

2004

## A Tribute to Ruth G. Blumrosen

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### Recommended Citation

Caminker, Evan H. "A Tribute to Ruth G. Blumrosen." *U. Mich. J. L. Reform* 37, no. 3 (2004): 679-80.

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Evan H. Caminker\*

In January 2004, workers everywhere lost a forceful advocate with the death of Ruth Gerber Blumrosen. From the earliest days of her career, Ruth focused her prodigious intellect and indomitable energy on the enduring problem of employment discrimination. Through both her various high-level professional positions and her academic scholarship, she quickly became known for her expertise in this field and her passion for finding solutions. Ruth's research and writing addressed quite a range of employment issues, including wage discrimination, job segregation, downsizing, and employee rights. Ruth previously published three articles with the *University of Michigan Journal of Law Reform*, including *Wage Discrimination, Job Segregation, and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964*,<sup>1</sup> cited by the United States Supreme Court in *County of Washington v. Gunther*,<sup>2</sup> *Wage Discrimination and Job Segregation: The Survival of a Theory*,<sup>3</sup> and *Remedies for Wage Discrimination*.<sup>4</sup> More recently, Ruth received funding by the Ford Foundation to examine hiring practices and document the continuing presence of discrimination in metropolitan America. Through such significant efforts to define and identify troubling labor practices, Ruth continually advanced the cause of justice in the workplace.

One cannot fairly acknowledge Ruth's contribution to employment law without giving due credit to her husband Alfred. Ruth and Alfred met while students at the University of Michigan Law School. Alfred too has spent his career focusing on the problem of employment discrimination. Indeed, the two of them are both appropriately credited with helping to establish the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in 1965: Al was the agency's first chief of conciliations, and Ruth served for a time as director of compliance.

On learning of Ruth's untimely passing, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, former chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, described Ruth as "an expert and a deep thinker who was solid, innovative and practical all at the same

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1. 12 U. Mich. J.L. Reform 397 (1979).
2. 452 U.S. 161, 166 (1981).
3. 14 U. Mich. J.L. Reform 1 (1981).
4. 20 U. Mich. J.L. Reform 99 (1986).

time.” Ruth will be dearly missed, but she leaves behind an exemplary model of public service to which others may aspire.