



**TWEET IT:** [@ConstitutionCtr](#) donates signed copies of #SCOTUS Justice Sonia Sotomayor's memoir to [@PhillyEducation](#) Edison HS. [@GPHCC](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER DONATES BOOKS TO PHILADELPHIA'S THOMAS ALVA EDISON HIGH SCHOOL

Philadelphia, PA (September 8, 2014) – The National Constitution Center, through a partnership with the Greater Philadelphia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, has donated 50 signed copies of Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor's *New York Times* bestselling memoir *My Beloved World* to the School District of Philadelphia's **Thomas Alva Edison High School/John C. Fareira Skills Center** in North Philadelphia, which begins its new school year today. The donated books, acquired when Justice Sotomayor visited the Constitution Center in March 2013, will be used by Edison High School's social studies department to teach students about the levels of the U.S. Justice System, while following Sotomayor's rising career.

"There is a multifaceted ethnic makeup of students at Edison High School. We currently have one of the most densely populated bilingual high schools in the City of Philadelphia. Our population is comprised of approximately 75% Latino students. Many of our students are first and second generation who mirror a similar background as Justice Sotomayor," said Edison High School Principal Awilda Ortiz. "The inspirational story of Sotomayor's rise from humble beginnings to becoming the first Latina Supreme Court Justice will provide our students with a poignant message on how to turn fears into strengths, allow our students to realize their worth, and provide them with hope to master their future aspirations."

A story of hard work, unwavering vision, and perseverance amidst many obstacles, *My Beloved World* recounts Sotomayor's journey from a precarious childhood in the Bronx to Princeton, Yale Law School, the New York County District Attorney's office, and the Federal District Court, all before the age of 40—followed by her appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court. Students will be able to study the same court cases that Sotomayor

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ruled on and will discuss in small groups if they would come to the same conclusions as the Supreme Court. In addition, teachers will use the book during National Hispanic Heritage Month, (September 15 – October 15), as well as during Women's History Month, which is traditionally celebrated in March.

As America's Town Hall, the National Constitution Center hosts timely constitutional conversations uniting distinguished leaders, scholars, authors, and journalists from across the political spectrum.

"We are thrilled to be able to donate these books to Edison High School," said the National Constitution Center's Director of Public Programs Robin Morris. "This is the first time the Constitution Center has done something like this, and we are so thankful to the Greater Philadelphia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for facilitating the donation. We hope to make more connections through potential partners in the future."

### About the Greater Philadelphia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Founded in 1990, the Greater Philadelphia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (GPHCC) is a non-profit organization that works to develop, promote and advocate for Hispanic business in the Greater Philadelphia region, while encouraging the advancement and economic growth of the Hispanic community. The GPHCC offers educational programs, technical assistance, access to capital, marketing opportunities, career development and placement, trade initiatives, and other services to a diverse membership consisting of entrepreneurs, Latino businesses and professionals, corporations and government, with an overriding goal of helping these constituencies capitalize on many opportunities their diversity offers. For more information, visit [philahispanicchamber.org](http://philahispanicchamber.org).

### About the National Constitution Center

The National Constitution Center in Philadelphia is the Museum of We the People, America's Town Hall, and a Headquarters for Civic Education. As the **Museum of We the People**, the National Constitution Center brings the United States Constitution to life for visitors of all ages and inspires active citizenship by celebrating the American constitutional tradition. The museum features interactive exhibits, engaging theatrical performances, and original documents of freedom. As the only institution established by

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Congress to “disseminate information about the United States Constitution on a non-partisan basis,” the National Constitution Center serves as a **Headquarters for Civic Education**—offering cutting-edge learning resources including the premier online Interactive Constitution. As **America’s Town Hall**, the National Constitution Center hosts timely constitutional conversations uniting distinguished leaders, scholars, authors, and journalists from across the political spectrum. For more information, call 215-409-6700 or visit [constitutioncenter.org](http://constitutioncenter.org).

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