

WORD FOR WORD

WHICH U.S. SUPREME COURT JUSTICE WOULD YOU TAKE TO LUNCH? AND WHERE?

AS TOLD TO JESSICA TAM



If I could go to lunch with any Supreme Court justice, it would have to be John Roberts.

Judge Roberts spent his early childhood years in Buffalo, New York, so I am hoping he is also a die-hard Buffalo Bills fan—that would make two of us. He also was captain of his high school football team, so I'd get him going on his "glory days." I would also ask him about the time that [he] dominated in the "other" court as a sports lawyer, leading the NCAA to an impressive 9-0 Supreme Court victory in *NCAA v. Smith* (1999). Judge Roberts is also well known for his use of sports analogies in his confirmation hearings—"Judges are like umpires. Umpires don't make rules; they apply them."

After the exhaustive sports discussion, I would try to elicit some "behind-the-scenes" memories of *Bush v. Gore*.

Perhaps he would pick up the tab at the Supreme Court cafeteria on his Supreme Court meal card?

CHRISTOPHER E. HANNUM / PARTNER, CULP ELLIOTT & CARPENTER; CHARLOTTE; ESTATE PLANNING & PROBATE; BUSINESS/ CORPORATE; TAX



It used to be Justice Scalia, but this summer I got to have dinner with him. So I get to pick my second one now?

It was a great experience. He was a speaker at the NCBA's annual meeting and our appellate rules committee hosted a dinner for him.

The second person that I'd probably like to [share a meal with] probably would be Justice Ginsburg. They're completely different as far as the political spectrum, but they're actually best friends. She's the female on the court with the most seniority right now and she's the only mother on the court. And so I would be really interested in talking with her and hearing her experience as a female lawyer and as a mother and how she balances it all.

ELIZABETH BROOKS SCHERER / OF COUNSEL, SMITH MOORE LEATHERWOOD; RALEIGH; APPELLATE



I got sworn into the Supreme Court about a year ago. We had a group from a local Bar, and Justice Sonia Sotomayor came in and visited with us. And she was just delightful.

She grew up in the Bronx; her parents are both from Puerto Rico.

And so where would we go? I would let her pick her favorite D.C. Puerto Rican restaurant.

The thing that was so notable about her, in addition to a great sense of humor, was how humble she was and how much in awe she was of her position.

JERRY T. MYERS / MANAGING PARTNER, SMITH DEBNAM NARRON DRAKE SAINTSING & MYERS; RALEIGH; CREDITORS' RIGHTS