

Sandra Day O'Conner



Justice Sandra Day O'Conner was born on March 26, 1930 in El Paso, Texas to Harry A. and Ada Mae Wilkey Day. Sandra grew up on her grandfather's 155,000-acre ranch in Southeastern Arizona. At the age of five she was sent to live with her grandmother in El Paso to attend the local public elementary school. She graduated from high school at the age of sixteen.

After high school, Sandra moved on to college graduating from Stanford University in 1950 with a bachelor's degree in economics. Sandra graduated from Stanford University of Law in 1952. She married John Jay O'Conner, one of her peers, that same year. After being rejected by a law firm in California because she was a female, she became a Deputy County Attorney of San Mateo, California. From 1954-1957 she and John moved to Germany where she worked as Civilian Attorney for the United States Army. Upon her return to Phoenix, Arizona, O'Conner had the first of her three sons Scott. All born within six years, Jay and Brian were soon to follow. At this time she opened her own practice working part-time with a partner.

In 1969 Sandra was appointed to the Arizona State Senate to fill an unexpired term. She won the election to that seat twice after that in 1970 and in 1972.

President Ronald Reagan appointed Sandra Day O'Conner to the Supreme Court after his promise to appoint the first woman to the Supreme Court. O'Conner became the courts 102nd justice and its first female member.

Though Sandra is very politically independent, her votes are mostly conservative. Sandra Day O'Conner has become an excellent role model for both sexes and all ages as she has determinedly blazed her way to the top.