

THE PROGRESSIVE FORUM

Great Minds, Great Answers

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Press Protocols:

- All print and electronic media representatives sitting through entire presentation must have tickets.
- Request press tickets by Thursday January 17 at 3:00 pm. Email credentials to info@ProgressiveForumHouston.org. They will be held for pick up at the press table.
- All media must arrive by 7:00 pm. Program starts at 7:30, doors will not be open after program starts.
- All media representatives must register at media table in lobby at Texas Avenue doors, presenting credentials.
- All TV crews must use portable, shoulder cameras. No tripods allowed. Camera position is at rear orchestra at all times.
- Electronic media may plug into the multibox at rear orchestra.
- Still photography will be allowed 60 seconds in front of the podium when Justice Sotomayor first appears at the podium.
- No flash photography at any time.
- Media is only allowed in grand foyer and Cullen auditorium.
- Justice Sotomayor is not available for interviews in advance or on event day.
- All press inquiries and communication must go through only The Progressive Forum.

Sonia Sotomayor at the Progressive Forum January 22, 2013



United States Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor will speak at The Progressive Forum on Tuesday, January 22, 2013, at the Wortham Center, Cullen Theater at 7:30. The event marks the launch of her first book, *My Beloved World*. She will sign books and greet fans at the end of the evening.

Tickets range from \$14 to \$54. A limited number of \$94 tickets are available which includes a pre-event reception at 6:15 PM and center-front seating. Tickets are available at ProgressiveForumHouston.org or by calling 832-251-0706. There is no physical box office except at the theater on event night.

In 2009, Sonia Sotomayor became the first Hispanic and third woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. Nominated to fill the seat of retiring Justice David Souter, she is the nation's 111th justice.

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At The Progressive Forum, she will discuss her first book, *My Beloved World*. Her memoir is a candid, personal story of self-discovery and the possibilities of America as seen through her “still-astonished eyes.” Each ticket holder will receive a copy of her book at the event.

Justice Sotomayor was born in 1954 in the Bronx in New York City. Often described as an example of the American dream, her parents came to New York City from Puerto Rico during World War II. Her mother served in the Women’s Auxiliary Corps during the war. Her father was a factory worker who died when Justice Sotomayor was only nine. She and her brother were raised by her mother, a nurse, in a public housing project. As a child, she was a fan of the Nancy Drew children’s mystery stories. She credits those books and later the Perry Mason television show with setting her on the path to practice the law.

Justice Sotomayor graduated as valedictorian of her class at Cardinal Spellman High School in New York. She went to Princeton University on a full scholarship where she graduated summa cum laude and was co-recipient of the M. Taylor Pyne Prize, the highest prize Princeton awards to an undergraduate. While attending Yale Law School, she was editor of the *Yale Law Journal* and managing editor of the *Yale Studies in World Public Order*.

Justice Sotomayor has worked in nearly every level of the judicial system, beginning her career as an assistant district attorney of New York. She also worked in the private sector at the law firm of Pavia & Harcourt until becoming a judge. Nominated by George H.W. Bush, she served six years on the U.S. District Court for the Southern New York. Only in her thirties, she was the youngest judge in the Southern District. In one of her most celebrated cases, she issued an injunction against Major League Baseball owners, effectively ending the strike that caused the 1994 World Series to be cancelled. In 1997, Bill Clinton nominated Justice Sotomayor to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit where she served 11 years.

President Obama nominated her to the Supreme Court in May of 2009. She was confirmed by the Senate in August of that year.

The Progressive Forum is the only civic speaker organization in America dedicated expressly to progressive values. It’s a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization whose purpose is to enrich our democracy and culture by striving to present the greatest minds from all the fields of human endeavor, the sciences and the humanities as well as politics and public affairs, great minds it believes are advancing the success of the individual, our species, and life on earth.

The Progressive Forum originated a new model for civic speaker organizations in Houston by presenting speakers in the city’s finest theater unlike the hotel luncheons of traditional organizations. It was designed to present the world’s intellectual stars to large audiences in a high quality, theatrical experience. The Progressive Forum markets region-wide to sell tickets to the public in open events.

The Progressive Forum also originated a unique innovation in public media, reaching a

worldwide audience by presenting the great minds online. The Progressive Forum is America's only civic speaker group providing website pages with event video on its past speakers. These pages are in-depth and comprehensive and include video, biographical sketches, news updates, related links, and reading lists. Most of the videos are longer than common internet fare; however they're broken down into segments and short clips on interesting topics. The website is intended to serve as a source of inspiration for scholars and seekers, a source of perpetual enrichment long after the curtains have closed on the theatrical event.

In seven years, the Progressive Forum has produced 39 theater events.

Speakers have included Michelle Alexander, Karen Armstrong, Lester Brown, Ken Burns, Gail Collins, Richard Dawkins, Jared Diamond, Sylvia Earle, Elizabeth Edwards, Tim Flannery, Jane Goodall, Al Gore, Brian Greene, James Hansen, Seymour Hersh, Arianna Huffington, Molly Ivins, Garrison Keillor, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., Joe Klein, George Lakoff, Richard Leakey, William McDonough, Bill McKibben, Bill Moyers, Nancy Pelosi, T. Boone Pickens, Michael Pollan, Robert Redford, Frank Rich, Sir Ken Robinson, Eric Schlosser, Anna Deavere Smith, George Soros, Gloria Steinem, John Paul Stevens, Alice Waters, Larry Wilmore, and Edward O. Wilson.

Founder and president, Randall R. Morton, owned Randall Morton International, Inc. for 36 years, an advertising and public relations agency whose clients included the leading oil equipment companies in the U.S., Japan, Mexico, and Europe. Morton co-created and co-hosted the Oilfield Breakfast Forum from 1994 to 2003, another speaker series which is still the largest in the oil industry. He earned a B.A. degree in government from Georgetown University, and attained a national ranking of three as a pass receiver in nonscholarship football. While at Georgetown, he served as an issue writer for the Democratic National Committee. Later, he earned a second B.A. in communications from Tulsa University, serving the following year as adjunct professor teaching advertising design and copy. He is married to Suzanne Longley, formerly prima ballerina of the Houston Ballet and now owner of Suzanne Longley Landscapes. They have two children who are in college.

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