

MINUTES OF SPECIAL CONVOCATION

Toronto - Thursday, 24th February, 2000  
10:30 a.m.

The Treasurer, the Benchers and their guests proceeded to the auditorium at Roy Thomson Hall, Toronto for the Call to the Bar ceremonies of the 214 graduates of the Admission Course.

CONVOCATION WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 10:30 A.M.

The Treasurer asked all present to stand for the National Anthem sung by Tamara Hummel.

PRESENT: (Platform)

The Treasurer (Robert P. Armstrong, Q.C.), Robert Aaron, Nancy Backhouse, Leonard Braithwaite, Thomas Carey, Ronald Cass, Abdul Chahbar, Andrew Coffey, Todd Ducharme, Neil Finkelstein, Gary Gottlieb, George Hunter, Donald Lamont, Laura Legge, Judith Potter, Heather Ross and William Simpson.

and

Chief Justice Coulter A. A. Osborne, Rabbi W. Gunther Plaut, Justice John H. Jenkins, Huguette Malyon, Shelley Gavigan, Bonnie Croll, Thomas C. Marshall, William Ross, Richard Tinsley, Bob Bernhardt, Roman Woloszczuk, Cindy Pinkus, Ian Lebane, Elizabeth Cowie and Evan Shapiro.

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

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CONFERRING OF AN HONORARY DEGREE

Mr. Robert Aaron introduced the Doctoral candidate, Rabbi Gunther Plaut and read the following citation:

“Treasurer, it is my pleasant duty to present to you and to this Convocation Rabbi W. Gunther Plaut, and request that you confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*.

Early training in the law in Germany was cut short by Nazi persecution and was followed by rabbinical studies and ordination as a rabbi. Following service in World War II with the United States Army, he served in synagogues in the United States before coming to Toronto. His rigorous and searching intellect, his deep appreciation of the holy texts, and his elegant prose established his reputation as a religious philosopher and commentator. His scholarship was matched with a fierce and deep commitment to social justice, which led him to challenge both his own community and the larger civic community to meet the challenges of social injustice.

An uncompromising opponent of racism in all its manifestations, he was one of the founders of Toronto’s Urban Alliance for Race Relations, and served for seven years as Vice-Chair of the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

At a time when the Law Society has taken up the challenge of equity within the profession, it is fitting that we recognize a person who, because of his religion, was excluded from the profession and who has devoted his life to the goal of attaining equity for all. I ask, therefore, that you confer upon him, as Treasurer, the degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*."

The Treasurer admitted Rabbi Gunther Plaut to the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.

Rabbi Plaut then addressed the candidates and their guests.

### PRESENTATION OF PRIZES

Mr. Bob Bernhardt, Director of Education presented the prizewinners to the Treasurer.

The Treasurer presented the following prizes to the respective recipients:

Awarded The Law Society's Second Prize for the student attaining the third highest grades in the Bar Admission Course, and The Margaret P. Hyndman, O.C., Q.C., D.C.L. Prize donated by the Alpha Mu Chapter, Kappa Beta Pi Legal Association for the student attaining the second highest grade in Business Law

ELIE SHMAYA ROTH

Awarded The Isadore Levinter Prize donated by The Advocates' Society for the student attaining the highest grade in Public Law

JONATHAN MARVIN DAVIS-SYDOR

Awarded a share of The William Belmont Common, Q.C. Prize for Criminal Procedure for the student attaining the second highest grade in Criminal Procedure

GRACE HYUNJU CHOI

Awarded a share of The Herbert Egerton Harris Advocacy Scholarship for the student attaining the second highest grade in Civil Litigation

DANIEL AARON STEIN

Awarded the Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History Prize for attaining the highest grades in the Bar Admission Course.

SARIT ESTHER BATNER  
JONATHAN MARVIN DAVIS-SYDOR  
ELIE SHMAYA ROTH  
DAVID EARL THIEL

CALL TO THE BAR

Mr. Robert Aaron, Mr. Leonard Braithwaite, Mr. Thomas Carey and Mr. Todd Ducharme, representatives of the Admissions Committee presented to the Treasurer 214 graduates for the Call to the Bar as follows:

BAR ADMISSION COURSE 1999 - 2000

214 CANDIDATES FOR CALL TO THE BAR

(Enclosed in Convocation file is a list of the candidates for Call to the Bar)

The Treasurer conferred upon the candidates the degree of Barrister-at-law and called them to the Bar of Ontario.

CONVOCATION ADJOURNED

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Following Convocation a Special Sitting of the Court of Appeal for Ontario and the Superior Court of Justice convened, with The Honourable Justice Coulter A. A. Osborne, Associate Chief Justice of Ontario, presiding.

The candidates were presented to Chief Justice Osborne before whom they took the Oath of Allegiance, Barristers Oath and Solicitors Oath and acknowledged their signatures on the Rolls in the presence of the Court.

Chief Justice Osborne then addressed the new Barristers and Solicitors.

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At the conclusion of the formal proceedings, the Treasurer and Benchers held a reception and luncheon at Osgoode Hall and had as their guests Rabbi W. Gunther Plaut, Mark Anshan, William C. Draimin, Jack Geller, Lauren Israel Hendrickson, Margarida Pacheco, Robert Smolkin, Professor Fred Zemans, The Hon. Sydney L. Robins, Gloria Robins, Thomas C. Marshall, William Ross, James Howie, Huguette Malyon, Peter Hogg, Dorothy Aaron and Marie Finkelstein.

Confirmed in Convocation this       day of       , 2000

Treasurer