



FOR YOU

CIVICS

CHAPTER SAMPLERS FOR
3 WHO HQ® TITLES:

**BOOKER T.
WASHINGTON**

HARVEY MILK

**RUTH BADER
GINSBURG**



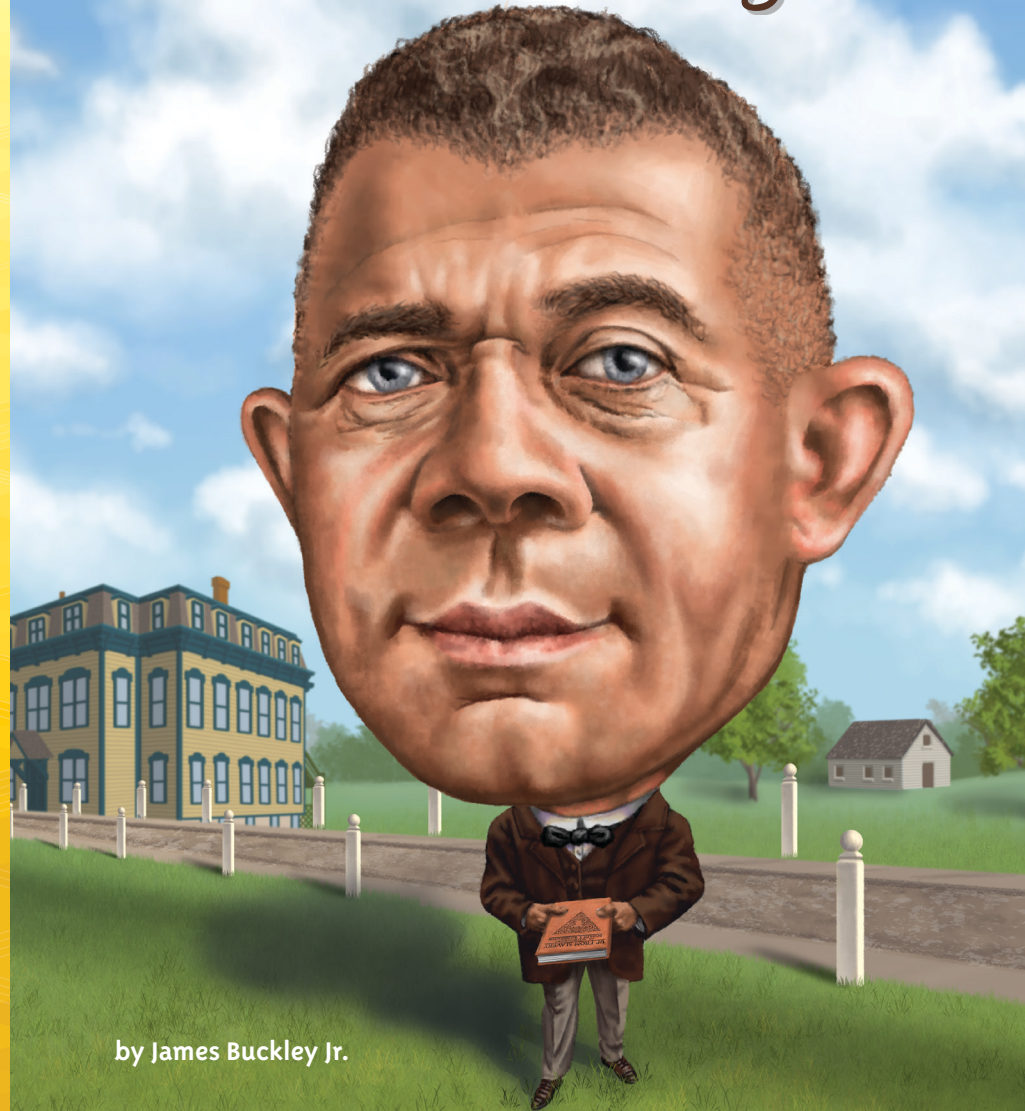


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Who Was
Booker T. Washington?



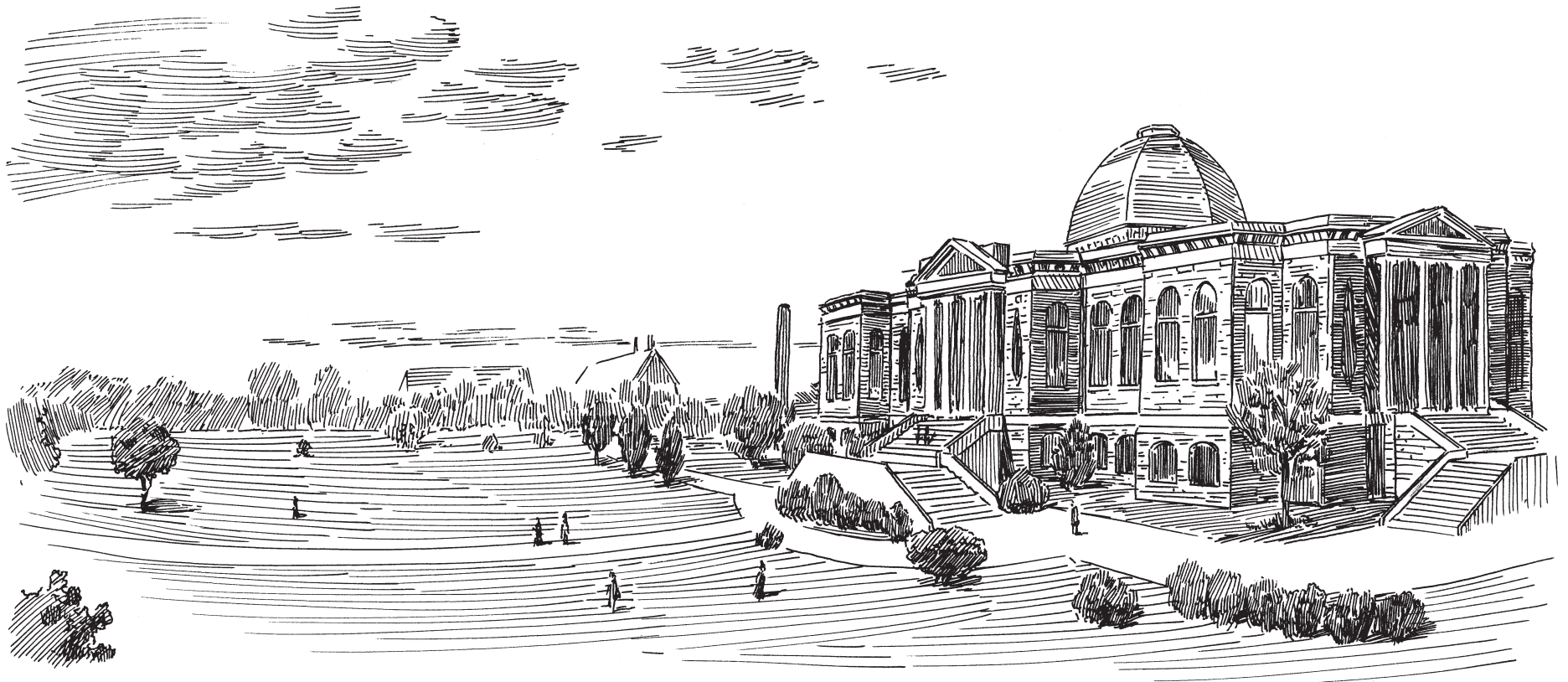
by James Buckley Jr.

Chapter 6

The Atlanta Speech

By 1895, the Tuskegee Normal School had grown to more than one thousand students

studying in more than a dozen buildings on 1,800 acres of land! It was one of the largest schools in the American South. Booker had become nationally famous. He continued to speak out on the issues affecting black people, many of whom were trying to overcome the hardships and terrors of slavery.



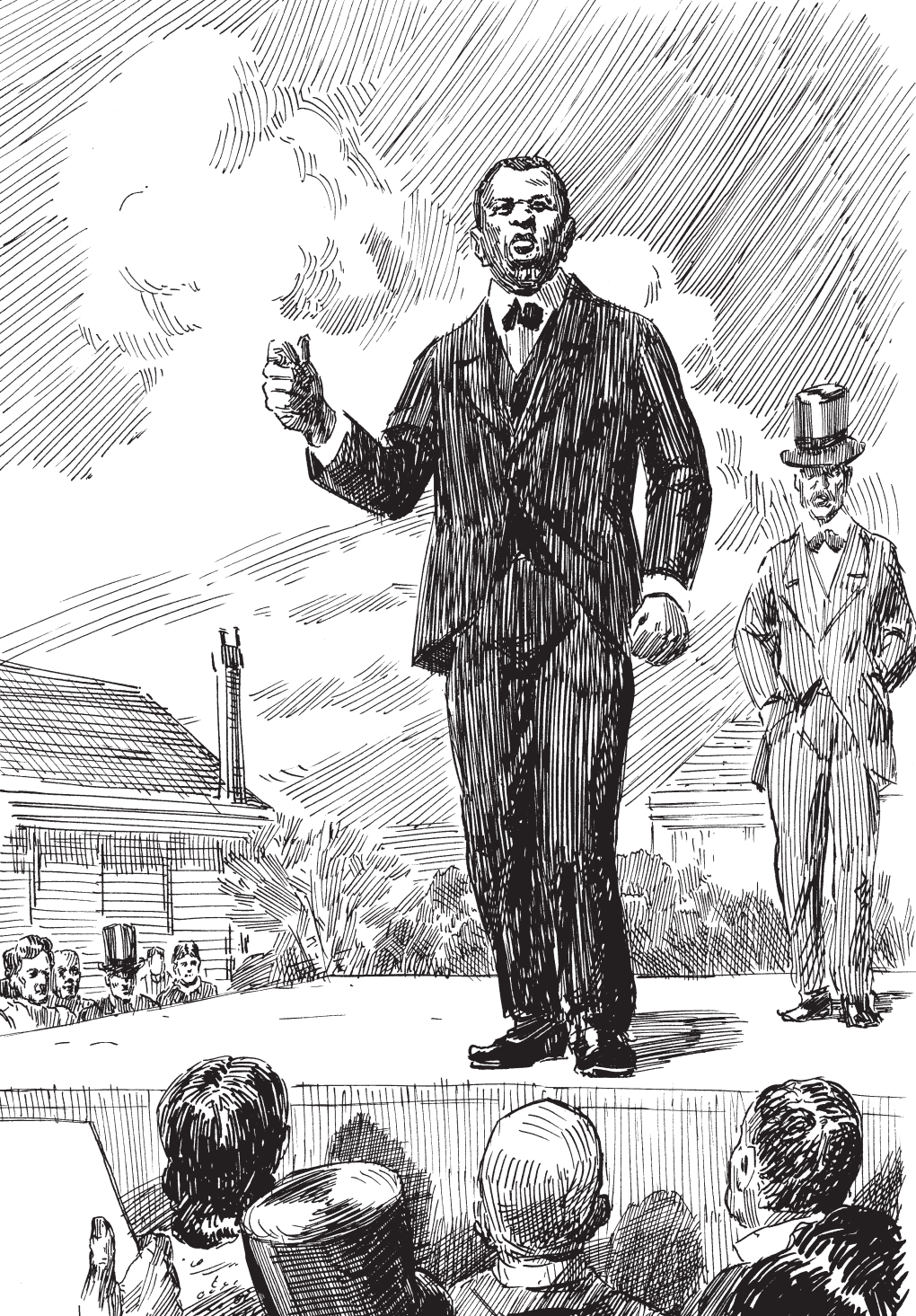
On September 18, 1895, he was invited to speak at the Cotton States and International Exposition, a large gathering of white Southern farmers and businesspeople.



At the meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, Booker gave a short talk about his experiences and ideas. Booker spoke of his belief that the way forward for black Americans was not to seek instant equality with white Americans, but to seek a more gradual path. He believed that black people should work harder to move beyond the days of slavery.

Booker called for patience from black people and support from the white community. He didn't think that black people should quickly strive to all become businessmen or politicians. He felt they should focus on work with their hands in "agriculture, mechanics . . . or domestic service." This meant taking paying jobs as maids or farmers, the same work many slaves had done for free.

"No race can prosper till it learns that there is as much dignity in tilling a field as in writing a poem," he added.



Perhaps the most famous words from the speech were these: “In all things that are purely social, we can be as separate as the fingers, yet one as the hand in all things essential to mutual progress.” He meant that in everyday life, black and white people could be separate, but they should come together in business and work.

This was what Southern white listeners wanted to hear.

They wanted to keep blacks separate from their lives, even as they continued to benefit from their work.

In fact, Southern states had passed many laws making it legal to keep the races separate. Black and white children could not go to school together. Black people



could not use public libraries or attend public events with white people. Though the Civil War had freed slaves, it had not changed the beliefs or practices of many Southern whites.

Even some white leaders from the North praised the speech. President Grover Cleveland, who later visited the Exposition, spoke highly of Booker's ideas. Some black leaders praised the speech, too. "The speech by Professor Washington . . . was a magnificent effort and places him in the forefront of the representatives of our race," said an article in the *Richmond Planet* newspaper.

To a growing number of black people, however, the path forward suggested by Booker was too slow. They wanted equal rights, as granted to them by the US Constitution. And they wanted them now. Former slaves and the families of former slaves did not feel that they had to prove they were worthy. They didn't like

the laws that kept blacks and whites separate.

"He said something that was death to the Afro-American and elevating to the white people," wrote black newspaper editor W. Calvin Chase.



W. CALVIN CHASE

Privately, Booker tried to help the black cause in other ways. In Alabama, many court cases were brought by black citizens to try to get their legal rights. Booker sometimes paid lawyers or court fees for these citizens. But he never used his real name when he did so. Booker feared that if white people knew that he was helping blacks this way, they might stop supporting Tuskegee Institute.

The continued hatred of black people by whites was well known, even at Tuskegee. At the

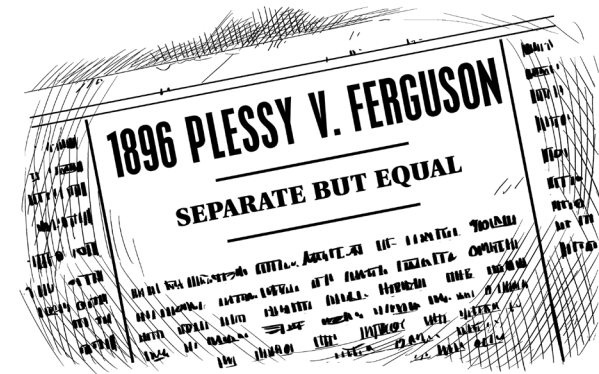
1896 graduation ceremonies, Alabama governor William Oates became angry at some of the speeches, which called for more equal treatment. When it was his turn to speak, he ranted, “You had better not listen to such speeches. You might as well understand this is a white man’s



country . . . and we are going to make you keep your place.”

The US Supreme Court made this idea a law that very same year. The court said that “separate but equal” public places were legal. That gave Southern states legal approval to keep white and black citizens separate.

The decision hurt the cause of black equality.



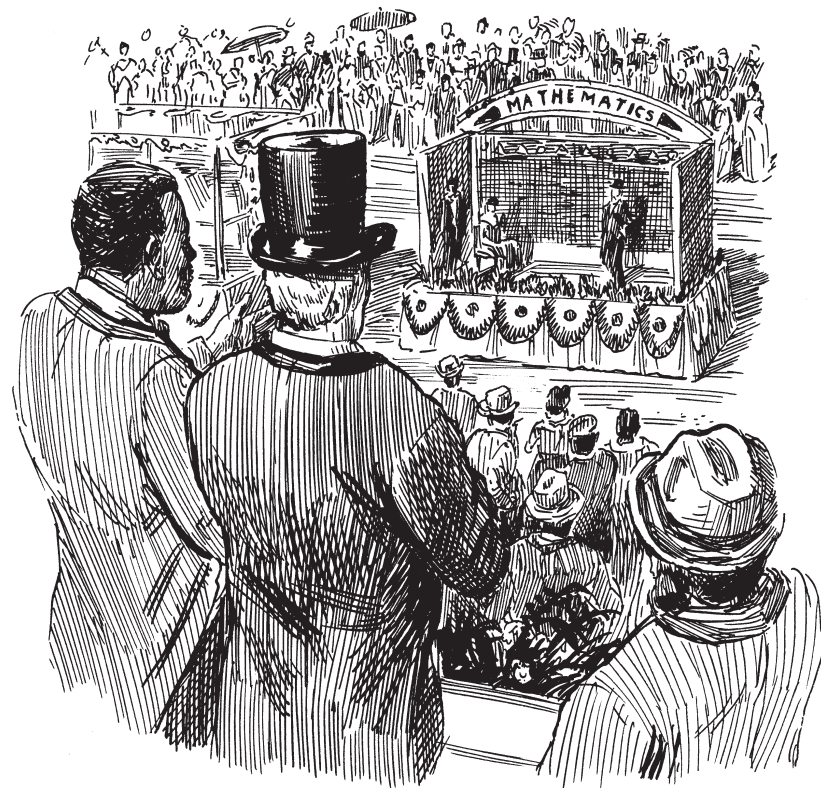
Booker continued to help Tuskegee Institute grow. And his efforts to educate black people continued to be admired. In the fall of 1896, he became the first African American to get an honorary degree from Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts.



President William McKinley personally visited the Tuskegee campus in 1898. The Alabama state legislature attended the ceremony.

The students demonstrated what they were growing and making for their important visitors. President McKinley praised the school. His approval helped Booker raise even more money for the Institute.

In 1899, Booker's friends encouraged him to take the longest vacation of his life. They



arranged a trip to Europe for Booker and Margaret. He used his time away to get a lot of rest (at one point he slept for an entire day and a half!) but he also met some very important people. He told his story and the story of Tuskegee Institute in America. The couple traveled to Paris, Belgium, England, and the

Netherlands. When they were in London, they met former President Benjamin Harrison and famous American author Mark Twain. And England's Queen Victoria invited the couple to tea. The former slave who loved to read had come a very long way.



Who Was Harvey Milk?



by Corinne Grinapol

Chapter 1 The Milks Come to Woodmere

Harvey Bernard Milk was born on May 22, 1930, in Woodmere, New York, a town on Long Island about an hour from New York City. The first person in Harvey Milk's family to come to Woodmere was his grandfather, Mausche Milch. Mausche was born in what is



now Lithuania, a country in northern Europe. He had a big family, and it was hard to find work that could support his wife and five children. So he left on his own to find work in the United States.

Mausche was the only Jewish person in Woodmere, and he changed his name to Morris Milk to fit in more. He worked as a door-to-door salesman, selling things like clothes and



fabric, called dry goods. He saved his money and opened his own store, Milk's Dry Goods. The store did well, and after almost six years alone, it was time for the rest of Morris's family to come to America. His children changed their names in America, too. The youngest child, Hieke, became known as William. William was Harvey's father.

William, who called himself Bill, married Minerva "Minnie" Karns in 1925, when he was twenty-eight. Minnie's family was also Jewish and originally from Lithuania, too. Minnie had grown up in Brooklyn, New York. She was independent and funny, and she believed that women could



do many of the same things men could. Bill and Minnie had two children, Robert Milk, born in 1926, and Harvey, born four years later.

By the time Robert and Harvey were born, Milk's Dry Goods had grown into Milk's Department Store. Harvey's grandfather became an important man in the community, which by then included a lot more Jewish people. He wanted to use his own wealth to give something back. In 1928, Morris and other leaders in Woodmere started a synagogue—a Jewish house of worship. They called it Congregation Sons of Israel.

Harvey grew up going to synagogue with his family. The leaders of the synagogue wanted its members to follow the traditional rules of their faith. They didn't work or use cars and other machines on the Sabbath—Saturday—the Jewish day of rest.

Harvey's mother wasn't strict about all the rules, but there was one important Jewish idea that Minnie believed in. It was called *tikkun*



olam, which means to help fix the world.

For Minnie, that meant always being involved in volunteer projects, like helping to feed the poor. His mother's efforts to help others set an important example for Harvey.

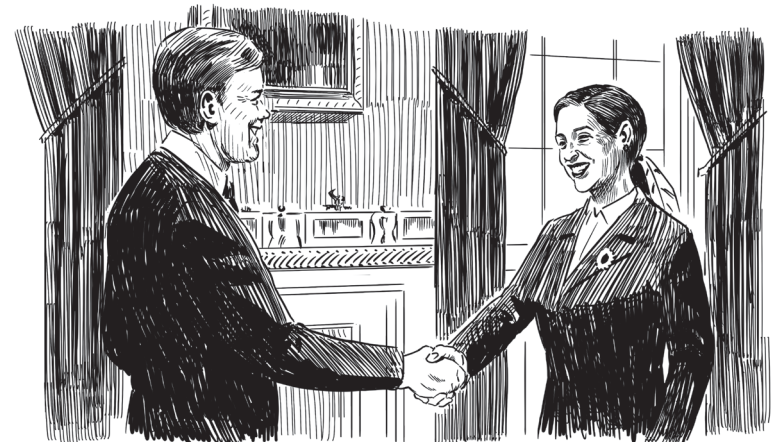
Who Was Ruth Bader Ginsburg?



by Patricia Brennan Demuth

Chapter 7 From Lawyer to Judge

President Jimmy Carter, who took office in 1977, noticed something lopsided about the federal courts. There were ninety-seven male judges—and only one woman. The president began a search for well-qualified female candidates to balance the score. One name kept coming up: Ruth Bader Ginsburg. So in 1980, Carter made Ruth a federal judge on a circuit

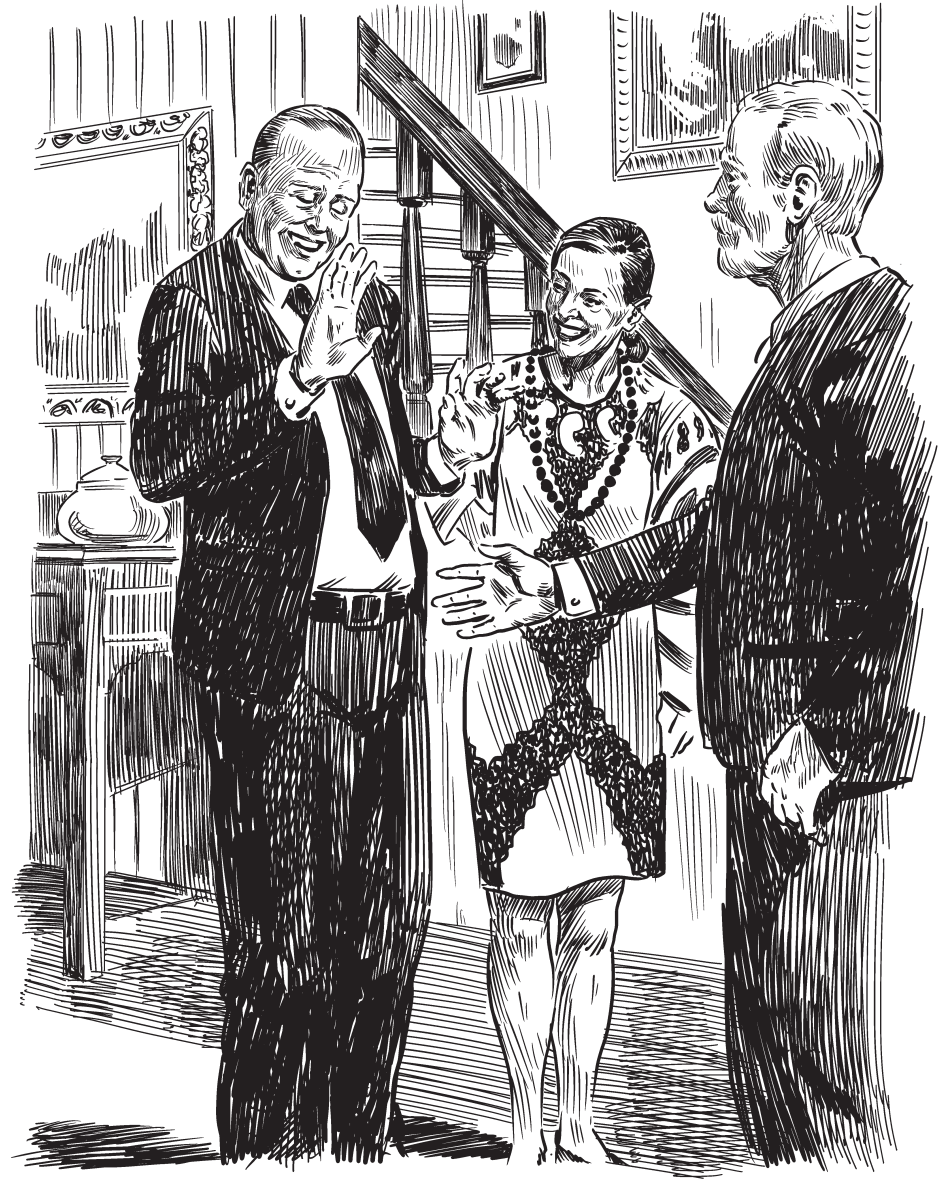


RUTH WITH PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER, 1980

court. Not in New York. In Washington, DC. What an honor for Ruth!

Her life changed in major ways. Ruth had to stop teaching. And she could no longer argue cases as a lawyer. Instead, she would sit on the judge's bench in front of lawyers and rule on their cases. Her personal opinions wouldn't matter anymore. To be fair and just, a judge must decide cases based on facts alone.

Ruth and Marty left New York City, their home for so many years, and moved to the nation's capital. Marty took a new job teaching law at Georgetown University. At cocktail parties that the Ginsburgs attended, guests automatically reached to shake Marty's hand when the host introduced "Judge Ginsburg." Marty had to explain that his wife—not he—was the judge. Did Marty feel jealous? Did he mind leaving his old job and following Ruth to DC? Not one bit. "I have been supportive of my wife since the beginning of time, and she has



been supportive of me,” Marty said. “It’s not sacrifice; it’s family.” Marty was as confident as ever about his role. In a well-known photo, he posed in his chef’s apron beside his wife, who wore a judicial robe.

For the next thirteen years, Ruth proved



herself a fair-minded judge. She ruled on cases in a group of three judges. Behind the scenes, Ruth worked hard to get the other judges to agree on verdicts and to speak with one voice.

Another huge turn in Ruth’s life came in 1993. An opening had just come up on the Supreme Court. President Bill Clinton was looking for a new justice to fill the slot. Ruth was too shy to brag about her own accomplishments. But Marty wasn’t! He did everything possible to make sure President Clinton heard about Ruth’s remarkable work.

It landed her an interview with the president. After talking to Ruth about the law for just a few minutes, President Clinton knew he had found the right person for the job.



PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON

FEDERAL COURTS

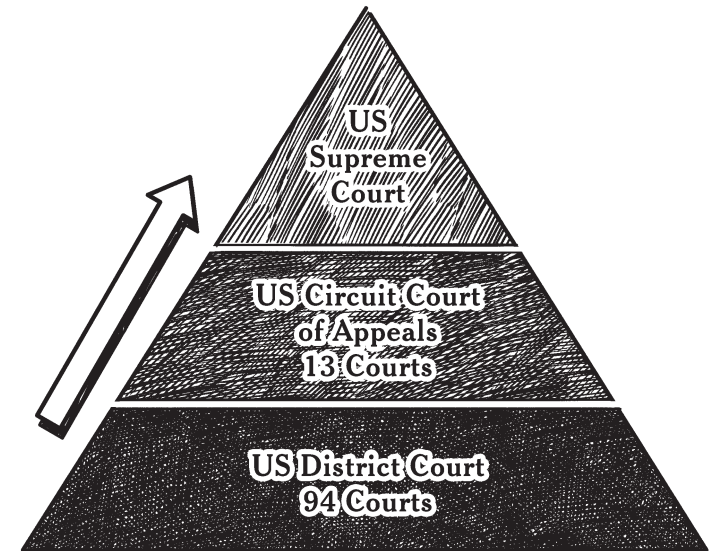
A FEDERAL LAW IS A LAW THAT APPLIES TO EVERYBODY IN THE UNITED STATES. MAKING COUNTERFEIT MONEY, FOR INSTANCE, IS A FEDERAL CRIME. WHEN A PERSON OR A GROUP BREAKS A FEDERAL LAW OR GOES AGAINST THE CONSTITUTION, THE CASE IS HEARD IN A FEDERAL COURT. (IF SOMEONE BREAKS A STATE LAW, THE CASE GOES TO A STATE COURT INSTEAD.)

THE UNITED STATES HAS THREE KINDS OF FEDERAL COURTS. YOU CAN THINK OF THEM SET UP LIKE A TRIANGLE. AT THE "BASE" ARE DISTRICT COURTS—NINETY-FOUR ALTOGETHER. IF A FEDERAL LAW IS BROKEN, THE CASE GOES TO A DISTRICT COURT IN THAT STATE. A JURY DECIDES THE CASE. LAWYERS WHO LOSE CAN ASK FOR AN APPEAL. THAT MEANS THE CASE WILL BE HEARD BY THE NEXT LEVEL OF COURTS—A CIRCUIT COURT. (THIS IS THE KIND OF COURT THAT RUTH SERVED ON.)

CIRCUIT COURTS ARE THE MIDDLE LAYER OF THE TRIANGLE. THERE ARE ONLY THIRTEEN CIRCUIT COURTS SPREAD OUT ACROSS THE NATION. CASES ARE DECIDED BY A GROUP OF THREE JUDGES, NOT BY JURIES.

WHAT IF A CIRCUIT COURT DISAGREES WITH THE VERDICT OF THE DISTRICT COURT? LAWYERS CAN THEN ASK THE SUPREME COURT TO SETTLE THE DISAGREEMENT. THE SUPREME COURT SITS AT THE TOP OF THE TRIANGLE. ITS VERDICT IS FINAL.

It was nearly midnight that night when Ruth got a call. President Clinton was on the phone! He told Ruth the extraordinary news: She was



THE FEDERAL COURTS

his choice to become the next justice on the Supreme Court of the United States! This is the greatest honor any American lawyer or judge can receive.

The next day, in front of news cameras at the White House Rose Garden, President Clinton introduced Ruth to the world. He praised her as “a path-breaking attorney,” “one of our nation’s best judges,” and “a person of immense character.”

Then a beaming Ruth stepped up to the microphone. Her eyes sparkled behind violet-tinted glasses. A silk scarf tied back her usual neat ponytail. And her mother’s pin—the one she’d worn to every Supreme Court hearing—shone on her jacket.

Ruth thanked several people, especially Marty—“my best friend and biggest booster.” In closing, she thanked her mother, “the bravest and strongest person I have ever known. . . . I pray that I may be all that she would have been



had she lived in an age when women could aspire and achieve, and daughters are cherished as much as sons.” Moved by her words, the president wiped a tear from his cheek.

One more hurdle lay ahead before Ruth could take her place on the bench. The Senate still had to confirm her nomination.

Four days of grilling followed. Ruth appeared calm and confident. She answered the senators' questions openly and honestly, even on thorny topics. "I hope my answers please the [Senate]," she said, "but in the end, I am what I am."

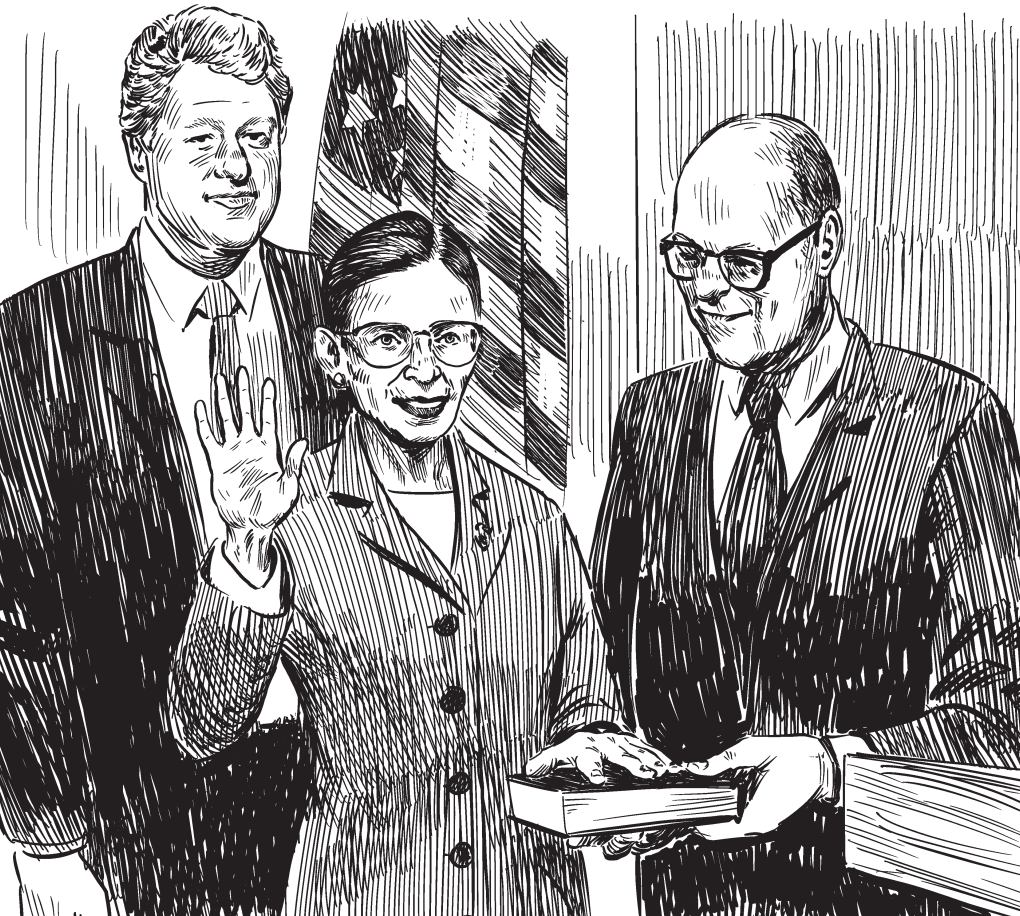
Ruth also talked openly about her life. She told the senators she was "a Brooklyn

native, born and bred." She related her parents' immigrant past. And she described the hurt of seeing the anti-Jewish sign as a child. Grateful for the United States' freedoms, she said, "What has happened to me could happen only in America."



Ruth won over Democrats and Republicans alike. With resounding approval, the Senate voted in her favor, 96–3!

On August 10, 1993, President Clinton swore in Ruth as a Supreme Court justice. Marty held the Bible for Ruth as she gave her oath to



support and defend the Constitution of the United States.

One of the first to welcome Ruth to the bench was Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman to ever serve on the Supreme Court. O'Connor was overjoyed to have a “sister in law.”



SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

THE

Who Was?

YEAR 2!

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