

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



CELA Statement on the Passing of the Honorable Ruth Bader Ginsburg

SACRAMENTO (September 19, 2020) – “The loss of the Honorable Ruth Bader Ginsburg yesterday fills us all with grief and sadness. The nation is mourning an inimitable champion of justice and civil rights. Justice Ginsburg was an unparalleled scholar, a methodical, formidable advocate, and finally a heroic jurist.

“Some of her influence is even in the way we, as employee advocates, talk about the pursuit of equality. In the early 1970s, [Justice Ginsburg recalled](#) ‘doing all these sex-discrimination cases, and my secretary said, “I look at these pages and all I see is sex, sex, sex. The judges are men, and when they read that they’re not going to be thinking about what you want them to think about.” Henceforth, she changed the term to ‘gender discrimination,’ which eventually opened the door to gender expression and gender identity claims. Her lifelong work continues to help dismantle rules, policies, and laws that treat genders differently.

“Her indomitable spirit and the great integrity that she brought to everything she did was a model for us all. Even more, Justice Ginsburg was an inspiration for so many girls and women around the world who want to pursue our noble profession in law. I know that she was for me. Ruth Bader Ginsburg said:

“I would like to be remembered as someone who used whatever talent she had to do her work to the very best of her ability.”

“We best honor her spirit and legacy by continuing our fight for the rights of working people everywhere.”

—Elizabeth Riles, Chair, CELA

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About California Employment Lawyers Association: CELA exists to protect and expand the legal rights and opportunities of all California workers and to strengthen the community of lawyers who represent them.