

O'Connor sworn in as first female Supreme Court justice

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sandra Day O'Connor raised her right hand and swore the oath of office today as the 102nd American — and the first woman — to sit on the Supreme Court.

Justice O'Connor, an Arizona appeals court judge before she was picked to become an associate justice of the nation's highest court, promised to uphold the Constitution and "faithfully discharge the duties of my office."

Asked by Burger if she were ready to take her oath, Mrs. O'Connor replied in a steady voice: "I am."

With her right hand aloft and her left hand on a Bible, Mrs. O'Connor completed the oath flawlessly.

Burger was the first to call her "Justice O'Connor" as he welcomed her to the court.

President Reagan, who broke a 191-year, all-male tradition when

he appointed Justice O'Connor to the lifetime job, was among more than 500 people present as Chief Justice Warren E. Burger administered the oath of office.

The ceremony began as Mrs. O'Connor was ushered into the marble and mahogany courtroom and was seated before the bench in a chair used by Chief Justice John Marshall during his 1801-1835 tenure.

After taking the oath, Justice O'Connor was helped into her judicial robe and led to the seat traditionally occupied by the court's most junior justice — to the far right of the bench as viewed from the courtroom.

In a switch from the 1975 swearing-in of Justice John Paul Stevens, the oath administered in the courtroom to Mrs. O'Connor was one Stevens and at least two of his predecessors had sworn to in the privacy of a meeting with the justices and not in public.

In her courtroom oath, Mrs. O'Connor said: "I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."

She previously attended a private swearing-in in which she stated: "I do solemnly swear that I will administer justice without respect to persons, and do equal right to the poor and to the rich, and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent upon me as a justice according to the best of my abilities and understanding, agreeably to the Constitution and laws of the United States." Justice O'Connor said. "So help me God."

It had been expected that the oath she took in private would be the one she would vow to uphold in the public ceremony.

Because of the unusually large crowd — Justice O'Connor submitted about 250 names of prospective invitees — the prohibition against standing in the courtroom was waived.

Other guests included Mrs. Reagan; retired Justice Potter Stewart, the man Justice O'Connor succeeded; Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker; members of the Senate Judiciary Committee; and the Arizona congressional delegation.

Two hours earlier, Mrs. O'Connor had posed for photographers and television camera crews in the brilliant sunlight of

the court's massive front plaza. Burger, who accompanied her, asked photographers, "You've never seen me with a better looking justice, have you?"

Asked how she felt on the threshold of history, Mrs. O'Connor smiled and replied, "Just great."

She was dressed in the robe she wore as a state judge.

"I'll buy a new one eventually," she said. "They do get old, you know. The arms get all worn out."

Burger suggested Congress might be willing to appropriate funds for a new robe.

Mrs. O'Connor, her arm held by Burger, posed with her parents Harry and Ada Mae Day; her husband, John; and their three sons.

Mrs. O'Connor appeared relaxed, and laughed heartily as a

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DOUGLAS DISP.
DOUGLAS, AZ

SEP 25 1981
MAR JON

To sit on Supreme Court

O'Connor takes oath of office

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Vowing to "do equal right to the poor and to the rich," the former Arizona legislator and appeals court judge became Justice O'Connor during a brief ceremony in the marble and mahogany courtroom of the nation's highest court.

President Reagan, who broke a 191-year tradition when he appointed Mrs. O'Connor to the lifetime position, was among the 500 guests who watched Chief Justice Warren E. Burger administer the oath of office.

Also on hand was retired associate justice Potter Stewart, whom Mrs. O'Connor replaced. Two hours earlier, Mrs.



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PRESCOTT COURIER
PRESCOTT, ARIZ.

SEP 25 1981
MAR JON

strong at home and

O'CONNOR

From Page 1

close family friend, former Phoenix Mayor John Driggs, turned the tables on reporters and photographers and began taking photos of them at work.

The timing of her swearing-in allows her to participate in the week-long conference the justices will start Monday in anticipation of the Oct. 5 opening of the court's 1981-82 term.

Television, radio and photographic coverage of today's swearing-in ceremony was banned. Court spokesman Barrett McGurn cited the court's practice of banning all cameras and microphones during court proceedings.

Mrs. O'Connor, 51, sailed through Senate confirmation hearings despite opposition from groups who perceived her voting record in the Arizona legislature as pro-abortion.

Mrs. O'Connor made it plain, however, that she shares the views of many conservatives.

She told the Senate Judiciary Committee she abhors abortion, thinks it "inappropriate" for women to participate in combat during times of war,

opposes busing for school desegregation, favors the death penalty for certain crimes and believes the courts in some instances may be too soft on criminals.

But Mrs. O'Connor repeatedly emphasized that her personal views would not affect her Supreme Court votes. And she disavowed any hint that she will be Reagan's conservative envoy to the court.

"I was not asked to make any commitments about what I would do or how I would resolve any issue to come before the court," she testified during her confirmation hearings.

Mrs. O'Connor's nomination was confirmed by a 99-0 vote of the Senate Monday. Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., who was in his home state when the vote was taken, previously had voiced support for her.

Mrs. O'Connor's seat on the court dates back to 1837.

BISBEE REVIEW

SEP 25 1981
MAR JON

Elect judges, parties say

PHOENIX (AP) — A move to repeal a 1974 constitutional amendment which changed the method of selecting judges in Maricopa and Pima counties is gathering momentum among Republicans and Democrats.

The Maricopa County Republican Committee adopted a resolution by 195-187 vote last Saturday to return the judges to the elective process.

"It was a close vote, but we got it through," said county GOP chairman Bob Hungerford Wednesday.

A former state senator and a lawyer, Hungerford said he did not share the opinion of most fellow lawyers that the merit selection of trial and appellate court judges in the two counties was desirable.

KINGMAN DAILY MINER
KINGMAN, AZ
SEP 25 1981

MAR JON

O'Connor is sworn in today

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ARIZONA DAILY STAR TUCSON
SEP 24 1981

Arizona's first lady of the bench

Arizona is justly proud of Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. She made it clear during her nomination hearing that the nation can count on her to judge cases fairly, on their merits, according to law and not by preconceived notions.

It is especially heartening to note that not all the zealous opposition by radical-right, Moral Majority and anti-abortion factions that wanted her defeated carried the slightest might. Her praises rang through the Senate chamber, and the senators unanimously confirmed her nomination.

O'Connor's opponents objected to her support of women's issues such as the Equal Rights Amendment, removal of sexual distinctions from all state laws, and public money for family-planning services. Yet at the same time, she has expressed doubts about busing for racial deseg-

regation and the exclusionary rule, which bars the use at trial of illegally obtained evidence, and she finds abortion personally unacceptable. Whatever her personal views, as a judge she calls them as she sees them. O'Connor stressed at the hearings the importance of not allowing personal inclinations to enter decisions.

Sandra O'Connor follows in a line of distinguished "firsts" for Arizona women. Arizona produced the first woman to serve as a chief justice on a state supreme court, Lorna Lockwood. Mary Anne Richey of Tucson was the first woman appointed as a U.S. attorney. She now is a federal District Court judge.

O'Connor's appointment as Supreme Court justice is the most prestigious judicial "first" in the nation's 205-year history. She is an honest person, a moderate who will not prejudge cases. Who could ask for more?

THE DAILY SUN
FLAGSTAFF, AZ

SEP 25 1981

MAR JON



On the Steps

A ROBED Sandra D. O'Connor walks down the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court today with Chief Justice of the United States Warren Burger. O'Connor was sworn

in as an associate justice of the Supreme Court today. She is the first woman justice on the Supreme Court in U.S. history.

(AP Laserphoto)

NEWS & SUN
SUN CITY
SEP 25 1981

MAR JON

O'CONNOR TAKES OATH

New justice

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President Reagan was among the 500 guests who watched Chief Justice Warren Burger administer the oath of

office. Also on hand was retired associate justice Potter Stewart, whom Mrs. O'Connor replaced.

Following a court tradition, Mrs. O'Connor took two oaths, one at a private meeting of the justices and the other in the courtroom.

The timing of her swearing in allows her to participate in the week-long conference the justices will start Monday in anticipation of the Oct. 5 opening of the court's 1981-82 term.

Reagan broke a 191-year, all-male tradition when he appointed Mrs. O'Connor to the lifetime job.