

APPOINTMENT OF JUSTICE O'CONNOR

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1981

Present: CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER, JUSTICE BRENNAN, JUSTICE WHITE, JUSTICE MARSHALL, JUSTICE BLACKMUN, JUSTICE POWELL, JUSTICE REHNQUIST, and JUSTICE STEVENS.

The judicial oath was administered by THE CHIEF JUSTICE in the Conference Room:

Judge O'Connor took the following oath:

I, Sandra Day O'Connor, 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 Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, according to the best of my abilities and understanding, agreeably to the Constitution and laws of the United States.

So Help me God.

SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

Subscribed and sworn to before me this twenty-fifth day of September 1981.

WARREN E. BURGER,
Chief Justice

THE CHIEF JUSTICE said:

This special sitting of the Court is held to receive the commission of our newly appointed Associate Justice, Judge

Sandra Day O'Connor. On behalf of the Court, Mr. President, I extend to you and Mrs. Reagan a warm welcome.

The Court now recognizes the Attorney General of the United States, William French Smith.

Mr. Attorney General Smith said:

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE and may it please the Court:

I have the commission which has been issued to Judge Sandra Day O'Connor as an Associate Justice of this Court. It has been duly signed by the President of the United States and attested by me as Attorney General of the United States.

I move that the Clerk read the commission and that it be made a permanent record of this Court. Thank you.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE said:

Your motion is granted, Mr. Attorney General. Mr. Clerk, will you please read the commission?

The Clerk then read the commission as follows:

RONALD REAGAN,

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

To all who shall see these Presents, Greeting:

KNOW YE; That reposing special trust and confidence in the Wisdom, Uprightness, and Learning of Sandra Day O'Connor, of Arizona, I have nominated, and, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, do appoint her an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States and do authorize and empower her to execute and fulfill the duties of that Office according to the Constitution and Laws of the said United States, and to Have and to Hold the said Office, with all the powers, privileges and emoluments to the same of right appertaining, unto Her, the said Sandra Day O'Connor, during her good behavior.

In testimony whereof, I have caused these Letters to be made patent and the seal of the Department of Justice to be hereunto affixed.

Done at the City of Washington this twenty-second day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eighty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and sixth.

[SEAL]

RONALD REAGAN

By the President:

WILLIAM FRENCH SMITH,
Attorney General

THE CHIEF JUSTICE said:

In the meantime, Judge O'Connor has been waiting, occupying the chair once occupied by John Marshall when he was Chief Justice of the United States and I now ask the Clerk to escort Judge O'Connor to the bench.

[Judge O'Connor was escorted by the Clerk to the bench and the oath of office was then administered by THE CHIEF JUSTICE.]

Judge O'Connor, are you prepared to take the oath?

On Judge O'Connor's acquiescence Judge O'Connor took the following oath:

I, Sandra Day O'Connor, 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.

The Chief Deputy Marshal assisted JUSTICE O'CONNOR in robing and escorted her to her place on the bench.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE said:

JUSTICE O'CONNOR, on behalf of all the Members of the Court, and retired Justice Potter Stewart, it is a pleasure to extend to you a very warm welcome as an Associate Justice of this Court and to wish you a very long life and a long and happy career in our common calling.

