PRESS RELEASE

U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor to speak at the University of Alaska Fairbanks

U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor will speak in Fairbanks, Sunday, August 14, as part of the University of Alaska Fairbanks’ Summer Sessions & Lifelong Learning. A Conversation with Justice Sonia Sotomayor will be held in the Davis Concert Hall at 4:00 PM

Summer Sessions Director Michelle Bartlett said Tuesday she had been working to invite the Justice to Fairbanks for several months. “She is a very busy woman. But the stars aligned last week, and we are thrilled to have the Justice here in August.”

Bartlett said it continues a Summer Session & Lifelong Learning tradition of drawing on key figures of our community and country to share their stories. She pointed to the long running Legacy Series that showcases distinguished UAF alumni and famed feminist journalist and speaker Gloria Steinem who appeared on the UAF campus last June.

Interim Chancellor Mike Powers is very enthusiastic about Justice Sotomayor’s visit. "We at UAF are honored to host such an inspiring advocate of civil rights, and equally delighted she graciously accepted Michelle's offer to visit our campus and to meet our community."

Justice Sotomayor was born in Bronx, New York, on June 25, 1954. She earned a B.A. in 1976 from Princeton University, graduating summa cum laude and receiving the university's highest academic honor. In 1979, she earned a J.D. from Yale Law School where she served as an editor of the Yale Law Journal. She thereafter served as Assistant District Attorney in the New York County District Attorney's Office from 1979–1984. She then litigated international commercial matters in New York City at Pavia & Harcourt, where she was an associate and then partner from 1984–1992. In 1991, President George H.W. Bush nominated her to the U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York, and she served in that role from 1992–1998. She then served as a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit from 1998–2009. President Barack Obama nominated her as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court on May 26, 2009, and she assumed this role August 8, 2009.

Justice Sotomayor is the first Hispanic U.S. Supreme Court Justice. She is also the author of a bestselling memoir My Beloved World that received critical praise when it was published in 2013.

Summer Session Director Bartlett said details are still being worked out but the public will be able to submit questions for her in advance of her talk on the Summer Sessions & Lifelong Learning website www.uaf.edu/summer.

For more information contact Summer Sessions & Lifelong Learning, 907-474-4021 or summer@alaska.edu