

# RBG

By Jade Tang

An original piece written to honor powerful women in law and how they cope with the stress that comes with their work.



Sunday, March 15th, 2026

"Sold for \$4,815! That price for a RBG original painting is a steal, congratulations." announces the auctioneer. I notice the purchaser with a proud grin on their face and can't help but smirk at their victory, unaware of the true meaning behind it. 7 hours spent on that one. It was made the day I won the case for a mother wanting to gain sole custody of her 12-year-old son. Man, that guy did not deserve to be called a father. Going home knowing that I made a profit, I got

ready for bed and prepared for the new day.

Monday, March 16th, 2026

Rushing into work with my large matcha latte in hand, I feel ready to face all of the intensity that my job brings. I was hit with a reality check when my first task of the day, a divorce hearing between a married couple of 3 years, got sour. Day after day, I am faced with tough situations and draining family separations. It does feel empowering to know that all of the endless work and hours that I put in is going towards a mean-

ingful cause, but it is just too much for one person to handle at times. This is my second year as an associate attorney and I am constantly trying to prove that I belong there. Being 26 years old, bright eyed and bushy tailed, it comes with that territory when you're surrounded by colleagues that are nearly twice your age.

Saturday, September 12th, 2026

No work is required from me today, but I'm devoted to getting a victory for my clients. The major case that I'm currently working on involves

domestic violence. I am defending the husband as he wants to file a restraining order against his wife's abusive outbursts. Accompanying him at home is a 6-year-old daughter and 4-year-old son. I need to get to work right away as there is no time to waste. Bright eyed at 9AM, it's time to hit the books. I shut them at 10PM and my eyes follow suit. After compiling a hefty amount of research to support our claims, I consulted other attorneys and we tidied up loose ends of the case.

Friday, September 18th, 2026

On the day of our trial, I prepare all of the valid evidence that we assembled and run through major talking points before entering the courtroom. This case was ours to lose. And we did. The judge made her decision and bangs the gavel. I feel defeated and my brain is running faster than a subway to figure out how we lost that case. I bow my head down when my client grasps my shoulder and gives it a supportive squeeze, almost as if saying, "Thank you for trying, we'll figure it out." Not only representing the father, I was fighting for the son and daughter at home. I let them down and I can't imagine their devastation. This case does not end here.

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Rage and disappointment courses through my veins as I drive home. I rushed inside and shut the front door. After allotting myself some time to wallow in self pity, I reach for the paint palette and just start creating. Burgundy red, warm black, and steel gray hit the white canvas. Stroke by stroke, I slam the paint into the fibers with labored breaths. A square 30 inch frame covered in sweat and tears. Finished in what feels like 20 minutes, is actually 3 hours that flashed by. A weight feels lifted off of my shoulders and I feel whole again.

"Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you." - Ruth Bader Ginsburg

"Success is its own reward, but failure is a great teacher too, and not to be feared."  
-- Sonia Sotomayor

"Do the best you can in every task, no matter how unimportant it may seem at the time. No one learns more about a problem than the person at the bottom."  
-Sandra Day O'Connor



Photo by Sang Hyun Cho

Saturday, September 26th, 2026

Hauling the canvas into my local auction house, I have prepared myself to part ways with my creation. Pieces of me are intertwined into the fabrics and I'm ready to let go. My highs and lows, it's all evident and displayed to the public to interpret and judge. I am shedding a layer of skin with each case that I leave in the past. No one can take RBG away from me and she will be my other half for as long as I live.