



**WHEN THERE  
ARE NINE** 2020  
EST. **SCHOLARSHIP PROJECT**

In Memory of the Honorable Ruth Bader Ginsburg  
Established by Alumnae of the U.S. Attorney's Office  
for the Southern District of New York

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## Mission Statement

The When There Are Nine Scholarship Project was established in 2020 in partnership with the Federal Bar Foundation by a group of women attorneys who served together as Assistant United States Attorneys in the Southern District of New York. The Project's mission is to honor the lifelong work of the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg by creating a scholarship and related programming that will advance equity and diversity within the legal profession and continue the late Justice's many efforts to expand career opportunities for women attorneys.

Justice Ginsburg was a trailblazer and pioneering advocate for women's rights. A Brooklyn native, she graduated first in her class from Columbia Law School while raising her young daughter and supporting her husband through his cancer treatment. Justice Ginsburg repeatedly overcame the gender discrimination she would later spend the better part of her career seeking to eradicate in the courts, and her advocacy and the cases that she won opened doors for so many women. The founding members of the Project, all of whom had the privilege of serving in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, benefitted greatly from Justice Ginsburg's efforts and, upon her passing, established the Project to honor her legacy by encouraging future generations of women to pursue rewarding careers in the law and making those career choices financially accessible.

The Project will provide financial support to deserving women law students who embody the spirit reflected by Justice Ginsburg's achievements in the face of adversity. In addition to funding, Recipients will receive mentorship and support from the alumnae of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York and their professional communities as well as from the Federal Bar Council and the Foundation. The Project embraces Justice Ginsburg's view that "We should not be held back from pursuing our full talents, from contributing what we could contribute to the society, because we fit into a certain mold — because we belong to a group that historically has been the object of discrimination."

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The Project is administered by the Foundation. The Foundation is a New York 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation that supports the activities of the FBC, which is an association of lawyers who practice in federal courts within the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, to which Justice Ginsburg was assigned. The Project's four committees are comprised of alumnae of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, whose shared community, sense of purpose, and identity as public servants led to the establishment of the Project and who have agreed to make the Project a philanthropic priority.

## PROJECT ORGANIZATION

Four committees support the work of the Project. The Steering Committee oversees all aspects of the Project, including the specific responsibilities below. In addition to the Steering Committee, the Project is also served by its Selection, Mentoring, and Fundraising Committees, the chairs of which are ex officio members of the Steering Committee. Alumnae from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York serve as committee members.

## SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The amount of the scholarship and number of Recipients shall be in the sole discretion of the Steering Committee and shall vary from year to year depending on level of funding and number and quality of applicants.

## CRITERIA

The Selection Committee shall recommend to the Steering Committee for its approval the required and preferred criteria for Recipients. Recipients shall be chosen by the Selection Committee with possible assistance from other alumnae of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York as designated by the Selection Committee. The recommendation of the Selection Committee shall require approval by the Steering Committee in consultation with the president of the Foundation and the president and executive director of the FBC.

Individuals who consistently live and self-identify as women regardless of their gender assignment at birth, and meet the following criteria are eligible to apply for a scholarship:

- Entering law school in the current or upcoming academic year or currently enrolled in law school in the United States in an accredited J.D. program
- Demonstrated financial need
- Commitment to academic achievement

Applicants must submit a resume, law school and college transcripts, and a statement of financial need. Applicants must also submit responses to short answer questions reflecting on the following: their career aspirations in the law; perspectives on leadership; connections to, or aspirations to practice in, New York; challenges that applicants have overcome; and other information that would be helpful to the Selection Committee. Applicants must provide at least three references. Finalists will be required to interview with the Selection Committee.

Although not required, applicants are encouraged to have a demonstrated interest in public service. While U.S. citizenship is not a requirement, there is a preference for applicants who intend to practice law in the United States following graduation from law school.

### **USE OF SCHOLARSHIPS**

Recipients are required to use financial awards to pay for tuition and fees required for enrollment or attendance at law school, or for fees, books, supplies, and equipment required for courses at the law school attended by the Recipient.

### **BENEFITS**

In addition to a financial award, the size of which will be determined by the Steering Committee, Recipients will be assigned a circle of mentors to provide support and guidance throughout law school and in the early stages of the Recipients' careers. The mentors will provide professional advice and counsel and introduce Recipients to their larger professional communities and networks based on Recipients' interests. In addition, the Project will offer and provide access to professional development programming for Recipients. The Mentoring Committee shall oversee the selection of the mentors and coordinate all programming for Recipients. In collaboration with the Foundation, Recipients shall be granted free membership in the FBC for the two years following graduation from law school and shall be permitted to participate in FBC meetings and events while in law school, including an invitation to attend at least one FBC American Inn of Court meeting.

Depending on availability of funds, Recipients may apply for and receive a stipend to allow Recipients to forego paid summer employment during law school and instead secure unpaid public service-oriented internships. The availability and amount of such stipend shall be determined by the Steering Committee in its sole discretion.

### **RECIPIENT REQUIREMENTS**

Recipients agree to maintain regular communication with their mentors as described above and to actively participate in the Project's mentorship programming. In addition, within six months of graduating from law school, Recipients shall provide the Project with a written description of the impact of the scholarship on their legal career. The Project, the Foundation, and the FBC shall be able to use such writing in their sole discretion, including for promotional materials related to the Project. Recipients also shall agree to be reasonably available for outreach and development work by the Project, the Foundation, and the FBC.

### **FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE**

The Fundraising Committee shall oversee, in consultation with the Foundation, all fundraising efforts. In addition, the Fundraising Committee shall coordinate an annual event at which Recipients will be honored.