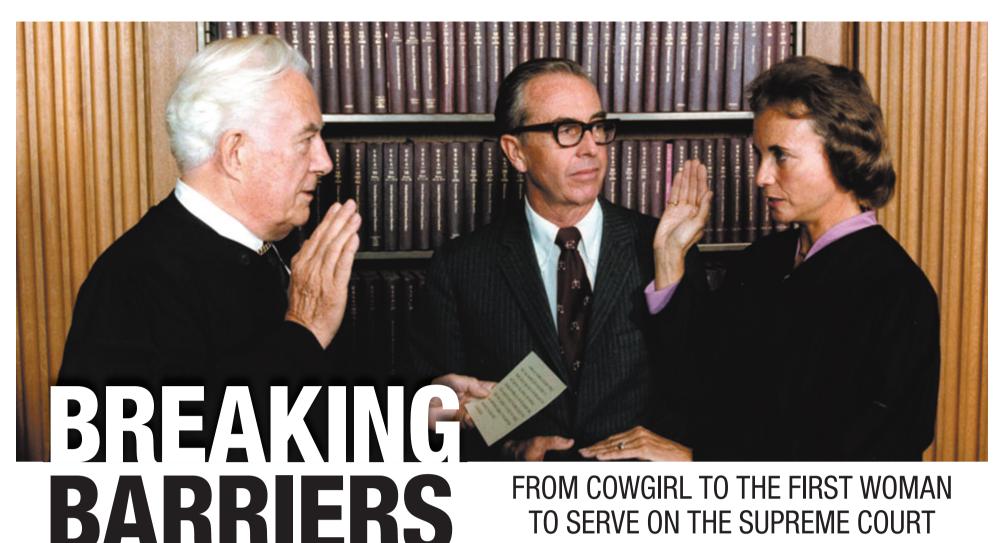


## The **POWER** I exert on the **COURT** depends on the power of my **ARGUMENTS**, not my **GENDER**.





ON JULY 7, 1981, President Ronald Reagan announced he would nominate SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR to the U.S. Supreme Court. Forty years later, her impact on the court and the nation is as profound as it was groundbreaking.

## **KEY RULINGS**

Writing 645 opinions in her 24 years on the court, Justice O'Connor was considered a moderate conservative. She cast the deciding vote in many important cases, including decisions on civil rights, voting rights, protection from discrimination and environmental issues.

Planned Parenthood v. Casey (1992)

Affirming the court's 1973 decision in *Roe v. Wade*, O'Connor angered conservatives by joining the majority in protecting a woman's right to choose. "Some of us as individuals find abortion offensive to our most basic principles of morality, but that cannot control our decision. Our obligation is to define the liberty of all, not to mandate our own moral code," the opinion read.

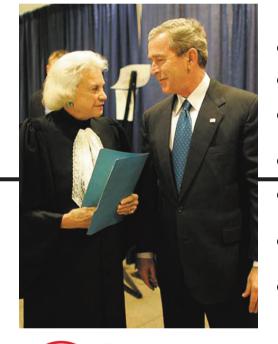


The 5-4 decision found the McCain/ Feingold campaign finance reform law constitutional.

Grutter v. Bollinger (2003) In a 5-4 majority, the court upheld the constitutionality of a University of Michigan affirmative action program.

McCreary Co. v. ACLU of Kentucky (2005) The court's decision ruled Ten Commandments displays in several courthouses unconstitutional.

O'Connor's concurrence said, "Those who would renegotiate the boundaries between church and state must therefore answer a difficult question: Why would we trade a system that has served us so well for one that has served others so poorly?"



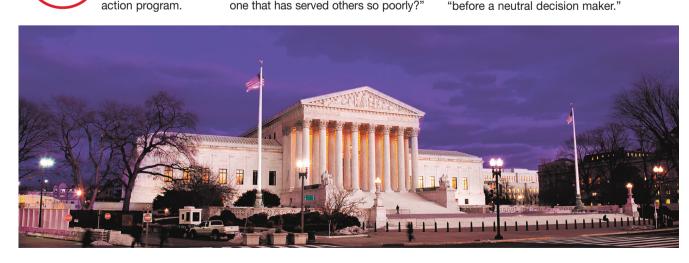
Bush v. Gore (2000)

With the presidency on the line, O'Connor acted as the swing vote in a 5-4 decision to uphold the Florida secretary of state's original certification of Florida's electoral votes. The decision

affirmed George W. Bush as the nation's 43rd president.

Hamdi v. Rumsfeld (2004)

A rebuttal of the Bush administration's policy, the decision penned by O'Connor declared that citizens designated "enemy combatants" have the right to challenge their imprisonment



## FOLLOWING IN HER FOOTSTEPS

O'Connor was the first of five women to serve on the Supreme Court. Here are the others in the court's 232-year history:

RUTH BADER GINSBURG Nominated by Bill Clinton



Aug. 10, 1993, until her death Sept. 18, 2020 SONIA SOTOMAYOR Nominated by Barack Obama

Began her term as an associate justice Aug. 8, 2009

ejustice

ELENA KAGAN Nominated by Barack Obama

Barack Obama
Began her term
as an associate justice
Aug. 7, 2010

AMY CONEY BARRETT Nominated by Donald Trump

Began her term as an associate justice Oct. 27, 2020

## A LIFE OF FIRSTS

MARCH 26, 1930

Born in El Paso, Texas

**SEPTEMBER 1946**Enrolls at Stanford University at 16

**JUNE 18, 1950** 

Graduates from Stanford University with a degree in economics at 22

**JUNE 15, 1952** 

Graduates from Stanford Law School

JUNE 196

Begins work as Assistant Attorney General of Arizona

OCT. 30, 1969

Appointed and sworn in as Arizona State Senator for District 8-E

NOVEMBER 1972

Elected Majority Leader of Arizona State Senate, becoming the first woman to hold that position in any state senate in the country

JAN. 13, 1975

Sworn in as Maricopa County Superior Court Judge for Division 31

DEC. 3, 1979

Sworn in as Judge on the Arizona Court of Appeals for Division One



JULY 7, 1981

President Ronald Reagan announces O'Connor nomination to the Supreme Court, fulfilling campaign promise

AUG. 19, 1981

Reagan sends nomination to the U.S. Senate for review and approval

SEPT. 21, 1981

U.S. Senate confirms O'Connor as the next justice on the Supreme Court by unanimous 99-0 vote



SEPT. 25, 1981 Sworn in as Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court

JAN. 31, 2006

Steps down as Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court.
Begins to serve as a visiting judge at U.S. Circuit Courts around the country.

JUNE 30, 2015

Retires as a visiting federal judge

OCT. 23, 2018

Announces retirement from public life after dementia diagnosis