

NAPA Resource Guide:

JUSTICE SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

On September 21, 1981, Sandra Day O'Connor was unanimously confirmed by the Senate as the first woman Justice on the United States Supreme Court. Often referred to as the "swing vote" on the bench, Justice O'Connor established a reputation for delivering pragmatic decisions on a case-by-case basis, not according to party influences. Critics have read O'Connor's methodology in rendering decisions as "playing the middle while watching how the majority leaned," while other pundits found the term "swing vote" a misnomer. Many such observers identify O'Connor's record as an adherence to her roots as a Goldwater/Reagan Republican, as opposed to an alliance to the shifting ideologies within the Republican Party. The Justice's much publicized rural upbringing on her parents' ranch, called the Lazy B, in southeastern Arizona



After being confirmed by the U.S. Senate on September 22, 1981, Sandra Day O'Connor took her oath of office as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, pictured here, on September 25.

is also noted by supporters as instilling a "rugged individualism" that she carried with her into the court, guiding her to favor rule of law over party politics.

With her retirement imminent sometime before the start of October 2005, some biographers have suggested that the core of O'Connor's legacy, in addition to her place in history as the first woman to join the Supreme Court, will be her judicial impact on the issues of federalism and state's rights, and the separation of church and state. She will also be remembered for deciding cases narrowly and close to the record in order to avoid generalizations that might set an inflexible precedent for future hearings. Although at times during her tenure considered a polarizing or controversial figure by some analysts, and a fair-minded moderate by others, O'Connor sums up her experience in her official resignation letter by stating that she leaves the bench "with enormous respect for the integrity of the court and its role under our constitutional structure."

The UCLA Film and Television Archive's News and Public Affairs Collection (NAPA) holds television news coverage relevant to the study of Justice O'Connor's confirmation hearings and tenure with the Supreme Court. This material is available for on-site viewing at UCLA by advance arrangement through the Archive Research and Study Center.

For more information about the NAPA collection, please contact the Archive Research and Study Center at 310-206-5388, arsc@ucla.edu or

Consult the NAPA database online:

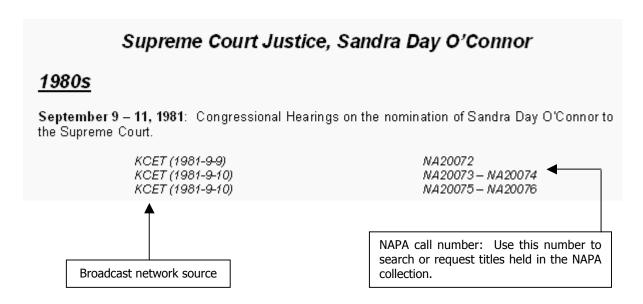
http://www.cinema.ucla.edu/collections/NAPA/napasearch.html

Detailed abstracts of the contents of network newscasts are available to UCLA-based internet users through the Vanderbilt University Television News Archive: http://tvnews.vanderbilt.edu/





For more information about the News and Public Affairs (NAPA) Collection or for reference assistance, please contact the Archive Research and Study Center at 310-206-5388, or arsc@ucla.edu



NAPA - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I search the NAPA collection?

How do I request NAPA items to view?

From the Archive website (http://www.cinema.ucla.edu) you can search NAPA holdings, compile a research request list, and submit your viewing requests to the Archive Research and Study Center via the online database.



JUSTICE SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

BIOGRAPHICAL TIMELINE:

March 26, 1930: Born in El Paso, Texas.

1935 - 1946: Attends Radford School for Girls; graduates from Austin High School while living with

grandmother during the school year in El Paso.

1946: Enters Stanford University.

1950: Earns a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics at Stanford.

1952: Graduates Magna Cum Laude and ranks third out of one-hundred and two students at

Stanford Law School; marries John Jay O'Connor III (with whom she has three sons).

1952 – 1953: Serves as Deputy County Attorney of San Mateo County, California.

1953 – 1957: Practices as a civilian attorney for Quartermaster Market Center, Frankfurt, Germany.

1958 – 1960: Practices law in Maryvale, located in the metropolitan area of Phoenix, Arizona.

1965 – 1969: Serves as Assistant Attorney General of Arizona.

1969: Elected to the Arizona State Senate, serves two consecutive two-year terms.

1973: Becomes first woman to serve as a state Senate Majority Leader.

1975 – 1979: Elected as judge of the Maricopa County Superior Court in Arizona.

1979: Appointed to the Arizona Court of Appeals by Democratic governor Bruce Babbitt.

July 7, 1981: Nominated as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court by President Ronald Reagan.

September 9 – 11, 1981: Supreme Court confirmation hearings with the U.S. Senate.

September 21, 1981: Receives unanimous confirmation by the Senate.

September 25, 1981: Takes seat as Associate Justice on the Supreme Court.

October 22, 1988: Undergoes surgery to treat breast cancer.

July 1, 2005: Announces retirement from Supreme Court.

Supreme Court Justice, Sandra Day O'Connor

1980s

September 9 – 11, 1981: Congressional hearings on the nomination of Sandra Day O'Connor to the Supreme Court.

 KCET (1981-9-9)
 NA20072

 KCET (1981-9-10)
 NA20073 – NA20074

 KCET (1981-9-10)
 NA20075 – NA20076

July 8, 1984: Supreme Court decisions about prisoner's right to privacy. Analysis of O'Connor's voting record in favor of states' rights and how it relates to her having been appointed by Republican President Ronald Reagan.

This Week in Washington

NA5285

1990s

June 11, 1990: Supreme Court strikes down law that upheld the government's interest in preserving the flag as a symbol that outweighs the individual right to disparage that symbol through expressive conduct. The Court also upholds a 1989 law that defends flag burning as an act of protected speech under the First Amendment. O'Connor dissents with other conservative judges.

CBS Evening News:

NA28549

June 22, 1998: O'Connor writes argument disallowing students to sue a school district over student/teacher sexual harassment.

NewsHour with Jim Lehrer

NA66609

May 24, 1999:

O'Connor opinion quoted on student/student sexual harassment case.

NewsHour with Jim Lehrer:

NA71422

O'Connor delivers opinion in favor of allowing students to sue for damages in student/student sexual harassment cases.

CNN Today

NA71415

2000s

January 11, 2000: Supreme Court makes decisions in states' rights cases dealing with issues such as age bias (O'Connor writes opinion); the Court hears oral arguments in a new case that examines whether or not the U.S. Congress can allow rape victims to sue their attackers in federal court.

NewsHour with Jim Lehrer

NA74865

March 29, 2000: O'Connor delivers opinion upholding a Pennsylvania ordinance that restricts public nude dancing.

NewsHour with Jim Lehrer

NA76009

June 4, 2000: Supreme Court rules in a key death penalty case, staying the execution of Oliver David Cruz, a mentally retarded Texas man; Court rules on sexual harassment cases with O'Connor delivering the majority opinion.

CNN Today

NA82248

June 5, 2000: Supreme Court strikes down court-ordered third party visitation rights. O'Connor delivers leading opinion.

NewsHour with Jim Lehrer

NA76992

June 23, 2000:

Analysis of Supreme Court's ruling in favor of affirmative action. O'Connor writes the majority opinion.

ABC World News Tonight

NA93011

The ruling on affirmative action and its use in the corporate sphere.

Nightline

NA93011

Supreme Court rules FDA lacks authority to regulate tobacco.

World Today

NA75883

June 28, 2000:

Supreme Court strikes down ban on "partial birth" abortions and upholds law limiting protesters outside abortion clinics. Analysis of other Supreme Court rulings covered include a proposed ban on gay Boy Scout leaders and the use of federal money in religious schools. O'Connor provides the deciding vote in the Nebraska ruling.

NewsHour with Jim Lehrer

NA77339

Supreme Court upholds Boy Scouts' ban on gay troop leaders; strikes down Nebraska law banning "partial birth" abortions.

World Today

NA77333

December 1, **2000**: Analysis of the Bush and Gore lawyers' arguments before the Supreme Court over whether there should be a recount of votes in Florida to determine the election.

NewsHour with Jim Lehrer

NA79630

December 11, 2000:

Supreme Court hearing on Florida vote recount and decision by Florida Supreme Court. O'Connor and Justice Anthony Kennedy question the role of the federal court.

CNN NA79751

O'Connor's opinion on Florida recount featured.

ABC World News Tonight NA79763

Analysis of Florida recount.

Nightline NA79763

July 6, 2001: Analysis of O'Connor as prominent figure in the death penalty debate; questions of the penalty's fairness.

Washington Week in Review NA82738

March 19, 2002: Analysis of Supreme Court's arguments regarding drug testing in schools; O'Connor delivers opinion.

NewsHour with Jim Lehrer NA86404

March 5, **2003**: Supreme Court rules to require sex offenders to register with the state and keep in touch with authorities and upholds California's "three strikes" sentencing law. O'Connor gives the majority opinion for the latter.

NewsHour with Jim Lehrer NA91413

June 27, 2003: In two cases regarding affirmative action, the Supreme Court rejects a point system used by the University of Michigan undergraduate school, but votes to uphold Michigan's Law School admission policy; O'Connor gives the majority opinion in the latter case; the Court affirms that state statutes that forbid intimate relations between homosexuals are unconstitutional.

Washington Week in Review NA93094



RELATED RESOURCES

PRINT RESOURCES

(for more information consult the UCLA Libraries collections)

- Cushman, Clare, Talbot D'Alemberte, and Supreme Court Historical Society. Supreme Court Decisions and Women's Rights: Milestones to Equality. Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2001.
- Gabor, Andrea. Einstein's Wife: Work and Marriage in the Lives of Five Great Twentieth-Century Women. New York: Viking, 1995
- Greenhouse, Linda. "O'Connor Has Breast Surgery to Stop Cancer." *The New York Times*, 21 October 2005, 6.
- Hutchison, Kay Bailey. *American Heroines: The Spirited Women Who Shaped Our Country*. New York: William Morrow, 2004.
- Johnson, James W. *Arizona Politicians: The Noble and the Notorious*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2002.
- Le Veness, Frank P. and Jane P. Sweeney. *Women Leaders in Contemporary U.S. Politics*. Boulder, CO: L. Rienner, 1987
- Leahy, James E. Supreme Court Justices Who Voted With the Government: Nine Who Favored the State Over Individual Rights. Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Co., 1999.
- Lemonick, Michael D. and Viveca Novak. "Sandra Day O'Connor: The Power Broker." *Time*, 11 July 2005, 31-33.
- Maveety, Nancy. *Justice Sandra Day O'Connor: Strategist on the Supreme Court.* London: Lanham, 1996.
- O'Brien, David M. *Storm Center: The Supreme Court in American Politics*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2005.
- O'Connor, Sandra Day. *Good News and Bad News: 1991 American Bar Association Annual Meeting, Pro Bono Awards Luncheon: Atlanta, Georgia, August 12th, 1991*. Washington, DC: Federal Publications, 1991.
- O'Connor, Sandra Day and H. Alan Day. *Lazy B: Growing Up on a Cattle Ranch in the American Southwest*. New York: Random House, 2002.
- O'Connor, Sandra Day and Craig Joyce. *The Majesty of the Law: Reflections of a Supreme Court Justice*. New York: Random House, 2003.
- Perry, Barbara A. "The Supremes:" Essays on the Current Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States. New York: P. Lang, 2001.
- Taylor, Stuart, Jr. "Swing Vote on the Constitution." The American Lawyer (June 1989): 66.



- Thomas, Evan and Stuart Taylor Jr. "Queen of the Center." Newsweek, 11 July 2005, 25-31.
- United States, Congress, Senate, and Committee on the Judiciary. Nomination of Sandra Day O'Connor: Hearings Before the Committee on the Judiciary, United States Senate, Ninety-Seventh Congress, First Session, on the Nomination of Judge Sandra Day O'Connor, of Arizona, to Serve As an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, September 9, 10, and 11, 1981. Washington, DC: U.S. G.P.O, 1981.
- Van Sickel, Robert W. *Not a Particularly Different Voice: The Jurisprudence of Sandra Day O'Connor*. New York: P. Lang, 1998.
- Vradelis, James. T. "The Emerging Jurisprudence of Justice O'Connor." *University of Chicago Law Review* 52 (Spring 1985): 389-459.
- Vrato, Elizabeth. *The Counselors: Conversations with 18 Courageous Women Who Have Changed the World.* Philadelphia: Running Press, 2002.
- Zelnick, Robert. 2004. *Swing Dance: Justice O'Connor and the Michigan Muddle*. Stanford: Hoover Institution Press, Stanford University, 2004.

INTERNET AUDIOVISUAL RESOURCES

Please note: The Vanderbilt Television News Archive is a subscription-based service. UCLA users may access Vanderbilt clips from any UCLA IP address. For more information on Vanderbilt, please visit their website available at: http://tvnews.vanderbilt.edu/

- CNN Evening News. "An Interview with Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor Presented." Vanderbilt University Television News Archive, 28 March 1997. http://tvnews.vanderbilt.edu/fulldisplay.pl?SID=20050819522277832&UID=&CID=17717&auth=&code=TVN&RC=414978&Row=154
- CNN Evening News. "The Supreme Court / Sex Offender & Three-Strike Laws." Vanderbilt
 University Television News Archive, 5 March 2003.

 http://tvnews.vanderbilt.edu/fulldisplay.pl?SID=20050819522277832&UID=&CID=17717&auth=&code=TVN&RC=723094&Row=109>
- Totenberg, Nina. "Sandra Day O'Connor's Supreme Legacy: First Female High Court Justice Reflects on 22 Years on Bench." *All Things Considered*, 14 May 2003. http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=1261400>
- CNN Evening News. "The Supreme Court Ruling on Sodomy Laws Examined." Vanderbilt

 University Television News Archive, 26 June 2003.

 http://tvnews.vanderbilt.edu/fulldisplay.pl?SID=20050819522277832&UID=&CID=17717&auth=&code=TVN&RC=731718&Row=95>
- CNN Evening News. "This Week's Supreme Court Ruling That Went Against the Conservative Agenda Reviewed... Explains Why We Cannot Pick on Justice Sandra Day O'Connor." Vanderbilt University Television News Archive, 27 June 2003. http://tvnews.vanderbilt.edu/fulldisplay.pl?SID=20050819522277832&UID=&CID=17717&auth=&code=TVN&RC=731850&Row=94



- CNN Evening News. "Supreme Court / Church & State / Davey Case." Vanderbilt University

 Television News Archive, 3 December 2003.

 http://tvnews.vanderbilt.edu/fulldisplay.pl?SID=20050819522277832&UID=&CID=177
- 17&auth=&code=TVN&RC=743146&Row=89>
 CNN Evening News. "Supreme Court / Terrorism Cases / Presidential Powers / Oral Arguments /
- Sloan, Lithwick Interviews." Vanderbilt University Television News Archive, 28 April 2004. http://tvnews.vanderbilt.edu/fulldisplay.pl?SID=20050819522277832&UID=&CID=17717&auth=&code=TVN&RC=754017&Row=79>
- CNN Evening News. "At Centre College, Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor." Vanderbilt University Television News Archive, 28 May 2004.

 http://tvnews.vanderbilt.edu/fulldisplay.pl?SID=20050819522277832&UID=&CID=17717&auth=&code=TVN&RC=756501&Row=78
- CNN Evening News. "Supreme Court Rulings on Government Powers During Wartime & Access to the Courts for Detainees Examined." Vanderbilt University Television News Archive, 28 June 2004.

 http://tvnews.vanderbilt.edu/fulldisplay.pl?SID=20050819522277832&UID=&CID=17717&auth=&code=TVN&RC=758614&Row=65
- CNN Evening News. "The Supreme Court's Ruling in Support of Federal Laws Against Medical Marijuana Examined." *Vanderbilt University Television News Archive*, 6 June 2005. http://tvnews.vanderbilt.edu/fulldisplay.pl?SID=20050819522277832&UID=&CID=17717&auth=&code=TVN&RC=792208&Row=55>
- CNN: Ronald Reagan State Funeral. "O'Connor [10:37-10:38]." Vanderbilt University Television News Archive, 6 June 2005.

 http://tvnews.vanderbilt.edu/fulldisplay.pl?SID=20050819522277832&UID=&CID=17717&auth=&code=TVN&RC=757766&Row=71
- Ludden, Jennifer. "Former Clerks Remember O'Connor." *All Things Considered*, 2 July 2005. http://www.npr.org/templates/story.php?storyId=4727769

INTERNET RESOURCES

- Biskupic, Joan. "O'Connor's Final Decision Puts Family First." *USAToday.com*, 5 July 2005. http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2005-07-05-oconnor-decision_x.htm
- Cornell University Law School Legal Information Institute. "Supreme Court Collection: Sandra Day O'Connor." http://straylight.law.cornell.edu/supct/justices/oconnor.bio.clr.html
- Goldman, Jerry. "Sandra Day O'Connor." *Oyez: U.S. Supreme Court Multimedia.* http://www.oyez.org/oyez/resource/legal_entity/102/
- Hamilton, Marci. "The Remarkable Legacy of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor." *FindLaw's Writ*, 14 July 2005.
 - http://writ.news.findlaw.com/scripts/printer_friendly.pl?page=/hamilton/20050714.htm



Magnuson, Ed. "The Brethren's First Sister." *Time*, 21 July 1981. http://www.time.com/time/archive/preview/0,10987,954833,00.html

Wikipedia contributors. "Sandra Day O'Connor." Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandra_Day_O'Connor

AUDIOVISUAL RESOURCE

(the following materials are available through the Archive Research and Study Center)

Biography. Sandra Day O'Connor (2004). Arts and Entertainment Network.

Study Copy: VA21216 T



APPENDIX:

Supreme Court – Annotated Title List

This listing represents a sample of available NAPA titles relevant to the study of the Supreme Court. For more information, please contact the Archive Research and Study Center.

DATE	CASSETTE NUMBER	SUMMARY
4/22/1987	NA12115	CBS Evening News: Significance of Supreme Court ruling in a suit brought by convicted Georgia inmate Warren McCleskey who claimed capital sentencing was racial biased.
9/26/1989	NA25435	Supreme Court's Holy Battles
9/1/1991	NA32782	<i>Tony Brown's Journal</i> : A look at U.S. Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas.
9/8/1991	NA32852	Tony Brown's Journal: Clarence Thomas' Supreme Court nomination is debated.
9/10/1991	NA32878	CNN: Clarence Thomas hearings
9/10/1991	NA32863	CNN: Clarence Thomas hearings
9/10/1991	NA32891	CNN: Clarence Thomas hearings
9/11/1991	NA32881	CNN: Clarence Thomas hearings
9/11/1991	NA32882	CNN: Clarence Thomas hearings
9/11/1991	NA32892	CNN: Clarence Thomas hearings
9/11/1991	NA32893	CNN: Clarence Thomas hearings
9/12/1991	NA32894	CNN: Clarence Thomas hearings
9/12/1991	NA32895	CNN: Clarence Thomas hearings
9/12/1991	NA32905	CNN: Clarence Thomas hearings
9/12/1991	NA32906	CNN: Clarence Thomas hearings
9/13/1991	NA32907	CNN: Clarence Thomas hearings
9/13/1991	NA32908	CNN: Clarence Thomas hearings
9/13/1991	NA32918	CNN: Clarence Thomas hearings
9/16/1991	NA32939	CNN: Clarence Thomas hearings
9/16/1991	NA32940	CNN: Clarence Thomas hearings
9/17/1991	NA32941	CNN: Clarence Thomas hearings
9/17/1991	NA32942	CNN: Clarence Thomas hearings
9/17/1991	NA32952	CNN: Clarence Thomas hearings
9/18/1991	NA32953	CNN: Clarence Thomas hearings
9/18/1991	NA32962	CNN: Clarence Thomas hearings
9/19/1991	NA32963	CNN: Clarence Thomas hearings
9/19/1991	NA32972	CNN: Clarence Thomas hearings
9/20/1991	NA32973	CNN: Clarence Thomas hearings
9/20/1991	NA32982	CNN: Clarence Thomas hearings



9/23/1991	NA32983	CNN: Clarence Thomas hearings
9/23/1991	NA33004	CNN: Clarence Thomas hearings
9/24/1991	NA33005	CNN: Clarence Thomas hearings
9/24/1991	NA33013	CNN: Clarence Thomas hearings
10/11/1991	NA33144	CNN: Congressional Hearing – Clarence Thomas
10/11/1991	NA33142	CNN: Congressional Hearing – Clarence Thomas
10/11/1991	NA33145	CNN: Congressional Hearing – Clarence Thomas
10/11/1991	NA33149	CNN: Congressional Hearing – Clarence Thomas
10/11/1991	NA33165	CNN: Congressional Hearing – Clarence Thomas
10/6/1992	NA37542	<i>Today</i> : Recalling the 1991 Clarence Thomas – Anita Hill hearings with author Toni Morrison.
11/15/1992	NA38086	Tony Brown's Journal: The Clarence Thomas – Anita Hill hearings and their impact on the black community.
7/20/1993	NA41309	Good Morning America: Coverage of the Ruth Bader Ginsberg Senate confirmation hearings.
12/29/1994	NA48716	Primetime Live: Profile of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg.
6/19/1997	NA61519	NewsHour: Discussion related to the Supreme Court decision to uphold a plan drawn by Georgia courts to redistrict the state, cutting the number of predominantly African-American districts from three to one.
3/25/1998	NA65394	Paving The Way: Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.
4/8/1998	NA65579	CNN: Includes "Closed Chambers," a look at the legal process of the Supreme Court.
6/23/1999	NA71871	<i>NewsHour</i> : Discussion of Supreme Court decisions on states' rights of this term. Federalism discussed.
10/4/1999	NA73385	CNN Today: U.S. Supreme Court returns today with a beaming Ruth Bader Ginsburg.
1/12/2000	NA74879	World Today: Supreme Court forbids states from selling driver's license information.
3/21/2000	NA75889	NewsHour. Significance of the $5-4$ ruling against FDA regulation of the tobacco industry.
3/22/2000	NA75902	World Today: Supreme Court rules that universities and colleges are allowed to require campus student activity fees.
3/28/2000	NA75984	World Today: Supreme Court rules police cannot conduct searches based on anonymous tips.
6/12/2000	NA77087	<i>CNN</i> : Supreme Court narrows patients' rights to sue HMOs; lowers bar for proving job discrimination.



6/21/2000	NA75882	CNN: Supreme Court rules FDA cannot regulate tobacco, transfers authority over tobacco regulation back to Congress.
6/23/2000	NA77280	Washington Week in Review: The Supreme Court rules against allowing public prayer at school events.
10/10/2000	NA78822	C-Span Overnight: Supreme Court review with members of the The Institute of Bill of Rights Law from the William and Mary School of Law.
12/1/2000	NA79635	Nightline: Florida recount.
12/1/2000 & 12/03/2000	NA79636	ABC News This Week, 20/20: Florida recount.
12/9/2000	NA81902	CNN: Supreme Court ruling on Florida recount.
12/11/2000	NA79725	CNN: Supreme Court ruling on Florida recount.
12/11/2000	NA79758	NewsHour: Analysis of Florida recount. Fox News: Interviews with UCLA law students about the Florida recount
12/12/2000	NA79753	C-Span Overnight, Washington Journal: Florida Recount
6/28/2001	NA82615	NewsHour: Supreme Court decisions on tobacco advertising, immigration and property rights; Marcia Coyle of the National Law Journal.
6/28/2001	NA82608	CNN: Supreme Court upholds tobacco companies' right to advertise.
7/8/2001	NA82745	<i>McLaughlin Group</i> : Supreme Court divisions. "Litmusing the Supremes," a discussion of the justices' ideologies.
6/24/2003	NA93011	CNN: Press conference featuring "Americans for Fair Chance" discussing the Supreme Court's ruling in favor of affirmative action. Washington Journal: Genesis of the affirmative action case at the University of Michigan Law School.