

Interview with Justice Sandra Day-O'Conner
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University of Richmond

The chief legacy of Jamestown, which became the first permanent English settlement in the country, was the rule of law; because the settlers bought with them a charter that told them to be guided by the British legal system in effect. Four hundred years before Jamestown was the signing of the Magna Carta, which for the first time provided that all of us are subject to the rule of law, even the king, that we are all equal in that respect. That legacy was embodied then in the charter that was given to the Virginia Company that was sent here with settlers to try to make some money. Of course, they tried to grow tobacco and make money and pay back the people who gave them the charter.

The charter was drafted by members' of the Middle Temple, lawyers in Great Britain in that day, and drafted it in 1606. They were lawyers in the Middle Temple who did this. We have quite a legacy at Jamestown for a legal framework and that's the main contribution that I think the settlers made, from my perspective, because it was to build on the legacy of the rule of law that is what prevailed at the end of the day. It was kind of hard to come by in a way because the settlers in 1619 brought the first group of slaves to this country and it wasn't such a happy legacy. It took us 350 or so years to solve that problem when the Supreme Court of the United States finally decided *Brown vs. Board of Education*, and said that under our Constitution we are all equal regardless of race. So, it's been a long story, long time coming, but I think with a good ending, and certainly it all began in Jamestown.