

Dear Civil Rights Law Section members,

*According to Jewish tradition, a person who dies on Rosh Hashanah, which began tonight, is a tzaddik, a person of great righteousness.  
Baruch Dayan HaEmet.*

***Like so many others, I owe so much to the entry this Nation afforded to people  
"yearning to breathe free."  
Ruth Bader Ginsburg, US Supreme Court Justice Confirmation Hearings, July 20-  
23, 1993***

Today we carry the legacy of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.  
We carry her dissents knowing they will become majority opinions.  
We carry her integrity to fight with civility, with precision and candor.

We carry her charisma, her light and her sense of humor.  
We carry her uncanny ability to vehemently disagree yet maintain discourse.

We carry her vast and profound understanding of the evolution of our Constitution as a living entity  
that protects the fundamental human rights and the civil rights of those who have historically not been appointed to the Court.

We carry her ability to see through the lie of colorblind jurisprudence and ability to speak truth to the history of the United States.  
We carry her strength that unites mind and body, her physical training that grounds mental and intellectual scholarship.

We may feel heartbroken, afraid, even shocked by today's news. I know I am.  
As I listen to Mercedes Sosa at a fever pitch and feel the wind and rain outside tonight wash away the smog of climate change wildfires, it is a difficult time.

Let us not forget that when Justice Scalia passed in February of 2016, President Obama was not afforded the opportunity  
to exercise his constitutional right to appoint a Supreme Court Justice.

The appointment of the next Supreme Court Justice directly impacts the administration of justice within our state.  
There will be no appointment of a Supreme Court Justice on the eve of a Presidential Election.

There will be no appointment of the next Supreme Court Justice until AFTER the 2020 presidential election - just as it was decided four years ago.

We must be consistent in our application of the law, in abiding by recent legal precedent in regards to Supreme Court Justice appointments.

Let us sit tonight, knowing full well that it is only a matter of time before Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's dissents become the majority.

May each of you within your own cultural/spiritual traditions (whether it be the rending of cloth, the lighting of candles, the pouring of libations) be supported as we mourn the loss of the Great Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg in the legal community.

***I'm dejected, but only momentarily, when I can't get the fifth vote for something I think is very important. But then you go on to the next challenge and you give it your all. You know these important issues are not going to go away. They are going to come back again and again. There'll be another time, another day.***

Ruth Bader Ginsburg, November 15, 2000.

Rest in Peace.

In Solidarity,  
Molly Matter