

FONT

-

A

+

SHARE THIS

(/facebook)

(/twitter)

(/google_plus)

(/email)

(/linkedin)

MORE STORIES

Prev

(/pt/9-news/437959-349972-oregons-public-records-advocate-squeezed-by-politics-resigns)

Next

(/pt/9-news/437892-349816-pot-taxes-help-fix-sw-portlands-most-dangerous-street)

Sotomayor: 'A voice for all who are different'

Courtney Vaughn

Sunday, September 08, 2019

Supreme Court justice talks about her new children's book, dispenses hugs and opens up about life on the bench at PCC event.



SUBMITTED PHOTO - Charlie Hoerster visits with Justice Sonia Sotomayor during a book signing Saturday, Sept. 7.

Hundreds waited in rainy weather and braved long lines Saturday evening, Sept. 7, to hear U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor talk about her latest children's book, "Just Ask! Be different, Be brave, Be you." during a visit to Portland Community College's Sylvania Campus.

The children's book, released Wednesday, Sept. 4, in English and Spanish,

highlights characters with disabilities and medical conditions, who talk about their conditions as a point of strength. "Just Ask!" seeks to examine and celebrate qualities that make people different.

Log In

You have viewed 1 of your 1 monthly pages.

Go to top

Sotomayor, a diabetic, called the latest publication, "the one that I've wanted to write for years and decades." Recounting her life as a child dependent on insulin, she often kept her condition private, and others didn't dare ask.

"Children were taught, 'don't ask questions, don't stare, just ignore,'" Sotomayor said during an interview with Tra'Renee Chambers of KATU-TV and iHeartRadio's Jam'n 107.5. "I was embarrassed by my diabetes. I didn't want to show other people, especially kids, that I had to take an injection every day. Now I take six of them."



PMG PHOTO: ADAM WICKHAM - Television and radio host Tra'Renee Chambers (left) interviews U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor about her new book, 'Just Ask!' at the PCC Sylvania campus Saturday evening, Sept. 7.

The book's title came from an incident more than 30 years ago, when Sotomayor used a bathroom at a restaurant to inject insulin and was confused for a drug user by another woman in the restroom.

"When you see people doing things you don't understand, don't assume the worst in them, just ask them what they're doing," she told the woman, who'd referred to her as an "addict" to others at her table when Sotomayor walked by.

"I want to be a voice for all the kids like me who are different, who have different physical and sometimes mental conditions and need a voice who says it's OK to ask, it's OK to be different, it's OK to be brave," Sotomayor said.

'Nobody to fix us now'

Sotomayor was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2009 by President Barack Obama, the first Latina on the high court. She joked that the book's illustrator, Raphael Lopez, made sure to include earrings on the young girl depicted in the book, so readers would know it was meant to resemble Sotomayor as a child.

"In the Latino culture, I think still, they put little studs in our ears the day we're born," she said. "They never come out, they just get bigger."



Log In | You have viewed 1 of your 1 monthly pages.



(<https://wallit.io/users>)
Go to top



PMG PHOTO: ADAM WICKHAM - A child flips through the pages of 'Just Ask!' by Sonia Sotomayor during a speaking event with Sotomayor at Portland Community College.

Following an on-stage interview, Sotomayor walked the room, answering a few pre-submitted questions chosen at random.

"How does it feel to be part of such big decisions on the Supreme Court?" middle schooler Perry Cunningham asked.



SUBMITTED PHOTO - Perry Cunningham, right, poses for a photo and book signing with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor during a speaking engagement and book promotion event at Portland Community College.

"It feels really, really good to be a voice in the room that makes some of the most important decisions in the country," Sotomayor told Perry, before giving her a hug. | You have viewed 1 of your 1 monthly pages.

05/10/2019

Pamplin Media Group - Sotomayor: 'A voice for all who are different'

"This is the hardest job I've ever done," she said, noting that her role comes with an element of pressure, knowing that there is no higher court to review or reverse decisions she and her colleagues make. "I always took a little security from the fact that I knew there were judges above me that would fix it if I got it really, really wrong. There's nobody to fix us now," she said, to soft laughter from the audience. "The job is really, really hard because of that because I know that there are going to be many people affected by our decisions, and there will be a winner, somebody's going to be happy, but there will also be somebody who loses, who thinks justice wasn't fair to them."

090719 Justice Sotomayor



Historic moment

Saturday's event was sponsored by the Multnomah County Library and PCC. Attendance was free, but tickets went quickly after the announcement went out in late August. Attendees lined up at the Sylvania campus hours prior to the event, and many others waited over an hour after the main event for a book signing and photos with the Supreme Court justice, who announced she would pose for photos with every child who waited in line with a book.

For many parents, Sotomayor's stop in Portland was a historic moment, and a chance to inspire children.

"The fact that it's a judge that we identify with, for our Latino heritage, it's important to see her and hear her speak," Alejandrina Felipe of Demascus said. She attended alongside her 9-year-old nieces.

Other parents wanted their children to see living examples of women in powerful positions. "I definitely wanted my son, Charlie to see Judge Sotomayor," said Eryn Karpinski of Portland. "We admire her so much. I also heard that she's a fabulous speaker to children."

"Just Ask!" is Sotomayor's fourth book, and her second children's book.



PMG PHOTO: ADAM WICKHAM - A packed house at Portland Community College applauds for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. Sotomayor visited Portland to discuss her latest book, which celebrates diversity and strength in children of varying abilities.

**SUPPORT
LOCAL
JOURNALISM**

(<http://pmgnews.com/subscribe/index.html>)

Quality local journalism takes time and money, which comes, in part, from paying readers. If you enjoy articles like this one, please consider supporting us.

(It costs just a few cents a day.)



Log In | You have viewed 1 of your 1 monthly pages.



(<https://wallit.io/users>)
Go to top

Pamplin Media Comment Policy

Comments are welcomed and encouraged on this site.
Please read our [Comment Policy](#) before commenting.



What do you think?

1 Response

Upvote
1

Funny
0

Love
0

Surprised
0

Angry
0

Sad
0

Comments and reactions for this thread are now closed. ✕

2 Comments

Pamplin Media

1 Login

Recommend 1

Tweet

Share

Sort by Best

- Inkberrow** • a month ago
"A voice for all who are different".
Different from what, exactly?
 • Share
- busseja** • a month ago
Sotomeyer got on the court thru obama. She really isn't worth cold spit. Now she seems to champion pre adolescent children whose parents think they are screwed up and different. Imagine being castrated at 5 years old because you likes Gi Joan dolls. sotomeyer shows the problems with insane justice. She really shouldn't be on a court. Any court. Too much prejudice and not enough intelligence.
 • Share

Subscribe

Add Disqus to your siteAdd DisqusAdd

Disqus' Privacy PolicyPrivacy PolicyPrivacy

[back to top](#)

Our Publications

Portland Metro Area

- Portland Tribune (<https://pamplinmedia.com>)
Beaverton Valley Times (<https://pamplinmedia.com/beaverton-valley-times-home/>)
Tigard Tualatin Times (<https://pamplinmedia.com/the-times-home/>)
Lake Oswego Review (<https://pamplinmedia.com/lake-oswego-review-home/>)
West Linn Tidings (<https://pamplinmedia.com/west-linn-tidings-home/>)
Wilsonville Spokesman (<https://pamplinmedia.com/wilsonville-spokesman-home/>)
Hillsboro Tribune (<https://pamplinmedia.com/hillsboro-tribune-home/>)
Forest Grove News Times (<https://pamplinmedia.com/forest-grove-news-times-home/>)
Newberg Graphic (<https://pamplinmedia.com/newberg-graphic-home/>)
Clackamas Review (<https://pamplinmedia.com/clackamas-review-home/>)
Oregon City News (<https://pamplinmedia.com/oregon-city-news-home/>)
The Outlook (<https://pamplinmedia.com/gresham-outlook-home/>)
Sandy Post (<https://pamplinmedia.com/sandy-post-home/>)
Estacada News (<https://pamplinmedia.com/estacada-news-home/>)
Canby Herald (<https://pamplinmedia.com/canby-herald-home/>)
Woodburn Independent (<https://pamplinmedia.com/woodburn-independent-home/>)

Login | You have viewed 1 of your 1 monthly pages



(<https://wallit.io/users>)
Go to top

Molalla Pioneer (<https://pamplinmedia.com/molalla-pioneer-home/>)

Columbia County Spotlight (<https://pamplinmedia.com/south-county-spotlight-home/>)

Regal Courier (<https://pamplinmedia.com/regal-courier-home/>)

Sherwood Gazette (<https://pamplinmedia.com/sherwood-gazette-home/>)

The Bee (<https://pamplinmedia.com/the-sellwood-bee-home/>)

Southwest Community Connection (<https://pamplinmedia.com/southwest-community-connection-home/>)

Central Oregon

Madras Pioneer (<https://pamplinmedia.com/madras-pioneer-home/>)

Central Oregonian (<https://pamplinmedia.com/central-oregonian-home/>)

Obituaries (<http://www.pamplinmedia.com/obituaries>)

Submit an Obituary (<http://publications.pmgnews.com/obituaries/>)

Business Tribune (/business-tribune)

Columns (/business-columns)

Public Notices (<https://www.biztribmarketing.com/public-notice/>)

Oregon Property Foreclosures (<http://oregonpropertyforeclosures.com/>)

Business Calendar (<http://businesscalendar.pamplinmedia.com/calendar/>)

Business Leads (<https://www.biztribmarketing.com/bids-sub-bids>)

News Links (<https://www.biztribmarketing.com/blog>)

Plan Center (<http://www.contractorplancenter.com/>)

Marketing (<https://www.biztribmarketing.com/>)

Contract Publishing

Printing and Distribution Services (<http://pamplinmediapublishing.com/>)

Special Publications

Public Notices (<http://publicnotices.portlandtribune.com/>)

Shop Local (<http://shopping.pamplinmedia.com/>)

Weekly Ads (<https://nearme.portlandtribune.com/>)

This Week's Circulars (<https://www.circularhub.com/?p=pamplinmedia>)

Find your Next Vehicle (/wheels-frontpage)

Special Sections (/special-section-community-papers/pt-special-section)

Insiders (/pt-shop-local/pt-insiders)

Classifieds (<http://pamplinclassifieds.com/>)

About Us

Contact Us (<http://portlandtribune.com/portland-tribune-about-us/portland-tribune-contact-us>)

Subscribe (<https://www.pamplincirculation.com/>)

Eblast (<https://app.e2ma.net/app2/audience/signup/1827377/1359520/>)

Submit

News Tips (<https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/7v9P114ku35awM>)

Letters to the Editor (<https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/P6F64czlK9qVsdN0r2>)

Births (<https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/Wd44SGOC9FaDe7>) | Anniversaries

(<https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/fZ9R0HodeFYK3p1M5876lb0>) | Weddings

(<https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/8T9kAaRF8014uYi7h1fVb0Iza>) | Engagements

(<https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/f0hcN7Q4KeU89>) | Business

(<https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/o9jx7OBP9aKnXm1H7aA2g6a>) | Birthday

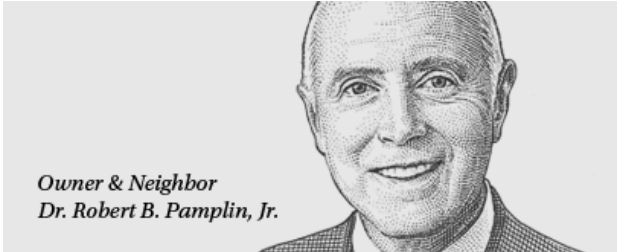
(<https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/475QcP78Cfd>) | Obituaries (<http://publications.pmgnews.com/obituaries/>)



Log In | You have viewed 1 of your 1 monthly pages.



(<https://wallit.io/users>)
Go to top



(<http://pamplin.org>)

Connect with Us!



(<https://www.facebook.com/Portland-Tribune-89942648552/>)



(<https://twitter.com/ThePortlandTrib>)



(<https://www.youtube.com/user/PortlandTribune>)

Subscribe Today!

Click Here (<https://www.pamplincirculation.com/>)

