



# GRUBER FOUNDATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## LIVE WEBCAST - INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM

### "COURTS AT RISK - RIGHTS IN PERIL:

### Where Have All the Courageous Gone?"

### Features 2007 Gruber Justice Prize Recipients

## Three Latin American Champions of Justice to Receive Prestigious Gruber Prize and its \$500,000 award at Georgetown University Law Center on October 10, 2007

October 5, 2007, Washington DC – Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court Ruth Bader Ginsburg will moderate a symposium featuring three active voices for democracy in the Latin American judicial system as they are honored with the 2007 Justice Prize of the Peter and Patricia Gruber Foundation. "Courts at Risk - Rights in Peril: Where Have All the Courageous Gone?" will be the subject as Supreme Court Justice Carmen María Argibay of Argentina, Judge Carlos José Cerda Fernández of Chile, and lawyer/activist Mónica Feria Tinta of Peru discuss both current events and the important actions they took within their countries that led them to this honor. The symposium will take place on October 10, 2007, at Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, DC. Live streaming video will be available worldwide at <http://www.gruberprizes.org/GruberPrizes/Justice.php>

"Each of these recipients has played an important role in fighting for democratic principles in the face of tyrannical regimes, often at great risk to his or her own freedom and safety," says Peter Gruber, founder of the foundation which has been awarding the annual Gruber Justice Prize since 2001. "They will talk about their experiences and discuss how to recognize, and act in, politically dangerous times."



Carmen Argibay  
Argentina



Carlos Cerda  
Chile



Mónica Feria  
Peru

### Event Panelists Will Include:

- **Justice Carmen Argibay** of Argentina, who was imprisoned for nine months, without trial or charges, by the military dictatorship in Argentina in 1974. After democracy was restored, she resumed her duties as a Sentencing Judge, was subsequently appointed to the National Court of Criminal Appeals, and then became the first woman nominated to the Supreme Court of Argentina. Justice Argibay's career demonstrates a lifelong commitment to promoting gender equality and eliminating corruption within the justice system.

- **Judge Carlos Cerda** of Chile, who is widely regarded as an outstanding legal scholar and is reputed to be the only judge in Chile to pursue cases of human rights abuses by the Pinochet regime while General Pinochet was still in power. He issued indictments against members of the Chilean military and police, as well as civilian collaborators engaged in kidnapping and murder. He continues, to this day, to bring members of the Pinochet family to justice for corruption and tax evasion.

- **Mónica Feria** of Peru, an international lawyer championing the fight against torture around the world. She argued the first international case concerning the rights of children in times of war before the highest international human rights tribunal in the Americas, where she helped establish a major precedent protecting children's rights. In proceedings at the Inter-American Court on Human Rights, Feria also secured \$6 million in reparations for victims of crimes against humanity. This case – the first international case in the Americas concerning violence against women – grew out of the experience of the 133 women (including Ms. Feria) who had been victims of torture at the time of the 1992 massacre at the Castro Castro prison in Lima, Peru.

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**Additional Information**

● **Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg** will be the symposium moderator. Appointed to the high court by President Clinton in 1993, Justice Ginsburg has provided a strong, independent voice in matters pertaining to human rights. While an attorney, she played an important role in launching the Women's Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union and argued several cases involving women's rights before the Supreme Court. In a speech before the Constitutional Court of South Africa in February 2006, she spoke of the need to preserve the rule of law and recognize individual liberties, even in the face of terrorism. Justice Ginsburg was ranked #20 on Forbes' 2007 list of "The 100 Most Powerful Women."

The Justice Prize of the Peter and Patricia Gruber Foundation is presented to individuals or organizations for contributions that have furthered the cause of justice as delivered through the legal system. The prize is intended to acknowledge individual efforts, as well as to encourage further advancements in the field and progress toward bringing about a fundamentally just world.

For more information, visit the Gruber Foundation website at [www.gruberprizes.org](http://www.gruberprizes.org).

**NOTE TO MEDIA: PRIZE RECIPIENTS AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS**

To schedule a one-on-one interview with any of the 2007 Gruber Justice Prize recipients or to attend and cover the symposium event, contact Alyson O'Mahoney at (914) 241-0086, ext 13, or email [aomahoney@robinleedyassociates.com](mailto:aomahoney@robinleedyassociates.com)

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