

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 17, 2004

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg
Supreme Court of the United States
One First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20543

Dear Justice Ginsburg,

We write to express our grave concerns regarding recent news reports that have documented your close ties to NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund. We find these stories very alarming and feel that they call into question your ability to judge fairly in cases that the NOW Legal Defense Fund regularly involves itself.

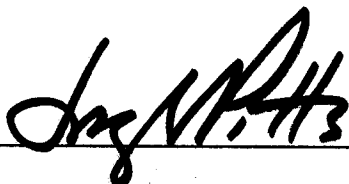
On March 11, 2004 the LA Times reported, "In January, Ginsburg gave opening remarks for the fourth installment in the Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg Distinguished Lecture Series on Women and the Law. Two weeks earlier, she had voted in a medical screening case and taken the side promoted by the legal defense fund in its friend-of-the-court brief."

It is well known that NOW Legal Defense engages in active lobbying on behalf of pro-abortion activists and regularly submits briefs to the Supreme Court in a variety of cases. As a matter of fact, an entire section of the NOW Legal Defense website is dedicate to cases that are heard before the High Court. Furthermore, the NOW Legal Defense homepage highlights your speaking engagement and pictures you next to the President of the organization, Kathy Rodgers. Nevertheless you have continued to involve yourself with this legal activist group. Such a relationship casts serious doubts on the impartiality that is so important in judicial matters.

As you know, the code of conduct for the federal courts warns jurists to steer clear of outside legal activities that would "cast reasonable doubt on the capacity to decide impartially any issue that may come before them." Federal law states that a judge or justice "shall disqualify himself in any proceeding in which his impartiality might reasonably be questioned." As legislators, we believe your actions call into question your ability to rule with impartiality on any case involving abortion. We, therefore, respectfully request that you immediately recuse your self from any such cases.

Thank you for your attention in this matter. We look forward to seeing what action you will take to address this serious concern.

Sincerely,





~~W. B. Brady~~

~~Paul Jones~~

Sue Myrick

Harshad Kulkarni

Bazileto

Clayton

Barbara Cullen

Walter B. Jones

W. Callahan

John Jones

Steve King