

MINUTES OF SPECIAL CONVOCATION

Ottawa - Thursday, 17th February, 2000
3:00 p.m.

Prior to Convocation, the Treasurer and Benchers held a reception and luncheon in the Amphitheatre of the National Arts Centre in Ottawa. The guests in attendance were The Right Hon. Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin, Chief Justice R. Roy McMurtry, Frank McArdle, James O'Reilly, Justice Hector Soubliere, Raymonde Soubliere, Renee Raymonde Soubliere, Lucille Bordeleau, Dean Bruce Feldthusen, Professor Sanda Rodgers, Dean Alison Harvison Young, James F. O'Brien, Holly Harris, Martine Richard, Erica Armstrong, Dahlia Stein, Elizabeth Farquharson, Shirley Furlong, Don Puccini, Rosemary Simpson, Marylyn White, Terry McCarthy and Gregory McCashin.

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Following the luncheon, the Treasurer, the Benchers and their guests proceeded to the Opera in the National Arts Centre for the Call to the Bar ceremonies of the 179 graduates of the Bar Admission Course and 7 transfer candidates.

CONVOCATION WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 3:00 P.M.

The Treasurer asked all present to stand for the National Anthem sung by Martine Richard.

PRESENT: (Platform)

The Treasurer (Robert P. Armstrong, Q.C.), Nancy Backhouse, Stephen Bindman, Gordon Bobesich, Earl Cherniak, Paul Copeland, Dino DiGiuseppe, Gordon Farquharson, Abraham Feinstein, Patrick Furlong, Gary Gottlieb, George Hunter, Barbara Laskin, Frank Marrocco, Gavin MacKenzie, Derry Millar, Ross Murray, Marilyn Pilkington, Helene Puccini, Heather Ross, William Simpson, Gerald Swaye, Donald White and Bradley Wright.

and

The Right Hon. Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin, Chief Justice R. Roy McMurtry, Justice Hector Soubliere, Lucille Bordeleau, Dean Bruce Feldthusen, Professor Sanda Rodgers, Dean Alison Harvison Young, James F. O'Brien, Holly Harris, Denis Sicotte, Celine Allard, Guy Pratte, Martine Richard, John Saso, Richard Tinsley, Katherine Corrick, Bob Bernhardt, Terry McCarthy and Gregory McCashin.

The body of the auditorium was occupied by the candidates and their guests.

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CONFERRING OF AN HONORARY DEGREE

Ms. Nancy Backhouse, Chair of the Admissions Committee introduced the Doctoral candidate, The Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin.

"Treasurer, it is my pleasant duty to present to you The Right Honourable Beverley M. McLachlin, Chief Justice of Canada, and request that you confer upon her the degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*.

Fulfilling the promise of high academic success as a student, the combination of her keen intellect and her ability to marshal the facts and the law, and synthesize them in a compelling analysis, has been demonstrated not only in her judicial career but also as a private practitioner and law professor.

Complementing her intellectual attainments, her sound judgment and her compassion for, and understanding of, the private and public dimensions of legal issues has earned her the respect of the legal profession and the public across Canada.

She stands before us today as Chief Justice of Canada - the first woman to hold that post - continuing a remarkable career as a jurist, which began with her appointment to the County Court of British Columbia in 1981 and continued with her subsequent appointments, first as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of British Columbia, and then as a Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada.

Through her example and the high standards she has brought to the discharge of her duties she has brought great credit to our profession, and I ask therefore, Treasurer, that you confer upon her the degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*."

The Treasurer admitted The Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin to the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.

Chief Justice McLachlin addressed the candidates and their guests.

PRESENTATION OF PRIZES

Mr. Terry McCarthy, Regional Head of Education (Ottawa), presented the prizewinners to the Treasurer.

The Treasurer presented the following prizes to the respective recipients:

Awarded The Gowling, Strathy & Henderson Prize for the student attaining the highest grades in the Bar Admission Course at Ottawa, and a share of The Herbert Egerton Harris Advocacy Scholarship for the student attaining the second highest grade in Civil Litigation

CHRISTINE AMBER POWELL

Awarded The McCarthy Tetrault Business Law Prize donated by McCarthy Tetrault for the student attaining the highest grade in Business Law at Ottawa

ALAIN GENIER

Awarded a share of The Elisabeth Slasor Prize donated by Gowling Strathy & Henderson for the student attaining the highest grade in Estate Planning at Ottawa

JOHANNA ISABEL COUTTS
ANDREW BLAIR CREW
SHARI LYN FARAHANI
ELIZABETH GLENNA HACKETT

