



Written by [D. Michael DeRidder](#) on December 1, 2023

Former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor Dies at 93

[The U.S. Supreme Court announced](#) that former Justice Sandra Day O'Connor [died today from complications of dementia and a respiratory illness](#). O'Connor was the first woman to be appointed to the Supreme Court. President Ronald Reagan nominated her in 1981, and she was confirmed by the Senate with a vote of 99-0. O'Connor was considered a moderate, and some saw her to be a swing vote, deciding many Supreme Court cases.

O'Connor announced her intention to retire to President George W. Bush, and retired from the Court in 2006, when her replacement, Associate Justice Samuel Alito, was sworn in.



AP Images
Sandra Day O'Connor

O'Connor's career accomplishments were respected and admired by both Republicans and Democrats, and President Barack Obama awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2009.



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