

Remembrance of Norma Shapiro
May 15, 2017

Before the term “work-life balance” was coined,
Norma Shapiro showed what an intelligent,
sympathique woman could accomplish, both
professionally and, in partnership with her husband, as
parent of three boys. She was first again and again - -
first woman to gain a Pennsylvania Supreme Court
clerkship, first woman to become a partner at the
Dechert firm, first woman to serve on the Board of
Governors, and then as head of the Philadelphia Bar
Association, first woman to be appointed to a federal

district court within the Third Circuit. Legions of younger women were inspired by her example, and she encouraged legions to do, fearlessly, what their God-given talents enabled them to do.

Norma and I were beneficiaries of President Jimmy Carter's determination to change the complexion of the U.S. Judiciary by appointing to the bench women and members of minority groups in numbers, not as one-at-a-time curiosities. We also shared a Jewish heritage, one that prizes the pursuit of Justice. That heritage, and growing up in the dark days of World War II, made

her acutely aware of the evils of racial prejudice and social injustice, and hugely appreciative of the blessings of liberty. She was ever ready to help repair tears in the society in which she lived. It was my great good fortune to have known her as judicial colleague and valued friend.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg
Associate Justice
Supreme Court of the United States