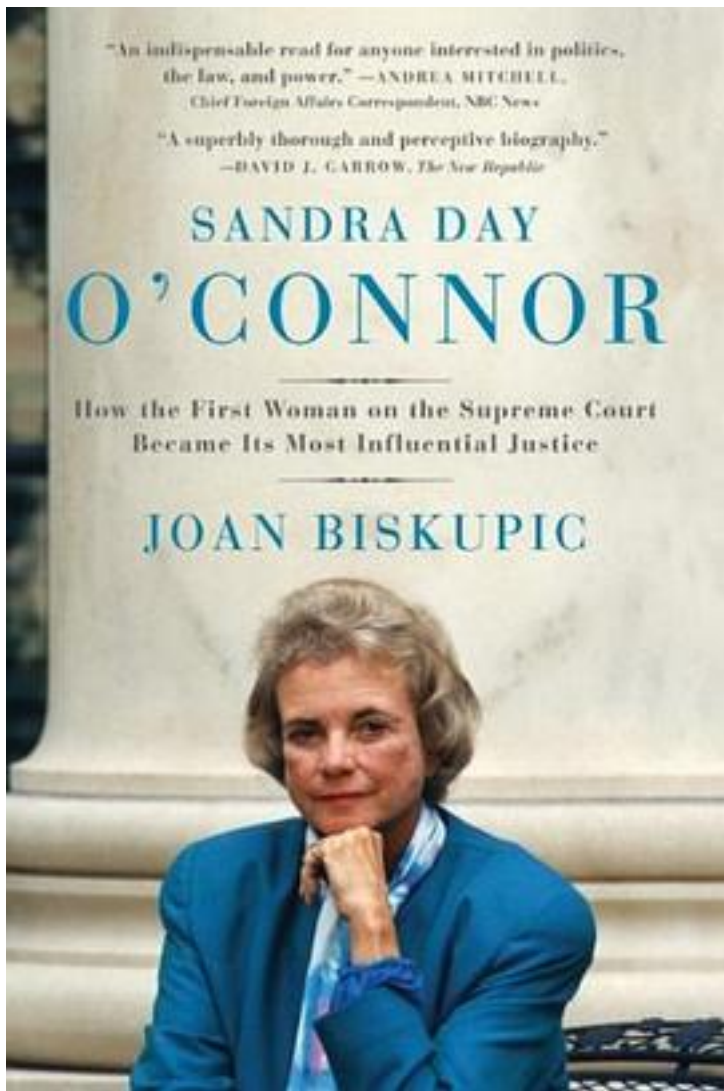


Sandra Day O'Connor



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著者:Joan Biskupic

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Sandra Day O'Connor, America's first woman justice, became the axis on which the Supreme Court turned. She was called the most powerful woman in America, and it was often said that to gauge the direction of American law, one need look only to O'Connor's vote. Then, just one year short of a quarter century on the bench, she surprised her colleagues and the nation by announcing her retirement. Drawing on information from once-private papers of the justices, hundreds of interviews with legal and political insiders, and the insight gained from nearly two decades of covering the Supreme Court, Joan Biskupic examines O'Connor's remarkable career, providing an in-depth account of her transformation from tentative jurist to confident architect of American law. The portrait that emerges is of a complex and multifaceted woman: lawyer, politician, legislator, and justice, as well as wife, mother, A-list society hostess, and competitive athlete. To all appearances, she was the polite lady in pearls, handbag on her arm. But in the back rooms of politics and the law, she was a determined, focused strategist. O'Connor was the feminist who, rather than rebel against the male-dominated system, worked from within -- and succeeded. As Biskupic demonstrates, Justice O'Connor became much more than a "first." During her twenty-four-year tenure, she wrote the decisions on some of the most controversial social battles of our time. O'Connor's tie-breaking opinions on issues such as abortion rights, affirmative action, the death penalty, and religious freedom will have a lasting effect far into the future. O'Connor also cast one of the five votes that cut off the Florida recounts and allowed George W. Bush to take the White House in the 2000 contested presidential election. With an eye to the American people and a keen sense of public attitudes, she worked behind the scenes to shape the law and transform the legal standards by which future cases will be decided. From O'Connor's isolated upbringing on the Lazy B ranch in Arizona through her time as a state legislator to her rise as a justice -- along the way confronting her own personal challenges and crises, including breast cancer -- Biskupic presents a vivid, astute depiction of the justice -- and of the woman beneath the black robe. In so doing, Sandra Day O'Connor also provides an unprecedented look inside the exclusive, famously secretive High Court.

作者介绍:

美国作家、记者。从1989年起任《国会季刊》、《华盛顿邮报》、《今日美国》法律记者，报道聚焦于美国联邦最高法院。1991年获艾维特·麦金利·德克森（Everett McKinley Dirksen）杰出报道奖。她还是美国公共广播公司“华盛顿之周”等节目的定期嘉宾。

琼·比斯丘皮克在乔治敦大学法律中心获得法学博士学位，目前和丈夫、女儿定居于华盛顿特区。

目录:

[Sandra Day O'Connor_下载链接1_](#)

标签

传记

评论

[Sandra Day O'Connor_ 下载链接1](#)

书评

美国是一个法治国家，而且是一个法治发达的国家，而美国联邦最高法院在美国整个法律体制中发挥着重要的作用。美国著名法学家德沃金曾经著有《法律帝国》一书，在这个法律帝国中，美国联邦最高法院是最高殿堂，而美国联邦最高法院的法官就是高居于这个殿堂之上的国王。美国作家...

读完《九人》之后，对奥康纳和苏特最有好感：两者被提名时，都被舆论质疑资历不足，上任后，又都或多或少地背离了党派固有的意识形态，被共和党视为“叛徒”，然而当我读到一起起宪法判例时，却感觉他们相比其他大法官受个人偏见影响程度更小，尽最大可能做到了公平持正。因此...

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