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KEY ARIZONA CASES

The Grand Canyon state seems to have had more than its share of high-profile cases at the Supreme Court. At least three are coming up this term. Here are a few of the past cases that have made headlines.

Horne v. Flores

Date decided: 6/25/2009

What happened: Court upheld Arizona plan for teaching English language learners

Arizona v. Gant

Date decided: 4/21/2009

What happened: Justices narrowed warrantless search of cars

Ring v. Arizona

Date decided: 6/24/2002

What happened: Only a jury can find facts to warrant death sentence

Arizonans for Official English v. Arizona

Date decided: 3/3/1997

What happened: Justices doubt proponents of ballot initiative have standing to defend it.

Arizona v. Fulminante

Date decided: 3/26/1991

What happened: Finding of coerced confession can reverse death sentence

Bates v. State Bar of Arizona

Date decided: 6/27/1977

What happened: Struck down ban on lawyer advertising

Miranda v. Arizona

Date decided: 6/13/1966

What happened: Firmly established right of criminal suspect to remain silent

ARIZONA'S SUPREME COURT PLAYERS

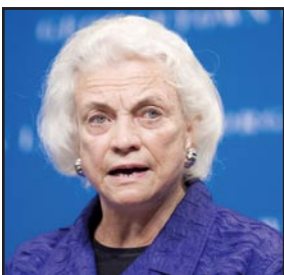
Two recent Supreme Court justices and a solicitor general have had strong Arizona ties.



Chief Justice William Rehnquist

On the court: 1972-2005

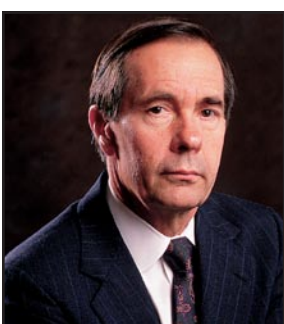
Born in Wisconsin, Rehnquist (1924-2005) moved to Phoenix in 1953, where he spent much of his professional life before going on the Court. To honor Rehnquist, the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law established The William H. Rehnquist Center on the Constitutional Structures of Government in 2006.



Justice Sandra Day O'Connor

On the court: 1981-2006

A Texas native, O'Connor spent much of her life in Arizona, growing up on a ranch near Duncan, Ariz. and in adulthood, serving in the state Senate and as a state court trial and appellate judge. Arizona State University's law school is now named the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law. And the adobe house in Paradise Valley that Justice O'Connor and her husband built in 1958 is being reassembled in Tempe near the Arizona Historical Society Museum as the O'Connor House and Center for Civic Discourse.



Solicitor General Rex Lee

In office: 1981-1985

Born in St. John's Arizona, Lee (1935-1996) was a cousin to Arizona political powerhouses Mo and Stewart Udall. A graduate of University of Chicago Law School, Lee clerked for Justice Byron White. He practiced at the Phoenix firm Jennings, Strouss & Salmon. In 1972 he became the first dean of Brigham Young University's law school, and then served in the Ford and Reagan administrations. He argued 59 cases as Ronald Reagan's first SG and in private practice at Sidley Austin. There he was credited as an early pioneer in building a private practice focused on Supreme Court advocacy.