



IAALS AND JUSTICE SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

Justice O'Connor retired from the United States Supreme Court in 2006 and committed herself to two things she cares passionately about: judicial independence and civics education.

In 2007, Justice O'Connor received IAALS' inaugural Transparent Courthouse® Award for a lifetime of work to promote excellence in America's courts.

In 2009, when Justice O'Connor wrapped up the "Sandra Day O'Connor Project on the State of the Judiciary" at Georgetown Law School, she launched the *Quality Judges Initiative* at IAALS. She has served for more than five years as the honorary chair of the O'Connor Advisory Committee to the *Quality Judges Initiative*, and she has twice hosted Committee meetings at the United States Supreme Court.

After joining forces with IAALS, Justice O'Connor worked with the O'Connor Advisory Committee to develop what has become known as the O'Connor Judicial Selection Plan. The O'Connor Plan is a four-part recommended process for selecting and retaining state court judges who inspire public trust in our courts and the integrity of their decisions. The Plan calls for a judicial nominating commission to screen applicants and identify the best qualified candidates, appointment by the governor of one of those candidates, broad-based and objective evaluation of judges' performance on the bench, and periodic retention elections in which voters have access to judicial performance evaluation results.



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