



# Speaking and Listening Across Gender Lines

**ASIAN PACIFIC INTEREST SECTION OF  
THE STATE BAR OF TEXAS**

**APRIL 27, 2018**

**SABA F. SYED**

**BELL NUNNALLY & MARTIN, LLP**



# CONVERSATIONAL RITUALS

## United States

- How are you?
- Good, Fine.

## Burma

- Where are you going?
- Over there.



# CONVERSATIONAL RITUAL - OPPOSITION



# RITUAL - OPPOSITION



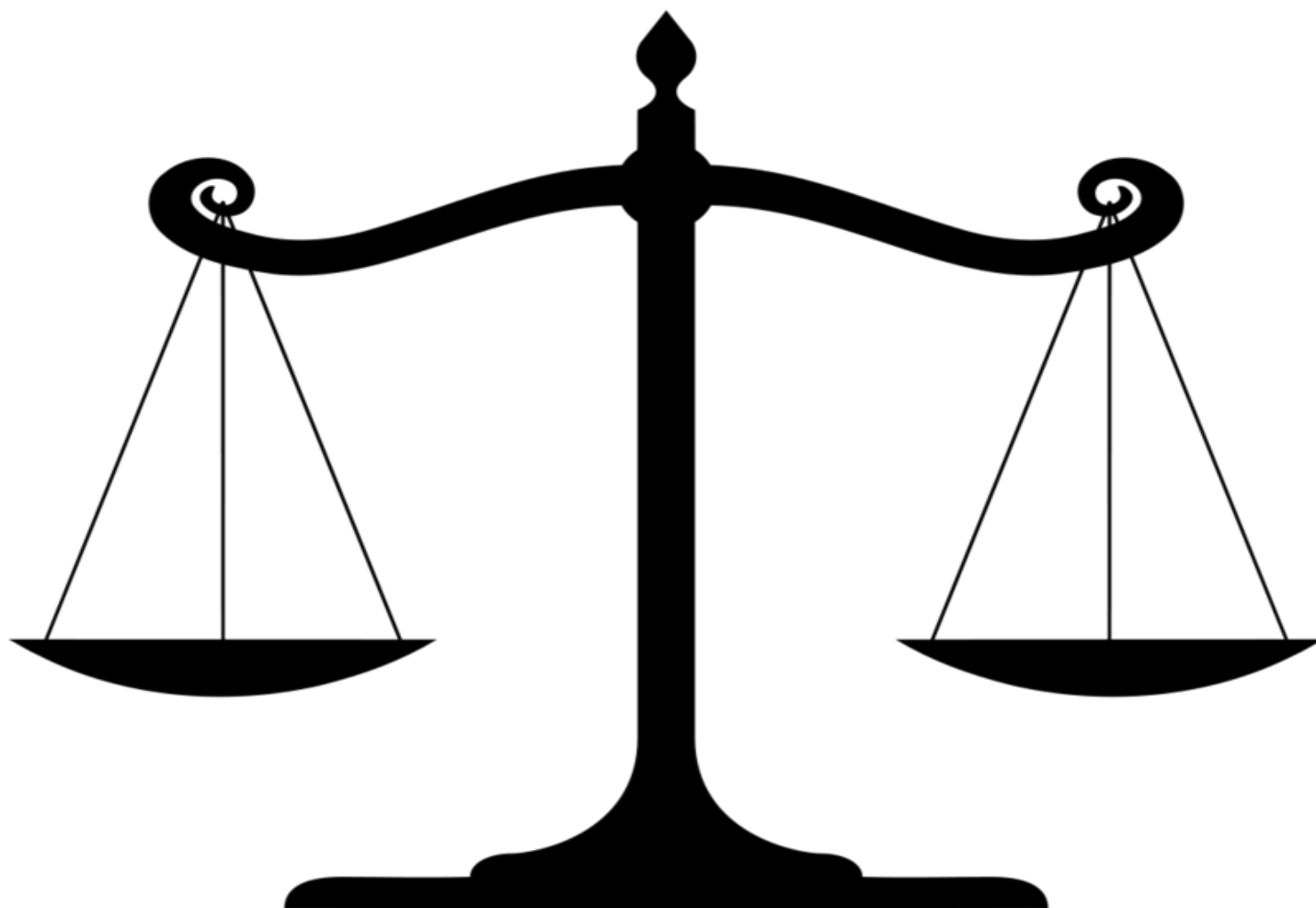


# CONVERSATIONAL RITUAL - OPPOSITION





# CONVERSATIONAL RITUAL SELF-DEPRECATATION

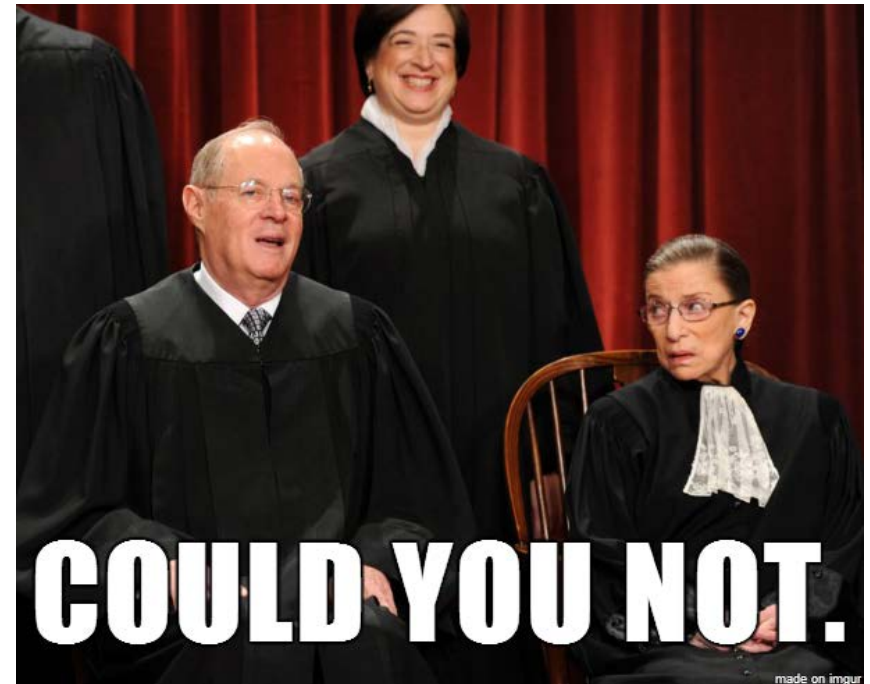




# WHEN STYLES COLLIDE

# OVERINTERRUPTING IN OUR FIELD

- Female justices on the U.S. Supreme Court are interrupted more often than their male counterparts
- **1990** - 35.7% of all interruptions directed at the single female justice— Sandra Day O'Connor
- **2015** - 65.9% of all interruptions directed at 3 female justices







# INDIRECTNESS

*“Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country.”*

Woman in a Meeting: “I’m not an expert, Dave, but I feel like maybe you could accomplish more by maybe shifting your focus from asking things from the government and instead looking at things that we can all do ourselves? Just a thought. Just a thought. Take it for what it’s worth.”

Petri, Alexandra. “Famous Quotes, The Way A Woman Would Have to Say Them During a Meeting.” The Washington Post. October 13, 2015. [https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/compost/wp/2015/10/13/jennifer-lawrence-has-a-point-famous-quotes-the-way-a-woman-would-have-to-say-them-during-a-meeting/?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.16b0775b8a8c](https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/compost/wp/2015/10/13/jennifer-lawrence-has-a-point-famous-quotes-the-way-a-woman-would-have-to-say-them-during-a-meeting/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.16b0775b8a8c)



**Things you notice, you can change.**

**Things you don't notice can change you.**