



## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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### **Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, the First Female U.S. Supreme Court Justice, to Address Lawyers Club at May 2014 Annual Dinner**

***For immediate release October 17, 2013***

Retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor will give the keynote address at Lawyers Club of San Diego's Annual Dinner in May, where she will be presented with Lawyers Club's Icon Award. The award, given to only four prior recipients, recognizes "exceptional achievement by individuals furthering the advancement of women in the law and in society."

The annual dinner, themed "Raising the Bar," will celebrate Lawyers Club's 42<sup>nd</sup> anniversary and is set for Thursday, May 8, 2014.

"We are thrilled and honored that Justice O'Connor will join Lawyers Club for our annual dinner," said Johanna S. Schiavoni, Lawyers Club's president. "Justice O'Connor is truly an icon, and a legal hero and inspiration to countless women, attorneys, judges, and others around the world."

O'Connor was nominated by President Ronald Reagan to a seat on the U.S. Supreme Court in 1981, and served as the Court's first female justice. She remained the only woman jurist on the Court until 1993, when she was joined by Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. O'Connor served as an Associate Justice until her retirement in 2006.

Prior to her appointment to the Supreme Court, O'Connor served as a state senator in Arizona and a judge in the Arizona state trial and appellate courts.

Since retiring from the bench, O'Connor has launched iCivics, an online civics education program aimed at middle school students, and frequently speaks about civics education and judicial independence. In April, she was named honorary chair of Justice at Stake, a nonpartisan national partnership of more than 50 organizations that focuses on keeping courts fair and impartial.

"The greatest threat to judicial independence in our country today is the flood of money coming into the courtrooms by increasingly expensive and volatile campaigns," O'Connor said in a press release announcing her affiliation with Justice at Stake.

President Barack Obama honored O'Connor with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2009.

“As the first woman appointed to the Supreme Court, Justice O'Connor embodies the very essence of Lawyers Club and has truly raised the bar for women in the legal profession. Lawyers Club looks forward to celebrating Justice O'Connor and the achievements of women in our legal community,” said Tamera Weisser and Anna Romanskaya, co-chairs of the Annual Dinner event and both members of Lawyers Club's board of directors.

The annual dinner is set for Thursday, May 8, 2014, at the U.S. Grant Hotel, 326 Broadway, downtown. Registration begins at 5:30, and the dinner and program are set for 6:30-8 p.m. Individual tickets go on sale on February 24, 2014 exclusively for Lawyers Club members, and on March 10, 2014 for the general public.

Lawyers Club, founded in 1972 with the mission “to advance the status of women in the law and in society,” now has more than 1,200 members comprised of female and male attorneys, judges, elected officials, business owners, law students and others in the San Diego community who share Lawyers Club's interests and goals. For more information, visit [www.lawyersclubsandiego.com](http://www.lawyersclubsandiego.com)

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