

## **Sandra Day O'Connor**

Justice O'Connor once said that a constitutional judge's initial decisions leave "footprints" that later decisions almost inevitably will follow.

- What footprints do you feel Justice O'Connor has left for the Arizona courts to follow in today?

It is said, when Justice Sandra Day O'Connor joined the Supreme Court of the United States in 1981, the Court gained more than a Justice who, during the next quarter century, would play a major role in determining the direction of the Court's jurisprudence. It gained the services of a woman who would use her influence, coupled with her considerable intellect and energy, to improve justice systems here and internationally.

- What influence do you feel Justice O'Connor had on international courts?
- What impact do you feel Justice O'Connor had on the acceptance of women in the judicial system?

From her rural childhood to her career climb through a profession dominated by men, O'Connor often resorted to practical solutions as she worked within the system. This tendency to moderate, in turn, enhanced her importance in an often-splintered Court.

- What examples of this moderation can you think of in how Justice O'Connor formed her opinions?