

Sonia Sotomayor

Quotes

*People, Thinking, Law, Judging, Believe, School, Views, Jobs, Years, Book,
Community, Children, Writing, Mother, Challenges, Growing Up, Father, Party,
Real, Justice*

Success is its own reward, but failure is a great teacher too, and not to be feared.

~Sonia Sotomayor

As you discover what strength you can draw from your community in this world from which it stands apart, look outward as well as inward. Build bridges instead of walls.

~Sonia Sotomayor

I do know one thing about me: I don't measure myself by others' expectations or let others define my worth.

~Sonia Sotomayor

Experience has taught me that you cannot value dreams according to the odds of their coming true. Their real value is in stirring within us the will to aspire.

~Sonia Sotomayor

I would hope that a wise Latina woman with the richness of her experiences would more often than not reach a better conclusion than a white male who hasn't lived that life.

~Sonia Sotomayor

Remember that no one succeeds alone. Never walk alone in your future paths.

~Sonia Sotomayor

Whether born from experience or inherent physiological or cultural differences...our gender and national origins may and will make a difference in our judging.

~Sonia Sotomayor

Until we reach equality in education, we can't reach equality in the larger society.

~Sonia Sotomayor

The Latina in me is an ember that blazes forever.

~Sonia Sotomayor

There are no bystanders in life [...] Our humanity makes us each a part of something greater than ourselves.

~Sonia Sotomayor

I have come to believe that in order to thrive, a child must have at least one adult in her life who shows her unconditional love, respect, and confidence.

~Sonia Sotomayor

In every position that I've been in, there have been naysayers who don't believe I'm qualified or who don't believe I can do the work. And I feel a special responsibility to prove them wrong.

~Sonia Sotomayor

I came to accept during my freshman year that many of the gaps in my knowledge and understanding were simply limits of class and cultural background, not lack of aptitude or application as I'd feared.

~Sonia Sotomayor

A role model in the flesh provides more than inspiration; his or her very existence is confirmation of possibilities one may have every reason to doubt, saying, "Yes, someone like me can do this."

~Sonia Sotomayor

My job as a prosecutor is to do justice. And justice is served when a guilty man is convicted and an innocent man is not.

~Sonia Sotomayor

Don't mistake politeness for lack of strength.

~Sonia Sotomayor

The challenges I have faced - among them material poverty, chronic illness, and being raised by a single mother - are not uncommon, but neither have they kept me from uncommon achievements.

~Sonia Sotomayor

To me, lawyering is the height of service - and being involved in this profession is a gift.

~Sonia Sotomayor

We apply law to facts. We don't apply feelings to facts.

~Sonia Sotomayor

We educated, privileged lawyers have a professional and moral duty to represent the underrepresented in our society, to ensure that justice exists for all, both legal and economic justice.

~Sonia Sotomayor

I have never had to face anything that could overwhelm the native optimism and stubborn perseverance I was blessed with.

~Sonia Sotomayor

Pretending to be a princess is fun, but it is definitely not a career.

~Sonia Sotomayor

I strive never to forget the real world consequences of my decisions on individuals, businesses and government.

~Sonia Sotomayor

You know, failure hurts. Any kind of failure stings. If you live in the sting, you will - undoubtedly - fail. My way of getting past the sting is to say no, I'm just not going to let this get me down.

~Sonia Sotomayor

I am an ordinary person who has been blessed with extraordinary opportunities and experiences. Today is one of those experiences.

~Sonia Sotomayor

There are cultural biases built into testing, and that was one of the motivations for the concept of affirmative action - to try to balance out those effects.

~Sonia Sotomayor

Even though Article IV of the Constitution says that treaties are the 'supreme law of the land,' in most instances they're not even law.

~Sonia Sotomayor

I do believe that every person has an equal opportunity to be a good and wise judge regardless of their background or life experiences.

~Sonia Sotomayor

I don't believe we should bend the Constitution under any circumstance. It says what it says. We should do honor to it.

~Sonia Sotomayor

You can't be a minority in this society without having someone express disapproval about affirmative action.

~Sonia Sotomayor

When I call myself an affirmative action baby, I'm talking about the essence of what affirmative action was when it started.

~Sonia Sotomayor

You can't dream unless you know what the possibilities are.

~Sonia Sotomayor

I firmly believe in the rule of law as the foundation for all of our basic rights.

~Sonia Sotomayor

The President [Barack Obama] had suggested that I not watch the news during the confirmation process. I assiduously followed his advice.

~Sonia Sotomayor

The dynamism of any diverse community depends not only on the diversity itself but on promoting a sense of belonging among those who formerly would have been considered and felt themselves outsiders.

~Sonia Sotomayor

Although I grew up in very modest and challenging circumstances, I consider my life to be immeasurably rich.

~Sonia Sotomayor

I am a New Yorker, and 7:00 A.M. is a civilized hour to finish the day, not to start it.

~Sonia Sotomayor

My judicial philosophy is fidelity to the law.

~Sonia Sotomayor

If you're poor, you don't often live near a good school. If it's a competitive public school program, our kids are not prepared to enter those programs.

~Sonia Sotomayor

I'm young at heart. I'm young in spirit, and I'm still adventurous.

~Sonia Sotomayor

A surplus of effort could overcome a deficit of confidence.

~Sonia Sotomayor

Each time I see a split infinitive, an inconsistent tense structure or the unnecessary use of the passive voice, I blister.

~Sonia Sotomayor

I stand on the shoulders of countless people, yet there is one extraordinary person who is my life aspiration. That person is my mother, Celina Sotomayor.

~Sonia Sotomayor

I savor life. When you have anything that threatens life... it prods you into stepping back and really appreciating the value of life and taking from it what you can.

~Sonia Sotomayor

You make your life choices understanding that you might and do have to work harder to prove yourself.

~Sonia Sotomayor

[On the desert:] The wind was a constant, and when you paid attention, it seemed like the earth's own breathing.

~Sonia Sotomayor

We have to look and ensure that we're paying attention to what we're doing, so that we don't reflexively institute processes and procedures that exclude people without thought.

~Sonia Sotomayor

Personal experiences affect the facts that judges choose to see.

~Sonia Sotomayor

I was fifteen years old when I understood how it is that things break down: people can't imagine someone else's point of view.

~Sonia Sotomayor

I didn't know I had a sense of limitation until I got into the greater world.

~Sonia Sotomayor

I have ventured to write more intimately about my personal life than is customary for a member of the Supreme Court, and with that candor comes a measure of vulnerability.

~Sonia Sotomayor

If I go home, get a gun, come back and shoot you, that may not be legal under New York law because you would have alternative ways to defend.

~Sonia Sotomayor

Without question, so many people, throughout my life, never think of Puerto Rico as part of the United States.

~Sonia Sotomayor

Don't be shy about making a teacher of any willing party who knows what he or she is doing.

~Sonia Sotomayor

Sometimes, even if there was no useful advice to give, I saw that listening still helped.

~Sonia Sotomayor

Some people choose not to engage the battle and then don't seek out that kind of success. And others do.

~Sonia Sotomayor

It really takes growing up to treasure the specialness of being different.

~Sonia Sotomayor

This wealth of experiences, personal and professional, have helped me appreciate the variety of perspectives that present themselves in every

case that I hear.

~Sonia Sotomayor

I think being a Catholic made me a better person. It taught me how to choose good over evil, and how to be a more caring human being.

~Sonia Sotomayor

I am growing to love DC. This [Washington] is a beautiful city. I think every citizen should come see their capital. A lot of the museums are free, there are restaurants that are reasonably priced.

~Sonia Sotomayor

In the wider context, what I believe I was - the point I was making was that our life experiences do permit us to see some facts and understand them more easily than others.

~Sonia Sotomayor

Diabetes taught me discipline.

~Sonia Sotomayor

It's not the heart that compels conclusions in cases, it's the law.

~Sonia Sotomayor

I've spent my whole life learning how to do things that were hard for me.

~Sonia Sotomayor

Although wisdom is built on life experiences, the mere accumulation of years guarantees nothing.

~Sonia Sotomayor

There are no bystanders in this life.

~Sonia Sotomayor

The first case I sat on... was Citizens United. Talk about being thrown in. Needless to say, if I was scared before, I was terrified.

~Sonia Sotomayor

When you come from a background like mine, where you're entering worlds that are so different than your own, you have to be afraid.

~Sonia Sotomayor

I am growing to love DC. But the core of Sonia is a New Yorker.

~Sonia Sotomayor

Oh my God, I don't think you can say anyone looks forward to controversy.

~Sonia Sotomayor

My mom loved the book [My beloved world] and she said to me, 'I never knew you had done so much.'

~Sonia Sotomayor

The idea of a commonwealth relationship is alien to most people but I think that's true generally.

~Sonia Sotomayor

This is, for an accomplished Latino, an accomplished African American, an accomplished anyone who disproves stereotypes, it's a constant battle in your life.

~Sonia Sotomayor

I am willing to bet that there are some Puerto Ricans who don't know about [their status].

~Sonia Sotomayor

All judges have cases that touch our passions deeply, but we all struggle constantly with remaining impartial.

~Sonia Sotomayor

I've never had my dexterity called into question, but I think if that was ever the case, I could acquit myself by tossing a ball back and forth horizontally between my hands.

~Sonia Sotomayor

When you marry young, you run the risk that you'll grow in different directions.

~Sonia Sotomayor

In my experience when a friend unloaded about a boyfriend or spouse, the listener soaked up the complaint and remembered it long after the speaker had forgiven the offense.

~Sonia Sotomayor

It is our responsibility to explain to the public how an often unpredictable system of justice is one that serves a productive, civilized, but always evolving, society.

~Sonia Sotomayor

I got a label because I was Hispanic and a woman and [therefore] I had to be liberal.

~Sonia Sotomayor

I was aware that my nomination was drawing a lot of attention, particularly in the Latino world, not just in Puerto Rico. It was touching.

~Sonia Sotomayor

I think there's a large segment of the mainland population that does not really understand the number of territories that are part of the United States.

~Sonia Sotomayor

I am eternally grateful to all of the Latino groups outside of the Puerto Rican community, but including the Puerto-Rican community, who came to support me during the process [of nomination].

~Sonia Sotomayor

I am a very spiritual person. Maybe not traditionally religious in terms of Sunday Mass every week, that sort of thing.

~Sonia Sotomayor

I think that even someone who got into an institution through affirmative action could prove they were qualified by what they accomplished there.

~Sonia Sotomayor

The best I could say about third grade was that it was a more or less continuous state of dread.

~Sonia Sotomayor

You can only stay connected if you feel connected.

~Sonia Sotomayor

Much of the uncertainty of law is not an unfortunate accident: it is of immense social value.

~Sonia Sotomayor

People who live in difficult circumstances need to know that happy endings are possible. Page 1.

~Sonia Sotomayor

I had many reasons for writing memoir but among them was the hope that every Latino child and adult would find something familiar in it.

~Sonia Sotomayor

Same way I have my entire life. Keep my family and friends close. My

Latino friends close. I visit the island [Puerto Rico] as often as I humanly can.

~Sonia Sotomayor

If your child marches to a different beat, a different drummer, you might just have to go along with that music. Help them achieve what's important to them.

~Sonia Sotomayor

The task of a judge is not to make the law - it is to apply the law.

~Sonia Sotomayor

I come to every case with an open mind. Every case is new to me.

~Sonia Sotomayor

I have never, ever focused on the negative of things. I always look at the positive.

~Sonia Sotomayor

I hope in my book [My Beloved World], that the sense that I really feel connected comes through.

~Sonia Sotomayor

I do think there is a value in the services of judges for long periods of time.

~Sonia Sotomayor

I'm a New Yorker, and I jaywalk with the best of them.

~Sonia Sotomayor

No matter how liberal I am, I'm still outraged by crimes of violence. Regardless of whether I can sympathize with the causes that lead these individuals to do these crimes, the effects are outrageous.

~Sonia Sotomayor

I wouldn't approach the issue of judging in the way the president does. Judges can't rely on what's in their heart. It's not the heart that compels conclusions in cases. It's the law.

~Sonia Sotomayor

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