

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 6, 2006

Contact: Anne Fritz, Executive Director
(901) 527-3573
afritz@memphisbar.org

JUSTICE RUTH BADER GINSBURG, 2006 RECIPIENT OF THE BEN HOOKS AWARD, TO SPEAK IN MEMPHIS ON SEPTEMBER 11TH

Memphis, Tenn.— On Monday, September 11, 2006, the Memphis Bar Association (MBA) will welcome **Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg** of the United States Supreme Court to Memphis for the joint Annual Meeting of the MBA and the Memphis Bar Foundation—the charitable foundation affiliated with the MBA. Justice Ginsburg will serve as the keynote speaker of the event which will take place at noon in the Grand Ballroom of The Peabody Hotel. Nearly 1000 people, primarily members of the Memphis legal community, have purchased tickets for the event. Justice Ginsburg will address the crowd on “Women’s Progress at the Bar and on the Bench.”

Also during the meeting, Justice Ginsburg will be recognized with the Memphis Bar Foundation’s **Benjamin L. Hooks Award**, which honors a lawyer or judge whose activities, both locally and on a national level, have significantly fulfilled the Foundation’s mission to support public awareness of the legal profession, promote social justice and legal education, and recognize professionalism among members of the Bar. In 1998, the Memphis Bar Foundation created the award and named it in honor of Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks, its first recipient, in recognition of his lifelong commitment to the law and social justice, and his prominence on the national stage. Subsequent recipients of the award are the Honorable Bernice Bouie Donald of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee, and S. Shepherd Tate of Martin Tate Morrow & Marston, P.C. Dr. Hooks will present the award to Justice Ginsburg.

Four other annual awards will also be presented at the event. **Courtney Felts** of Federal Express will be recognized with the **Community Legal Center Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Award**. **David M. Cook** of The Hardison Law Firm will be honored with the **W.J. Michael Cody Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Award** for his exceptional service to Memphis Area Legal Services, Inc. **Caren B. Nichol** of Evans & Petree PC will receive the **Sam A. Myar, Jr. Memorial Award** as a young attorney who has rendered outstanding personal service to the Memphis & Shelby County legal profession and community, and **Jef Feibelman** of Burch Porter & Johnson PLLC will be honored with the **Judge Jerome Turner Lawyer’s Lawyer Award**—presented annually to an MBA member who has practiced law for more than 15 years and who during that time, has exemplified the aims and aspirations embodied in the *Guidelines for Professional Courtesy and Conduct*. In 2000, the award was renamed in honor of Judge Jerome Turner, during whose presidency of the MBA the *Guidelines* were developed.

Nominated by President Bill Clinton, Justice Ginsburg took her seat on the Supreme Court on August 10, 1993, becoming the second female as well as the first Jewish woman to serve on America's highest court. Prior to her appointment, she served as a law professor at Rutgers School of Law, then Columbia Law School, where she was the first woman to ever be tenured. A skilled litigator, she played an instrumental role in launching the Women's Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) in 1971. She served as the ACLU's General Counsel from 1973 to 1980, before being appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit by President Jimmy Carter.

Established in 1874, the Memphis Bar Association is a voluntary association of attorneys and judges upholding high standards of integrity in the legal profession through continuing professional education, supporting legal services to all in the community, and educating the public about law and the administration of justice.

###