

R&K Productions, LLC
& Skydive Films present

BALANCING THE SCALES

a film by Sharon Rowen

“Balancing the Scales is a powerful film.
It is a portrait of the challenges facing
women in the legal profession based on
interviews Sharon Rowen conducted
over the past 24 years.”

— **RICH WALLIS**

Vice President, Deputy
General Counsel, Azure
Legal Team at Microsoft





About the Film

Based on interviews conducted over two decades, *Balancing the Scales* is an insightful look at the story of women lawyers in America. The interviewees include a broad array of lawyers and judges across five generations, including Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, civil rights attorney Gloria Allred, and *Roe v. Wade* attorney Margie Pitts Hames. Interviews also include state Supreme Court and Appellate Court justices, women equity partners, minority women, associates, and students. They tell their own remarkable and often hilarious stories, from pioneers who paved the way for today's law students, who don't yet understand the difficulties they will face in the workplace. It explores how discrimination has shifted from overt to subtle, and why women are leaving the profession in droves. It highlights the deep cultural biases and the ingrained presumptions about both the "work" and the "life" parts of the work-life balance. Finally, the film explains why women being promoted to top positions is good for both society; and for firms' bottom lines. We've come a long way since Gloria Allred marched into the Friars Club to protest its all-male membership policy, or since the Harvard Law School only had one women's bathroom for two teaching buildings. But, as Ruth Ginsburg opines in the film, "We haven't reached nirvana yet."

Film Trailer



Film Details

RELEASE: 2017

GENRE: Documentary

ORIGINAL FORMAT: HD

SCREENING FORMAT: Blu-ray | DVD

TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 57 minutes

LANGUAGE: English

DIRECTOR/PRODUCER: Sharon Rowen

PRODUCER: Zac Adams

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: Sharon Rowen, John Klonoski

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER: Tim VandeSteege

EDITOR: Sergio Valenzuela

COMPOSER: Cody Westheimer

NARRATOR: Sharon Rowen

STARRING: Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Gloria Allred, Jane Ginsburg, Lisa Bloom, Leah Ward Sears, Carol Hunstein, Dorothy Beasley, Therese Stewart, Bonnie Eskenzai, Hillary Bibbicoff, Eileen Matthews, Nancy Delaney, Michelle Parfitt, Mary Ann Oakley, Oni Holley, Nina Henningsen, Ellen Tobin, Julie Ferraro, Lynette Jiminez, Jennifer McCall, Caroline Elkins, Keita Rose Atkinson, Sheila Adams, Tanya Sehgal, Margie Pitts Hames

Director's Statement



Creating *Balancing the Scales* combined 35 years of experience as a trial lawyer and 20 years of interviewing women lawyers from all walks of life. Interviewees include a US Supreme Court justice, civil rights activists, the first women who made it to the top, and young associates who do not yet believe that making partner has odds not much better than winning the lottery. My belief in the law as a tool for social change began when I passed the bar in 1979, and my passion for gender equality started shortly thereafter when a judge ruled against me solely because he didn't believe that women should practice law. I have committed my legal career to social justice and to the belief that we all should use our time to further human rights in whatever ways we can. I hope this film will ignite a national conversation about topics like breaking the glass ceiling, why our society does not think of women as leaders, and the impossible choices men and women are forced to make between their career and their caregiving responsibilities.

Press Coverage

Facing the Challenges: Women in Law

Elizabeth DiNardo, Esq.

Why are Women Leaving the Law

Profession?

Kristina Davis, The San Diego Union-Tribune

Balancing the Scales: A Look at Gender Discrimination in the Legal Field

Eilene Spear, The National Law Review

Paternity-Leave Stigma at Law Firms

Lifting, Ever So Slowly

Angela Morris, The Am Law Daily

Documentary Puts Struggles Of Women

Lawyers in Generational Context

Stephanie Russell-Kraft, Bloomberg Law

Sheds light on the Challenges Female

Lawyers Have Faced

Ann Greenwood, ABA Journal

Law Library Journal review of Balancing the Scales

Women's Role In The Law Over The Past 50 Years And In Today's Society

Christopher A. Lewis, Law School Insider

Atlanta Attorney's Documentary on Gender Bias Features Legal Pioneers

Angela Morris, Daily Report

Veteran Attorney Presents Documentary Film on Women in the Law; Explores Gender Inequality

Sarah Green, Law Week Colorado

Breaking The Glass Ceiling For Female Lawyers

Celeste Headlee & Sean Powers, GPB News

Voices & Views Article

Voices & Views

Finding Success: A Preview of the "Women in the Law" Conference

Eric Quitugua

Women in Law Should Not be Invisible

Sharon Rowen

What People are Saying

"Inspiring and thought-provoking."

— Walmart Legal Department

"Balancing the Scales" is more than a timely documentary – it's a call to action – forcing all to look candidly into the behavioral norms that continue – 25 years and counting – to make the legal industry less hospitable to women than any of us are comfortable admitting. Sharon Rowen's insightful interviews make it clear that now is the time to have the conversation to change the conversation – focused on the importance of inclusion. A must see."

— MICHELLE C. IFILL, Senior Vice President & General Counsel of Verizon Corporate Services Group

"Everyone should see this film."

— Sylvia F. James, Diversity Counsel, Baker Botts LLP

Latest News

The film *Balancing the Scales* has been shown throughout the United States at more than 50 legal seminars, law schools, and CLE seminars. Sharon Rowen is a nationally recognized keynote speaker who is dynamic in her approach to bringing clarity to the challenge of gender equality in the legal profession. From Harvard University to the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation, Sharon has delivered the truth about the story of female lawyers in America with humor, transparency, and passion.



In March, Sharon Rowen received an award from the Diversity Law Institute for her groundbreaking work on the film "Balancing the Scales."



Balancing the Scales was featured at the Gates Foundation event "Driving Diversity in the Legal Profession." The event was presented by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in partnership with R&K Productions.



Women in Law Should Not be Invisible: An article written by Sharon Rowen for the ABA for Law Students online magazine.

[Click here to read the article.](#)



The American Association of Law Libraries recently reviewed "Balancing the Scales" movie in the 2018 edition of the Law Library Journal, *Balancing the Scales* movie was heralded as a must by law professionals.

[Click here to Download the Full Article.](#)



Balancing the Scales has been added to the 2018-2019 American Film Showcase.



Balancing the Scales was screened on American Public Television Nationwide in 2017.



Balancing the Scales was featured at the Verizon summit held at the DeLoitte headquarters in Washington D.C., as Michelle C. Ifill, Senior Vice President & General Counsel of Verizon Corporate Services Group and filmmaker Sharon Rowen presented a panel discussion on challenges facing women in the legal profession.

From the Film



Bio Photo



For More Information