



AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS OFFICE • 1800 M STREET, N.W. • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 • (202) 331-2000

STATEMENT

OF

WILLIAM E. WILLIS

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL JUDICIARY
AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

CONCERNING THE

NOMINATION OF

THE HONORABLE RUTH BADER GINSBURG

TO BE THE

ASSOCIATE JUSTICE

OF THE

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE OF THE JUDICIARY
UNITED STATES SENATE

JULY 23, 1993

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is William E. Willis. I practice law in New York City, and I am Chair of the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Federal Judiciary. With me today is Judah Best of Washington, D.C., one of our Committee members who took a principal role in this investigation.

We appear here to present the views of the American Bar Association on the nomination of the Honorable Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, to be Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

At the request of the White House, our Committee investigated the professional competence, judicial temperament and integrity of Judge Ginsburg. Our work included discussions with more than 625 persons, including Justices of the Supreme Court, federal and state judges, a national cross section of practicing lawyers, and law school deans and faculty members, some of whom are specialists in constitutional law, and experts on Supreme Court Practice. In addition, Judge Ginsburg's opinions were independently reviewed by three reading groups -- a reading team of lawyers who have practiced actively in the Supreme Court,

chaired by Rex E. Lee, former Solicitor General of the United States and currently President of Brigham Young University, and two panels of law professors, one chaired by Professor Ronald J. Allen at Northwestern University Law School and one chaired by Dean Mark G. Yudof of the University of Texas School of Law. And finally, Judge Ginsburg was interviewed by three members of our Committee.

The Committee began its investigation of Judge Ginsburg on June 14, 1993, and ended on July 13, 1993. Based upon our evaluation, we reported to the White House and to this Committee that the Standing Committee is unanimously of the opinion that Judge Ginsburg is entitled to the Committee's highest evaluation for a nominee to the Supreme Court of the United States: Well Qualified. That evaluation is reserved for those who are at the top of the legal profession, have outstanding legal ability and wide experience, meet the highest standards of professional competence, judicial temperament and integrity, and merit the Committee's strongest affirmative endorsement.

I have filed with the Judiciary Committee a letter describing the results of our investigation, and shall not repeat those results in detail here. I request that the letter be included in the record of these proceedings.

To summarize our findings, the Committee is fully satisfied that, by virtue of her academic training, her work as an appellate advocate, her academic service, her scholarly writings, and her distinguished service for thirteen years on the Court of Appeals, Judge Ginsburg meets the highest standards of professional competence required for a seat on the Supreme Court. She enjoys the admiration and respect of her colleagues on and off the bench and her integrity is above reproach.

We are pleased to have the opportunity to appear here today to present the Committee's findings and would be happy to respond to questions about our evaluation.