attaining success for herself and her own family alone. She vowed to change the system so that others, perhaps less determined than she or endowed with fewer intellectual gifts, not only could follow in her path, but could find their own, quite different paths. She wanted not just to set an example, but to enable others actually to benefit from what she had achieved, in whatever way they chose. By succeeding in that effort, Judge Ginsburg has become much more than a one-dimensional prototype for professional women. She has helped to engineer changes in our society that enable all individuals to look beyond static social expectations and to fulfill their goals and ideals on their own terms. It is this compassionate commitment to equality without stereotypes that characterizes Judge Ginsburg as a jurist and as a person.

I look forward with confidence and hope to Judge Ginsburg's accession to the Supreme Court. If she is confirmed, I know that she will serve as a thoughtful and caring custodian of what is best in our society for all our children. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Roberts follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF EDITH LAMPSON ROBERTS [1]

Mr. Chairman, and members of the Committee, it is an honor for me to be here today to speak in support of the nomination of Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg to the Supreme Court of the United States. I have had the privilege of knowing Judge Ginsburg in a variety of contexts. She has been my employer, when I served as her law clerk from 1989 to 1990, my mentor, discussing career choices with me after my clerkship ended, my friend, holding a surprise wedding shower for me at her apartment, and the officiator at my marriage to another of her clerks, my husband Matt.

In all these roles, Judge Ginsburg's influence and example have been an inspiration. As her law clerk, I was granted a close-up view of the way in which Judge Ginsburg approaches her work on the bench. Her thorough knowledge of the letter of the law is matched only by her deep respect for its spirit. Even in the D.C. Circuit, with its high proportion of administrative law cases that some might characterize as abstruse and unexciting, Judge Ginsburg comes to each case with fresh enthusiasm, interest, and a commitment to reaching the result the law requires. This commitment manifests itself in her extraordinarily thorough and careful work habits. Long after her clerks have departed each night, and despite persistent phone calls from a husband requesting her presence at the dinner table, Judge Ginsburg stays in her chambers reading the briefs and pondering the arguments in every case. The precision of the reasoning by which she arrives at a decision is reflected in the conciseness and clarity of her opinions, written and edited with an exact sense of when something is "just right."

This is not the deliberation of an ivory tower perfectionist. Judge Ginsburg's devotion to reaching the right conclusion, and to explaining it in the clearest possible manner, stems from her keen awareness of the importance of the judge's role in our society. Every day, judges make decisions that have real-world effects on individuals and groups. Such decisions cannot be made casually, but require careful and thorough consideration. Judge Ginsburg's sensitivity to those real-world effects has led her to take her law clerks on a tour of Lorton Reformatory on several occasions in order to see a side of the criminal justice system that cannot be conveyed in legal citations or through oral argument.

The precision that marks Judge Ginsburg's approach to judging also reflects her appreciation of the delicate balance by which order is maintained in our system of government. Preserving that balance—between the various branches of government as well as within the judiciary itself, between trial and appellate courts—demands a delicate touch. Judge Ginsburg's command of that touch motivates one of the conventions of her opinion-writing. Unlike many appellate court judges, Judge Ginsburg scrupulously avoids referring to the authors of decisions under review in the D.C. Circuit as "the lower court" or "the court below." Referring to the "trial court"

[1] Edith Lampson Roberts worked as a law clerk to Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg from 1989 to 1990. She is now a staff attorney at the Environmental Law Institute.

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or the "district court" instead, she instructed us early in our clerkship, conveys appropriate respect for the crucial role played by the judiciary's front line.

All these hallmarks of Judge Ginsburg's style as a lawyer and a jurist—her conscientiousness, her capacious memory for prior cases and precedents, her ability to cut to the quick of a case and identify the pivotal issues—began to influence my own approach to the work of a lawyer during my clerkship. Judge Ginsburg taught me not only how to reason through a case, and to convey the result clearly and concisely, but also how to do so without being divisive or harsh. Her example demonstrated that persuasion, the lawyer's hallmark, does not need to be shrill or strident. Calm assurance can win the day as effectively, and perhaps more enduringly, than grandstanding.

These lessons learned during my clerkship shaped my own approach to the practice of law. But it was not until the clerkship had ended, and I entered the professional world, got married, and began to contemplate raising a family, that I recognized the true force of Judge Ginsburg's example. Her ability to attain the summit of professional accomplishments, while still raising a family and building a rich and fruitful marriage, make her a prime role model for a young woman lawyer—or, for that matter, for a young male lawyer—seeking to reconcile the conflicting demands of career and family.

Judge Ginsburg is much more than a role model for professional women. A role model often leads only by example, and remains removed from those who seek to emulate her. One as accomplished and as disciplined as Judge Ginsburg might easily have climbed as high as she has, and then have remained content merely to inspire others by her stature. But Judge Ginsburg was not satisfied with attaining success for herself and her own family alone. She vowed to change the system so that others, perhaps less determined or endowed with fewer intellectual gifts, not only could follow in her path, but could find their own, quite different paths. She wanted not just to set an example, but to enable others actually to benefit from what she had achieved, in whatever way they chose. By succeeding in that effort, Judge Ginsburg has become much more than a one-dimensional prototype for professional women. She has helped to engineer changes in our society that enable all individuals to look beyond static social expectations and to fulfill their goals and ideals on their own terms. It is this compassionate commitment to equality without stereotypes that characterizes Judge Ginsburg as a jurist and as a person.

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BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF EDITH LAMPSON ROBERTS

Edith Lampson Roberts received her law degree in 1989 from Harvard Law School, where she was an editor of the Harvard Law Review. From 1989 to 1990, she worked as a law clerk to Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. After her clerkship, she practiced law for two years as a litigation associate at the Washington, D.C. law firm of Miller, Cassidy, Larroca & Lewin. She is now a staff attorney at the Environmental Law Institute, a non-partisan, non-profit center for research and education in the field of environmental law.

The CHAIRMAN. Well done.

Ms. Peratis.

STATEMENT OF KATHLEEN PERATIS

Ms. PERATIS. I would like to begin by differing with what some of the earlier speakers have said. I don't think that Ruth Bader Ginsburg should be thought of as someone who has been chosen just because she is the best and her sex, her gender, is irrelevant. I think it is very relevant. I think it is crucial. I think that having another woman in the Supreme Court is central to the importance of what is going on today. I think we had a graphic example yesterday of how crucial it is that there is an African-American in Congress. I think that Senator Moseley-Braun's race is not irrelevant, and I think that Judge Ginsburg's sex is not irrelevant.