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O'Connor: from high court to UA classroom

Just-retired justice to teach a course at college of law

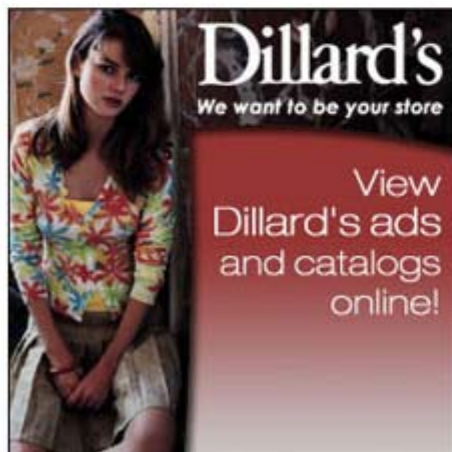
By C.J. Karamargin

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

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Sandra Day O'Connor retired, but she isn't wasting any time looking for a rocking chair. In the span of two days the self-described Arizona "cowgirl" will make the transition from associate justice on the U.S. Supreme Court to lecturer at the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law. On Thursday O'Connor begins teaching a two-week, one-credit course about the institution on which she served since 1981, when President Ronald Reagan picked her as the first woman justice. O'Connor's nearly quarter-century on the court ended Tuesday with the swearing-in of Samuel Alito as her successor. O'Connor, 75, will co-teach the course with RonNell

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Andersen-Jones, a visiting faculty member who once clerked for her. More than a third of the college's student body — 178 future lawyers — have enrolled in the course, said college spokeswoman Nancy Stanley. "It will demystify the court process for a lot of students," said Stanley. With its focus on court procedure and decision-making, O'Connor's course will be different from the course on court history that the late Chief Justice William Rehnquist taught for 11 years at the college, Stanley said. "This is really her own," she said. Rehnquist, a former Phoenix lawyer, died of thyroid cancer in September. O'Connor was raised on a ranch in Southeastern Arizona with her sister, Pima County Supervisor Ann

Day. She served in the Legislature and as a state judge before going to the high court.

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O'Connor

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