



SARAH WEDDINGTON

Attorney, Professor, Speaker & Writer

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Texas Attorney, Sarah Weddington, is nationally known for her legal work, her government service, and her expertise regarding leadership. She graduated from The University of Texas School of Law in 1967. From 1967 to 1969, she was Assistant Reporter for the American Bar Foundation Special Committee on the Reevaluation of Ethical Standards, which wrote the "Code of Professional Responsibility" later adopted by the American Bar Association and most state bar groups. She was later certified by the State Bar of Texas as a family law specialist.

In her first book, *A Question of Choice*, she detailed the landmark *Roe v. Wade* case, which she successfully argued before the United States Supreme Court in 1973. She is thought to be the youngest person ever to win a case before the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1972, she was the first woman elected from Austin, the state capital, to the Texas House of Representatives. She served three terms before becoming the U.S. Department of Agriculture's General Counsel in 1977, where she supervised over 200 attorneys. From 1978 to 1981, she served as Assistant to President Jimmy Carter, directing the Administration's work on women's issues and appointments—including federal judicial appointments—and organized a series of information sessions for top state leaders. As Director of the Texas Office of State-Federal Relations from 1983 to 1985, she was the chief lobbyist in Washington D.C. for the state.

Her ABA appointments include: first woman appointed to the Joint Conference of Representatives of the ABA

and AMA, 1971-1979; member of the Standing Committee on Lawyers in Government, 1979-1981; member of the Standing Committee on National Conference Groups, 1979-1985; member of the Standing Committee on Association Communications, 1985-1990, where she headed the ABA Subcommittee that planned and directed Law Day activities; member of the Individual Rights and Responsibilities Section, 1993-1994; member of the Special Committee on Funding the Justice System, 1994-1995; and a member of the Council of the ABA section of Individual Rights and Responsibilities, 2004-present.

A highly sought-after speaker for state bar conventions, she has appeared all over the U.S. She has spoken to the ABA Law Students Section, to the State Bar of Texas Professional Development Program, and to numerous law schools and attorney organizations.

A founding member of the Foundation for Women's Resources, she has been integral in all of its activities, including the acclaimed *Leadership Texas* and *Leadership America* programs and creation of The Women's Museum: An Institute for the Future, which opened in Dallas in September 2000. She is featured as one of 39 in the "Unforgettable Women" exhibit in the Record Breakers case with Babe Didrikson Zaharias and Amelia Earhart.

In 2004, she was a featured speaker for the March for Women's Lives in Washington, D.C. In 2003, she was featured in *TIME* Magazine's "80 Days that Changed the World" for the *Roe v. Wade* decision. In 2001, she was presented the *Speaking Out for Justice Award* by the American Association of University Women. In 2000, *Texas Lawyer* named her as "One of the Most Influential Lawyers of the 20th Century," and the *Houston Chronicle* named her as one of "100 Tall Texans - Those who left their mark on Texas and the rest of the world in the 20th Century." She was also named a "Face of the Century" by the *San Antonio Express News (TX)*. In 1999, Dr. Weddington was honored as a "Texas Woman of the Century" by the Texas Women's Chamber of Commerce and featured for her "Courage to Challenge" in *Women of Courage: Inspiring Stories from the Women Who Lived Them* by Katherine Martin.

In 1996, she was profiled in *The Fifty Most Influential Women in American Law* by Dawn Bradley Berry and received the 1996 *Colby Award for Public Service* from Sigma Kappa Sorority. In 1993, the National Council of Jewish Women presented her with the prestigious *Woman Who Dares* award, and she was given the 1993 *Woman of Distinction* award by the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders. In 1980, she received Planned

Parenthood Federation of America's *Margaret Sanger* award, its highest honor. *TIME Magazine* named her one of the "Outstanding Young American Leaders" and *Ladies Home Journal* presented her with its *Woman of the Future* award. She has been featured in such publications as *Working Women*, *People Magazine* and the *Washington Post* and has been a guest on such programs as *The Today Show*, *Good Morning America*, *CBS Morning News*, and *CNN*.

She holds honorary doctorates from McMurry University, Austin College, Hamilton College, and Southwestern University. She received the Distinguished Alumna Award from McMurry University in 1992. Dr. Weddington, an Adjunct Professor at The University of Texas at Austin, teaches "Gender-Based Discrimination," a course utilizing Herma Hill Kay's text of the same name and the law school method of instruction. She also writes and travels extensively to speak on women's issues and the development of leadership skills and is currently working on her next book on the subject of leadership and self-renewal.

Dr. Weddington's recent activities have included attending the 30th anniversary of the beginning of the Carter Administration in Athens, Georgia with President in Mrs. Carter. Dr. Weddington was also the recent recipient of the *2007 Choice Award* from the Republican Majority for Choice in October 2007.

Dr. Weddington was most recently honored during a luncheon by the Veteran Feminists of America, in a salute to feminist lawyers. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a speaker for the event.