

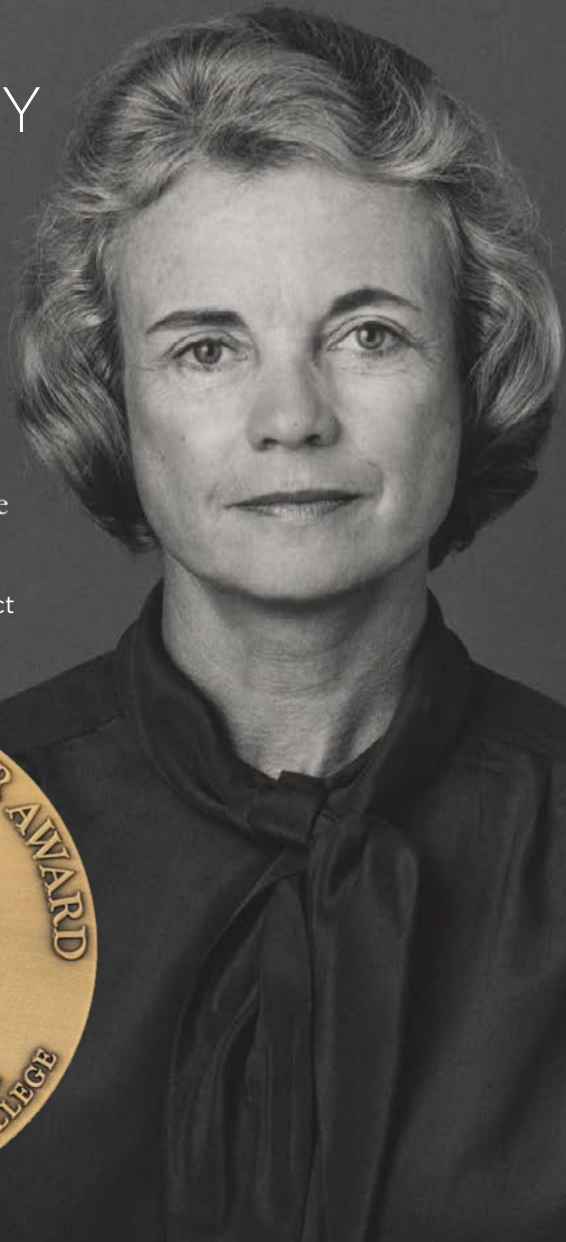
2024 Presentation Ceremony

JUSTICE SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR AWARD

AJEI Appellate Judges
Summit Education Institute

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2024

The Westin Boston Seaport District
Boston, MA



THIS EVENING'S PROGRAM

6:00 PM Reception

6:45 PM Award Ceremony

WELCOME

Robert “Rob” Hunter, Esq.

Board of Trustees Chair, The National Judicial College

INTRODUCTION OF HONOREE

Hon. Benes Z. Aldana (Ret.)

President & CEO, The National Judicial College
([Video Presentation](#))

ACCEPTANCE

Chief Justice Margaret H. Marshall (Ret.)

Former Chief Justice, Massachusetts Supreme
Judicial Court



HONOREE

Hon. Margaret H. Marshall (Ret.)

Former Chief Justice, Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court; Senior Counsel, Choate, Hall & Stewart LLP

Chief Justice Marshall (Ret.), the first woman Chief Justice in the over 300-year history of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to justice, judicial independence, and equality since her childhood in apartheid-era South Africa. A graduate of the University of the Witwatersrand (Johannesburg, South Africa), in 1968 Marshall came to the United States for graduate studies at Harvard (M.Ed.) and Yale (J.D.). For political reasons, she was unable to return to South Africa until the release of Nelson Mandela in 1990. She became a U.S. citizen in 1978.

In Boston, Marshall practiced law and served as president of the Boston Bar Association, advocating for increased diversity on the bench. In 1996, she was appointed to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, having long admired the court for its 1783 decision outlawing slavery.

Chief Justice Marshall gained a national reputation for her landmark decisions and reforms of the Massachusetts court system. She is best known for her groundbreaking opinion in the 2003 *Goodridge v. Department of Public Health* decision, which made Massachusetts the first state to legalize same-sex marriage.

A longstanding advocate for access to justice, she championed innovations to assist self-represented litigants and strengthened pro bono services. She often quoted John Adams and the Massachusetts Declaration of Rights, which guarantees the right “to be tried by judges as free, impartial and independent as the lot of humanity will admit.” Her tenure saw a meticulous overhaul of court management, including the implementation of case time standards. She also oversaw the construction and renovation of courthouses—such as the John Adams Courthouse in Boston—to ensure they are not only shining beacons of history and preservation but are also modernized with public education areas, technology, and accessibility.

Chief Justice Marshall retired from the court in 2010 and currently serves as Senior Counsel at Choate, Hall & Stewart LLP.

Thank you to these organizations and individuals for supporting the Justice Sandra Day O'Connor Award.

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Hon. Gloria Tan, First Justice
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About The National Judicial College

Founded in 1963 and based on the campus of the University of Nevada, Reno since 1964, The National Judicial College remains the only educational institution in the United States that teaches courtroom skills to judges of all types from all over the country, Indian Country and abroad. The categories of judges served by the nonprofit and nonpartisan institution – trial and appellate, limited jurisdiction, administrative law, tribal and military – decide more than 95 percent of cases in the United States.



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