



What Americans know about the Supreme Court, Judge Sotomayor

Washington, D.C. July 10, 2009 – Even if they cannot name her directly, two-thirds of Americans in a new C-SPAN poll are aware that Sonia Sotomayor is the first Hispanic ever to be nominated for the High Court.

Results of a survey of 1,002 voters conducted for C-SPAN on July 7th by Penn, Schoen & Berland Associates indicate that 66 percent of those surveyed knew that Judge Sotomayor is the Court's first Latina nominee, and fully 43 percent were able to correctly identify her by name. That's about as many (41 percent) who could cite Sandra Day O' Connor as the first woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. Justice O'Connor served on the Supreme Court for more than 20 years, after being nominated by President Reagan in 1981.

"These are very considerable high awareness numbers. The high awareness is there because people are hungry for more information about the Supreme Court, in some larger sense," pollster Rob Green said on C-SPAN's "Washington Journal" interview program this morning. "People realize on some level how important every nomination is and how important the Court is in their lives."

To that end, a large majority - 61 percent - says it is time for Supreme Court Oral Arguments to be open to television coverage.

Full results of this survey can be found at C-SPAN's website, www.c-span.org <http://www.c-span.org>.

See the full interview with Rob Green here: http://www.c-spanarchives.org/library/index.php?main_page=product_video_info&products_id=287590-3.

Survey Methodology Penn, Schoen & Berland Associates, LLC, conducted online interviews on June 7, 2009 among 1,002 2008 general election voters in the United States. The margin of error for the entire sample is +/- 3.1 at the 95% confidence level and larger for subgroups.

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About Penn, Schoen & Berland Associates

Penn, Schoen & Berland Associates, a unit of the WPP group (NASDAQ = WPPGY) is a global research-based consultancy that specializes in messaging and communications strategy for blue-chip political, corporate and entertainment clients. We have over 30 years of experience in leveraging unique insights about consumer opinion to provide clients with a competitive advantage - what we call Winning Knowledge™. PSB executes polling and message testing services for Fortune 100 corporations and has helped elect more than 30 presidents and prime ministers around the world. More information is available at www.psbresearch.com.

About C-SPAN

C-SPAN was created by America's cable companies in 1979 as a public service and programs three public affairs television networks; C-SPAN Radio, a Washington, D.C. radio station distributed by XM Satellite Radio; and a video-rich website. Visit www.c-span.org.