

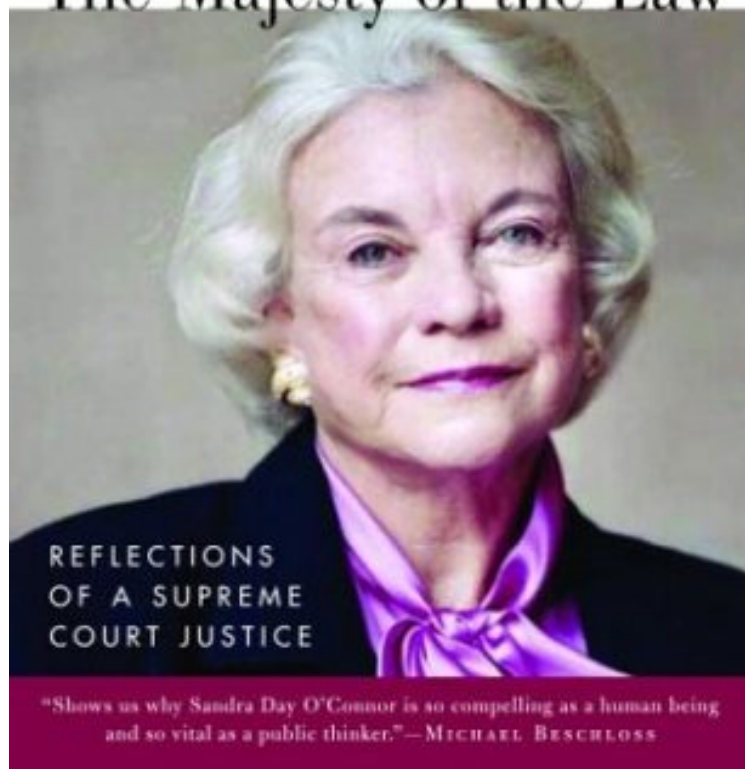
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## The Majesty of the Law: Reflections of a Supreme Court Justice

*Sandra Day O'Connor*  
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O'CONNOR  
BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *LAZY B*

### The Majesty of the Law



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**Sandra Day O'Connor : The Majesty of the Law: Reflections of a Supreme Court Justice** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Majesty of the Law: Reflections of a Supreme Court Justice:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The book is excellent and Justice O'Connor writes with the most elegant simplicity. By Jose Barbosa The Majesty of the Law is a book that brings out the thinking of the first women Justice of the Supreme Court but also it is a clear description of "gender discrimination". Even this distinguished lawyer was offered just secretary jobs once she applied to practice her profession. Fortunately, women are imposing

themselves in the juridical world which men monopolized for so long. Women have shown that they are as good and maybe even better than the males in our juridical system. O'Connor describes the American Juridical system without omitting its weaknesses and at the same time, stating its capability of being just. She did not bring up decisions such as the horrible idea that a corporation is a person. Never -the-less, after reading it, I have faith in the future of the American Supreme Court. She is missed quite appropriately to temper the conservative judges as I hope Sotomayor shall do. Congratulations. .0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy SuperGritStrong woman with perseverance in her career5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Interesting and enjoyableBy Frances XuIndeed that there are very few books like this one for which you feel that every minute you spend reading is well spent. She writes in plain and simple English and every sentence has content, logic and weight. She also writes in a tight and balanced structure, so you can always unfailingly find each of her opinion illustrated and evidenced fully and succinctly. Therefore, even just by the writing style, it is an enjoyable book. Much more than that, it is an inspiring book for anyone interested in the impact of institutions, because it points out many interesting aspects about the government institution that worth attention and deliberation. Just to give an example, she notes in her book that many countries have something similar to Constitution or Bill of Rights that intends to uphold liberty and democracy, but many fail to enforce it nearly as well as United States, a country that enshrines "the right of its unelected Supreme Court to use the Bill of Rights to declare illegal the actions of the democratically elected legislature or executive". The book does not attempt to give a theory about how institutions influence development or how institutions itself evolve, but it shows that these are very interesting and potentially very important questions to answer. For someone out of the legal profession, this book also provides the very necessary basic knowledge in balanced width and depth. (However, I can understand if a person well acquainted with law may find it too elementary.)

In this remarkable book, a national bestseller in hardcover, Sandra Day O'Connor explores the law, her life as a Supreme Court Justice, and how the Court has evolved and continues to function, grow, and change as an American institution. Tracing some of the origins of American law through history, people, ideas, and landmark cases, O'Connor sheds new light on the basics, exploring through personal observation the evolution of the Court and American democratic traditions. Straight-talking, clear-eyed, inspiring, *The Majesty of the Law* is more than a reflection on O'Connors own experiences as the first female Justice of the Supreme Court; it also reveals some of the things she has learned and believes about American law and lifereflections gleaned over her years as one of the most powerful and inspiring women in American history. From the Trade Paperback edition.

From Publishers Weekly O'Connor, veteran associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, distills in this book the scores of talks she has given across the country and around the world in the 20 years since her accession to the high court. O'Connor, the author of the bestselling memoir *Lazy B*, is an enthusiast of the American legal system, reaching back to its origins in the Magna Carta and, later, in the English Privy Council, with its power to invalidate legislation. Declaring federal and state laws unconstitutional, of course, is the core of the Supreme Court's authority over this country's legal system, and O'Connor traces the exercise of that authority from the era of Chief Justice John Marshall to *Brown v. Board of Education*. In other chapters, O'Connor profiles Supreme Court titans such as Holmes and Taft, and reviews the long struggle to gain for women the right to vote. Elsewhere, the author suggests reforms for the jury system, extols the benefits of an independent judiciary and offers a graceful tribute to Justice Thurgood Marshall. Canons of ethics prohibit judges from public comment on controversial matters likely to arise in their future cases, and a Supreme Court justice cannot reveal the dynamics of the Court's deliberations. These rules of discretion pervade O'Connor's book. Divisive (and provocative) issues such as abortion, the death penalty or affirmative action are addressed only in the broadest possible generalities. Purged of controversy, O'Connor's book is an engagingly written civics lesson, delivering a warm appreciation of legal history and principles but little light on the issues the Supreme Court confronts today. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. From School Library Journal Adult/High School-Justice O'Connor gives a history of the U.S. judicial system with an emphasis on how the Supreme Court evolved into its present form. For students only dimly aware of the court through a basic civics class and the occasional sensational case highlighted by the media, this title will prove to be enlightening. The book takes on a conversational tone, and it's easy to imagine oneself in a university lecture hall with O'Connor as the (usually) fascinating professor who has her feet firmly planted in the real world. To get the most out of the book, it should be read cover to cover. However, it is also useful for readers who wish commentary on particular aspects of the Supreme Court, historical cases, or personalities. The tone is even, and O'Connor has a kind and often complimentary attitude toward fellow justices past and present. High points are her experiences working with Justice Thurgood Marshall, and her thoughts on women and the law. As a bonus, she includes a glimpse into her views on judicial systems of countries that are undergoing their own painful evolutions, such as the former Soviet bloc. All in all, this is a good book for readers who would like a personable introduction to one of our nation's most powerful institutions. Sheila Shoup, Fairfax County Public Library, VA Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal O'Connor

gets down to the nitty-gritty of her profession. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.