

THE GILDER LEHRMAN  
INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN HISTORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor  
to Honor National History Teacher of the Year October 13**

New York, NY (September 24, 2010)— Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor will honor the 2010 National History Teacher of the Year at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. on October 13, 2010, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History announced today. The National History Teacher of the Year annual award (formerly the Preserve America History Teacher of the Year Award), co-sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, HISTORY™ (The History Channel), and Preserve America (an initiative of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation), recognizes the outstanding American history teacher of year with a \$10,000 prize.

"Justice O'Connor's ongoing commitment to American civics education with an emphasis on reaching students and educators is nothing short of spectacular," says James Basker, president of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. "Her tremendous role in American history and her continuing passion for furthering education inspires all and will no doubt make the 2010 National History Teacher of the Year celebration a remarkable experience for our honoree and all in attendance. We are all very grateful to her."

The National History Teacher of the Year Award program honors the country's best American history teachers in elementary, middle, and high school. In 2010, middle and high school teachers were honored. Winners were selected in each of the fifty states, Washington, D.C., Department of Defense Schools, and U.S. Territories. From these fifty-plus state winners, the 2010 national award winner was chosen.

Where:	School Without Walls, 2130 G St. NW, Washington, DC, 20037
When:	October 13, 2010
Photo Opportunity:	4:00 pm
Ceremony:	4:10 pm
Reception:	5:00 pm

**Members of the press interested in covering the October 13 award ceremony in Washington, D.C. should contact Chelsea Van der Gaag, Marketing and Communications Manager at the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, at [vandergaag@gilderlehrman.org](mailto:vandergaag@gilderlehrman.org) or 646-366-9666 x11.**

***About Justice Sandra Day O'Connor***

Sandra Day O'Connor (Retired), Associate Justice, was born in El Paso, Texas, March 26, 1930. She married John Jay O'Connor III in 1952 and has three sons - Scott, Brian, and Jay. She received her B.A. and LL.B. from Stanford University. She served as Deputy County Attorney of San Mateo County, California from 1952-

1953 and as a civilian attorney for Quartermaster Market Center, Frankfurt, Germany from 1954–1957. From 1958–1960, she practiced law in Maryvale, Arizona, and served as Assistant Attorney General of Arizona from 1965–1969. She was appointed to the Arizona State Senate in 1969 and was subsequently reelected to two two-year terms. In 1975 she was elected Judge of the Maricopa County Superior Court and served until 1979, when she was appointed to the Arizona Court of Appeals. President Reagan nominated her as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, and she took her seat September 25, 1981. Justice O'Connor retired from the Supreme Court on January 31, 2006.

### ***About the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History***

Founded in 1994, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History is a nonprofit organization improving and enriching American history education through a wide range of programs and resources for students, teachers, scholars, and history enthusiasts throughout the nation. In addition to administering the State and National History Teacher of the Year Award, Gilder Lehrman creates and works closely with history-focused schools; organizes summer seminars and development programs for teachers; produces print and digital publications and traveling exhibitions; hosts lectures by eminent historians; and offers national book prizes and fellowships for scholars to work in the Gilder Lehrman Collection as well as other renowned archives. Gilder Lehrman hosts [www.gilderlehrman.org](http://www.gilderlehrman.org), serving as the gateway to American history online and featuring the quarterly online journal *History Now*, designed specifically for K-12 teachers and students.

### ***About HISTORY™***

HISTORY™ (The History Channel) and HISTORY HD™ are the leading destinations for revealing, award-winning original non-fiction series and event-driven specials that connect history with viewers in an informative, immersive and entertaining manner across multiple platforms. Programming covers a diverse variety of historical genres ranging from military history to contemporary history, technology to natural history, as well as science, archaeology and pop culture. Among the network's program offerings are hit series such as *Ax Men*, *Battle 360*, *How The Earth Was Made*, *Ice Road Truckers*, *Pawn Stars* and *The Universe*, as well as acclaimed specials including *102 Minutes That Changed America*, *1968 with Tom Brokaw*, *King, Life After People*, *Nostradamus: 2012*, *Star Wars: The Legacy Revealed* and *WWII in HD*. HISTORY has earned four Peabody Awards, seven Primetime Emmy® Awards, 12 News & Documentary Emmy® Awards and received the prestigious Governor's Award from the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences for the network's Save Our History® campaign dedicated to historic preservation and history education. *Take a Veteran to School Day* is the network's latest initiative connecting America's schools and communities with veterans from all wars. The HISTORY web site, located at [www.history.com](http://www.history.com), is the definitive historical online source that delivers entertaining and informative content featuring broadband video, interactive timelines, maps, games, podcasts and more.

### ***About Preserve America***

Preserve America is a national initiative in cooperation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation that encourages and supports community efforts to preserve and enjoy our priceless cultural and natural heritage. The goals of the program include a greater shared knowledge about the nation's past, strengthened regional identities and local pride, increased local participation in preserving the country's cultural and natural heritage assets, and support for the economic vitality of our communities. Detailed information on all aspects of this initiative can be found at [www.preserveamerica.gov](http://www.preserveamerica.gov).