UCSB Scholar to Discuss Early Life of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the second woman justice to be appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court, has proved to be a centrist during her 10 years on the nation's highest bench. She has also been found to be intensely private, preferring to steer clear of the media spotlight.

So who is this 70-year-old legal scholar who was once the chief counsel to the American Civil Liberties Union?

Jane Sharron De Hart, a professor of history at the University of California, Santa Barbara, knows Ginsburg perhaps better than anyone outside the justice's family.

De Hart will share what she knows, including details of Ginsburg's unique relationship with her mother, in "Celia's Daughter: Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Celia's Legacy," at a UCSB History Associates luncheon and lecture at noon Thursday, Nov. 20 at The Elephant Bar & Restaurant, 521 Firestone Road, Goleta.

Cost is $16 for History Affiliates members, $18 to the general public, and includes the cost of lunch. Advance registration by Nov. 17 is required and can be made by calling the UCSB Office of Community Relations at 893-4388.

De Hart, who is writing a book about Ginsburg's early career – "Litigating Equality: Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Feminist Lawyers and the Court" – will draw on many interviews done with the justice and her family. She will also share photographs
provided by the family, and will emphasize Ginsburg's relationship with her mother.

De Hart, who earned bachelors and master's degrees and a Ph.D. in history from Duke University, joined the UCSB faculty in 1992.

She specializes in 20th century women's history, cultural and political conflict and public policy, gender issues in the U.S., and arts issues in the U.S.

She serves on the editorial boards of the Journal of Policy History, the Journal of Women's History, Critical Issues in European and American History, and other publications.

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