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Retirement of Sandra Day O'Connor

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Retirement of Sandra Day O'Connor Announced by President Bush on July 1, 2005

Twenty-four years after her appointment as the first woman to serve on the United States Supreme Court, Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor has announced that she will soon retire from the bench. This creates the first opening on the U.S. Supreme Court in 11 years -- the longest stretch without a Supreme Court opening since the 1820s. President George W. Bush has been waiting since the moment he took office in 2001 for the opportunity to nominate a Supreme Court Justice.

Justice O'Connor is considered a moderate conservative by her peers, and is sometimes called the most powerful woman in America because she is the swing justice on major 5-to-4 decisions. She has played a key role in the ongoing debate on *Roe v. Wade* (1973), which gave women the constitutional protection to seek abortions. Her successor will have a huge impact on the future of *Roe v. Wade*, as well as on the judicial and cultural climate in the United States.



Hauenstein Center Director Gleaves Whitney's Talking Points

Links:

[Sandra Day O'Connor](#) at SupremeCourtHistory.org

[U.S. Courts](#)

[The Supreme Court](#)

In the news:

[President Delivers Remarks on Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's Resignation](#), WhiteHouse.gov

[New York Times Coverage](#)

[Washington Post Coverage](#)

[Justic O'Connor retires](#), Washington Times

News...

... [at MoveOn.org](#)

... [at the Federalist Society](#)

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