

IN 1992 SOTOMAYOR WAS APPOINTED TO THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, ACHIEVING A GOAL SHE SET AS A 10-YEAR-OLD.



DESPITE INCREASING HARDSHIP IN HER NEIGHBORHOOD, SOTOMAYOR GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL, SHE GOT INTO PRINCETON UNIVERSITY, WHERE SHE STUDIED HISTORY AND GRADUATED WITH HONORS.



SOTOMAYOR THEN EARNED A LAW DEGREE FROM YALE. SHE SERVED AS AN ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY IN MANHATTAN, THEN LATER WENT INTO PRIVATE PRACTICE.

IN 1998 SOTOMAYOR WAS APPOINTED TO THE U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT.



I DON'T BELIEVE WE SHOULD BEND THE CONSTITUTION UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE. IT SAYS WHAT IT SAYS. WE SHOULD DO HONOR TO IT.

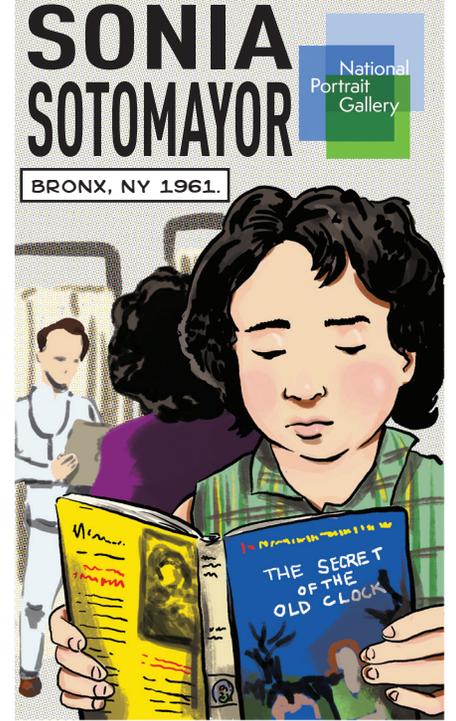


AS A SUPREME COURT JUSTICE, SOTOMAYOR AND THE OTHER JUSTICES STUDY THE CONSTITUTION TO, IN HER WORDS, "SOLVE ARGUMENTS BY GIVING HIS OR HER OPINION"

ON MAY 26, 2009, PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA ANNOUNCED HIS NOMINATION OF SOTOMAYOR TO THE SUPREME COURT. THE NOMINATION WAS CONFIRMED BY THE U.S. SENATE IN AUGUST 2009 BY A VOTE OF 68 TO 31, MAKING SOTOMAYOR THE FIRST LATINA SUPREME COURT JUSTICE IN U.S. HISTORY.



VISITORS TO THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY CAN SEE SONIA SOTOMAYOR'S LIKENESS IN NELSON SHANKS'S PORTRAIT *THE FOUR JUSTICES*, A TRIBUTE TO THE FOUR FEMALE JUSTICES WHO HAVE SERVED ON THE SUPREME COURT.



SONIA SOTOMAYOR

National Portrait Gallery

BRONX, NY 1961.

BY EVAN KEELING