW

## SAVE THE DATE!

5th Annual Women in Law Leadership Lecture  
**Rosie Hidalgo, Director**  
**Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)**  
**U.S. Department of Justice**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2024**

4:30 PM  
RWU Law | Bristol Campus  
*Reception Immediately Following Lecture*

**REGISTER NOW**



**The winners of the RWU Law RBG Essay/Art Contest for RI school children will be announced.**

Save the Date...5<sup>th</sup> Annual Women in Law Leadership Lecture

Thursday, April 4, 2024

4:30 PM | RWU Law | Bristol Campus

Rosie Hidalgo, Director

Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)

U.S. Department of Justice

# 5th Annual Women in Law Leadership Lecture

Thursday, April 4, 2024

4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

RWU Law Bristol Campus - Law 283

RSVP Required

The fifth annual Roger Williams University School of Law Leadership Lecture, will feature **Rosie Hidalgo**, Director, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), U.S. Department of Justice.

4:30 PM Lecture - School of Law 283

*Reception immediately following lecture.*



Rosie Hidalgo

Rosie Hidalgo joined the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) as its Director in July 2023, after serving as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Advisor on Gender-Based Violence at the White House Gender Policy Council. She previously worked at OVW as Deputy Director for Policy in the Obama-Biden Administration, during which time Rosie was detailed to the Office of the Vice President, working with the White House Advisor on Violence Against Women.

Rosie has worked in the movement to end gender-based violence for over 30 years as a public interest attorney and as a national policy advocate. At the outset of her career, she provided direct civil legal services through non-profit organizations in New York and Virginia. Prior to her work at the White House, she was the Senior Director of Public Policy for Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities (now Esperanza United), a national resource center with a focus on providing training, research, and policy advocacy to prevent and end domestic violence and sexual assault. Rosie also served on the Biden Foundation's Advisory Council for Ending Violence Against Women and on the American Bar Association's Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence.

The daughter of immigrants from Cuba, Rosie spent a total of 10 years as an adult living in three different countries in Latin America, including the Dominican Republic, where she helped establish and coordinate a community-based domestic violence prevention and intervention network and worked as a consultant for the World Bank on social services reforms.

She received her Bachelor's degree in Government and International Relations from Georgetown University and her J.D. from New York University School of Law, where she was a Root-Tilden Scholar.

In addition to the lecture, the program will feature the announcement of the winners of the [RWU Law RBG Essay/Art Contest for RI school children](#).

[MAKE A GIFT TO THE WOMEN IN LAW LEADERSHIP LECTURE AT RWU LAW](#)

### **Special Accommodations**

Persons who, because of a special need or condition, would like to request an accommodation for an event should contact the Office of the Dean - Programs & Initiatives, as soon as possible, but no later than 72 hours before the event, so that appropriate arrangements can be made. [lawevents@rwu.edu](mailto:lawevents@rwu.edu)

**This program has been approved for one Rhode Island MCLE credit.**

### **Thank you to our IMPACT SPONSORS!**

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The 5th Annual Women in Law Leadership Lecture

Thursday, April 4, 2024

4:30 PM

RWU Law Bristol Campus | Law 283

The fifth annual Roger Williams University School of Law Leadership Lecture, will feature Rosie Hidalgo, Director, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), U.S. Department of Justice.

Program details may be found [here](#).

[Sign in to Google](#) to save your progress. Learn more

\* Indicates required question

First Name \*

Last Name \*

Email Address \*

Employer

Affiliation

RWU Law Student

RWU Law Faculty/Staff

RWU Law Alumni

Other

RWU Law Class Year (if applicable)

Food Allergies (for Reception)

Roger Williams University  
SCHOOL OF LAW



# PROGRAM

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## Welcome and Remarks

Jodi Haley

*Assistant Dean of Career Development*

## Introduction and Land & Labor Acknowledgement

Gregory W. Bowman

*Dean & Professor of Law*

## Fireside Chat

Rosie Hidalgo, Esq.

*Director of the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)*

and Emily J. Sack

*Professor, RWU Law*

## Questions from Audience

Moderated by Jodi Haley

## Introduction of RBG Contest

Jodi Haley

## Presentation of Awards

Andrea I. Staehelin L'24

*Roger Williams University School of Law Women's Law Society  
President*

Announcement of Winners of RWU School of Law RBG Essay/Art Contest for  
Rhode Island Students K-12 "How Has Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg Inspired  
Me?"

## Closing Remarks

Jodi Haley

## Reception in School of Law 2nd Floor Atrium to Follow.

#RWULawRBGEssay

### ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

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**ROSIE HIDALGO** joined the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) as its Director in July 2023, after serving as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Advisor on Gender-Based Violence at the White House Gender Policy Council. She previously worked at OVW as Deputy Director for Policy

*in the Obama-Biden Administration, during which time Director Hidalgo was detailed to the Office of the Vice President, working with the White House Advisor on Violence Against Women.*

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Joining the RWU Law faculty in 2001, Professor **EMILY J. SACK** has become a nationally recognized expert on domestic violence and reform of the court system. As the Deputy Director for the Center for Court Innovation, Professor Sack helped develop and implement the first domestic violence courts in New York, as well as the first felony domestic violence court in the United States. U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stevens cited Professor Sack's article *Battered Women and the State: The Struggle for the Future of Domestic Violence Policy* in his opinion in the domestic violence case *Castle Rock v. Gonzales*.

Active in the community, Professor Sack has been a Board member of the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Women's Fund of Rhode Island, and President of the Board of the Women's Resource Center. Prior to joining RWU, Professor Sack worked in diverse offices such as the Senate Judiciary Committee Staff of the late Edward M. Kennedy, the ACLU, and the law firm of Stillman, Friedman, & Shaw.

A magna cum laude graduate of NYU School of Law, Professor Sack earned her B.A. from Swarthmore with high honors and her M. Phil. from Columbia University. She teaches Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Children and the Law, Domestic Violence Law, and Death Penalty Law.

She recently served as a Visiting Professor of Law at Cardozo School of Law. She has published in many top journals, including the Northwestern, Wisconsin, and Washington University law reviews.

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## RBG CONTEST

### MEET THE RBG CONTEST WINNERS

Roger Williams University School of Law RBG Essay/Art Contest for Rhode Island Students K-12

*How Has Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg Inspired Me?*

High School (Grades 9-12)

Avery Blais

Mount Saint Charles Academy, Grade 9

*The RBG Within ME*

I stand on the starting line at the Track at New Balance, overwhelmed. A freshman girl, running against 12 varsity boys, preparing to run as hard as I can. Ruth Bader Ginsberg, the notorious

RBG, probably felt a similar feeling to the one that I feel during this moment. A young woman, paired against people who were biologically stronger, but mentally my equal. It's overwhelming, maximally infuriating. She must have felt the nervous pressure weighing down on her chest, chasing impossible standards, but determined for an equal chance as every man had. How could a young Jewish teenager growing up in a close-minded 1940's society, with twisted idealistic and unrealistic expectations on what it is to be a woman, become the renowned Justice we know of today? She grew through education, using it as a weapon in a male dominated profession, being one of the few women and top students in her 1954 Cornell class. She was able to rise above the scrutiny of a young woman abandoning the idea of a nuclear family for Harvard Law, and later Columbia, where she graduated first in her class. All this success without the support of her older sister and mother, whom she lost before graduating from high school.

Attorney Bader Ginsberg challenged the letter of the law, winning five major Supreme Court sex-discrimination cases when she was the Project Litigator for the ACLU. She impacted the world I live in, the rights I have, even before sitting on the Supreme Court. She allowed marginalized people to be spoken for, and was an advocate for equal rights. She knew how it felt to be looked down upon and expected less of, all because of the fact she had ovaries. Ruth Bader Ginsberg, the Columbia graduate, one of America's most renowned feminists, was once a 14-year-old girl. All this, because she had the will to chase the same chance afforded to men.

RBG once said, "When I'm sometimes asked when there will be enough (women judges on the US Supreme Court bench)", I say, "When there are nine. People are shocked. But there'd be nine men, and nobody's ever raised a question about that." She was once me. To me, RBG is a goal. She is an inspiration, and a hero who paved the way for the next generation of Americans. No matter the gender or race, everyone shares a responsibility to protect the constitution and the rights reflected in it. My feet lift off the track, and I begin. Failure was not an option for her, it's not an option for me either.

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Middle School (Grades 6-8)

Reese Lourenco

Segue Institute for Learning, Grade 6

### *The Great Influence of Ruth Bader Ginsburg*

"Fight for the things you care about. But do it in a way that will lead others to join you." That is the famous quote of a woman named Joan Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who was the first Jewish woman and the second woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. Born March 15, 1933, she led the fight against gender discrimination and successfully argued six cases before the U.S.

Supreme Court. Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a passionate woman who fought for equality and justice, and is remembered for her pathbreaking opinions on major issues, such as women's rights, voting rights, and health care.

She believed that all people should have equal rights, but her work to achieve equal rights for women was the focus of her career. In a 1979 case, she challenged the notion that girls were less fit to serve on the jury. Ruth Bader Ginsburg explained in 2009, “Women belong in all places where decisions are being made”— including juries. “It shouldn’t be that women are the exception.” She also championed these 5 laws to support gender equality; the Equal Pay Act, Title IX, the Pregnancy Discrimination Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act, and the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. This inspired me because soon, at my school, I will be a 6th grade community leader, and the bravery Ruth Bader Ginsburg had as a leader is like an example for what I have to achieve as one.

Community leaders are students who are selected to

be the voice of the students and speak for the students and what they all as a collective believe in, and Ruth Bader Ginsburg has shown me what you need to be able to do in order to be successful in the role as a leader.

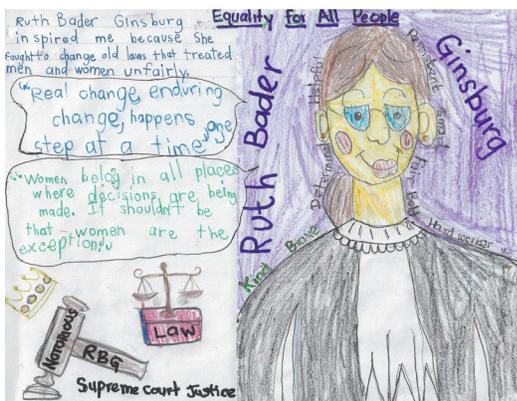
Another way she was an inspiration is the fact that even though she was sick with colon cancer, she kept working at the Supreme Court. Ruth Bader Ginsburg had her first experience with cancer in 1999 when the doctors discovered colon cancer at an early stage by accident because of an unrelated abdominal infection. 10 years later, when she was undergoing regular screenings, doctors discovered pancreatic cancer and removed part of her pancreas and her spleen. This is inspiring because although she was sick, she never stopped fighting for what she believed in and what she thought was better for the world. It tells me that even if something bad is going on in my life, I should still be true to my role as a community leader.

In conclusion, Ruth Bader Ginsburg has inspired me and the entire world with her bravery and perseverance. Although she’s not with us anymore, she will always be remembered for her accomplishments to make the world a better place. Ruth Bader Ginsburg is such an inspiration on people who will take over roles as types of leaders, including me taking on the role as community leader. To me, she is a symbol of hope and perseverance and just inspires me to keep pushing on.

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Elementary School (Grades K-5) Visaagan Vipakaran  
Woodridge Elementary School, Grade 5

### *Equality for All People*



*This program is made possible by the generosity of our*

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First Women Honoree Louise Durfee (1966)

### Special Thanks!

Roger Williams University School of Law Women in Law Leadership  
Lecture Committee

Professor Nicole P. Dyszlewski

Jodi Haley

Chelsie Horne, CMP

Professor Sarah McConnell Dubois

Professor Emily J. Sack

Andrea I. Staehelin L'24























