



**SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR AWARDS 13th  
ANNUAL LUNCHEON  
The Arizona Foundation for Women  
Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer  
Monday, October 12, 2009**

Good Morning, and welcome to the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Sandra Day O'Connor Awards Luncheon.

As Governor of Arizona, I am so pleased to welcome you to this event, on behalf of the Arizona Foundation for Women.

AFW has been such a force for good in our community and I'm very proud to be associated with them as today, we highlight the Foundation's work and honor the achievements of three special women – Former Secretary of State Dr. Madeleine Albright -- actress, author and children's advocate Victoria Rowell -- and former Arizona Chief Justice Ruth McGregor.

These great women are deserving the honors which await them today – one for championing international justice -- one for championing justice for children -- and the other for championing justice in Arizona.

When the Arizona Foundation for Women was created 14 years ago, about 4% of all philanthropic dollars were directly designated toward women's issues.

But, over the years, I have watched the Foundation make a significant impact on the lives of Arizona women and children; particularly in the area of domestic violence prevention and education.

Here is an organization built to promote philanthropy for women. Really, it's women helping women; bridging unmet needs with funding and education to make a sustainable difference for our state.

The Foundation has provided over \$2 million to community organizations doing wonderful work.

And, as the Foundation has evolved, it has become active in research and public policy -- one of the primary resources for information and advocacy on women's issues.

Thanks to AFW, Arizona women have a strong, knowledgeable, and effective advocate fighting on their behalf at our state Capitol -- and, trust me, I know what a difficult job THAT is.

I share the Foundation's belief that all women deserve to live free from fear, and that we all should be able to attain self-reliance within a society where we have an equal voice.

I celebrate with you the fact that through the media, at the Capitol, and around the state, the Arizona Foundation for Women is making sure that Arizona women are heard loud and clear.

Congratulations to the honorees here today, and to all of you for helping Arizona Women live safe and productive lives.