Letter from Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Ruth Bader Ginsburg

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August 20, 2013

Dear Co-Presidents:

Though a visit to New York is not possible for me on January 3, I have written a letter along the lines you suggested and would be glad to have it reproduced in the anniversary dinner program book.

Every good wish,

Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Professor Jackie Gardina
Vermont Law School

Dean Ngai Pindell
Boyd School of Law
University of Las Vegas
Cheers to the Society of American Law Teachers on this milestone year, SALT's 40th anniversary. My congratulations, also, to the recipients of the Great Teacher and M. Shanara Gilbert Human Rights awards.

Forty years ago, my eleventh year as a law teacher, I was among the 32 colleagues who joined hands to compose SALT's initial Board of Governors. It was our aim to found an organization concerned with vital issues of our era, and to convey to our students appreciation of the important role lawyers could play in helping to repair tears in our society. Among our starting lineup were Tony Amsterdam, Frank Askin, Barbara Babcock, Clint Bamberger, Derrick Bell, Alan Dershowitz, Norman Dorsen, Tom Emerson, Monroe Freedman, Charlie Halpern, Sylvia Law, Howard Lesnick, Cruz Reynoso, and Herman Schwartz. It is spirit-lifting to know that SALT is today flourishing in keeping the legal academy in touch with the society law exists, or should exist, to serve.

The legal profession has had among its members many brave men and women, people devoted to, and at work for the public good—people who are the best of lawyers, the most dedicated, the least selfish. SALT members and supporters fit that description. For all SALT has done and will continue to do, and for the inspiration its members give to students who will be tomorrow's lawyers, I lift my glass to the Society of American Law Teachers in celebration of its 40th anniversary, and express the hope that there will be encores galore in the years to come.

Every good wish,

Ruth Bader Ginsburg