

MINUTES OF SPECIAL CONVOCATION

Toronto - Thursday, 25th February, 1999

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 183 graduates of the 40th Bar Admission Course and 4 transfer candidates.

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

The Treasurer asked all to stand for the National Anthem sung by Siobhan Dungan.

PRESENT: (Platform)

The Treasurer (Harvey T. Strosberg, Q.C.), Nora Angeles, Nancy Backhouse, Larry Banack, Thomas Carey, William Carter, Marshall Crowe, Philip Epstein, Neil Finkelstein, Gary Gottlieb, Jane Harvey, Jennifer Keenan, Donald Lamont, Gavin MacKenzie, Heather Ross, David Scott, Gerald Swaye.

and

Associate Chief Justice John W. Morden, Edward L. Greenspan, Q.C., Huguette Malyon, Assistant Dean Alexander Greer, Assistant Dean Bonnie Croll, Victoria Kondo, Mary Grosso, Janet Leiper, David Stinson, Michael Watson, Jimmy Dick, John Saso, Richard Tinsley, Bob Bernhardt, Ian Lebane and Cindy Pinkus.

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

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CONFERRING OF AN HONOURARY DEGREE

Mr. Philip Epstein, Q.C. introduced the Doctoral candidate, Mr. Edward L. Greenspan, Q.C. and read the following citation:

"Chief Justice, Treasurer, Distinguished Guests, Graduates, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my very great pleasure and privilege to introduce to you and to Convocation a person who actually needs no introduction whatsoever. If I were to simply ask you, Treasurer, to confer an honorary degree on "Eddie", everyone would know who I meant and why it was being awarded. However, because I know him well, I thought I might use this opportunity to tell you about the Eddie I know.

A week ago, Eddie called me. He wanted to see my remarks in advance. I demurred. He insisted. I firmly declined. He announced he wasn't coming if I didn't give in. I think he actually meant it, so I faxed him an introduction I had no intention of delivering. I tell you this because it tells you volumes about how Eddie thinks and works. He does nothing without in depth preparation and he would no more think to respond to my comments off the cuff than he would to plead a client guilty. For many years, we shared space as lawyers. I once returned to the office at 2:00 a.m. because I needed a file for an out-of-town case. I saw Eddie's light on and found him reading at his desk piled high with books. "What are you doing?" I asked - "preparing a lecture for the Bar Ad course of Jury Address" he said - "How many times have you given that lecture?" - about 18 times" he said. "So why are you here at 2:00 a.m.?" - "I'm reworking it."

This is a man of enormous talent and charm, but he has never forgotten that his style is no substitute for hard work and preparation. No lawyer in Canada works more prodigiously. Eddie takes nothing in a case for granted. He has been described by some as a workaholic, but that would not be true. Eddie has never let work interfere with what he perceives to be his community obligations, his teaching, his writing and his insatiable curiosity about the world which he attempts to rectify by constant travel. He is in every way a respected and well-rounded person. His beloved wife Suzy would probably say - too well rounded.

Two years ago he was invited to address the graduating class and Eddie spent most of his speech complaining that most previous speakers were honoured with an honorary degree. Why, he asked, was he being left out? His speech was, despite that criticism, caring and inspirational for our graduates and, thus he was asked again, to address a Call to the Bar. Not willing to face the criticism again, I importuned the Treasurer and now you know why Eddie is at last receiving an honorary degree.

His teaching career at Osgoode Hall and University of Toronto, his willingness to share his skills and knowledge with the bar at countless CLE courses, his dedication to Human Rights and the Civil Liberties Association and his one man cross-Canada Campaign to prevent the introduction of the death penalty, his editorship of the Criminal Law Reports and Martins Criminal Code, are all besides the point.

I ask you, Treasurer, to confer upon Edward L. Greenspan the degree of Doctor of Laws honoris causa because there is no practising lawyer that has given so freely to his profession and is so deserving of this honour."

The Treasurer admitted Mr. Edward Greenspan to the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.

Mr. Greenspan then addressed the graduates and their guests.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

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

The Treasurer presented the following prizes to the respective recipients:

Awarded a share of The Stuart Thom Prize donated by Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt for the student attaining the highest grade in Business Law, and The McCarthy Tetrault Business Law Prize donated by McCarthy Tetrault for the student attaining the highest grade in Business Law in Toronto

BRENDA LYNNE COWIE

Awarded a share of The S. J. Birnbaum, Q.C. Scholarship Second Prize for the student attaining the second highest grade in Estate Planning

RYAN MICHAEL FILSON

Awarded a share of The S. J. Birnbaum, Q.C. Scholarship First Prize for the student attaining the highest grade in Estate Planning

DANIELLE IAMPIETRO

Awarded a share of The S. J. Birnbaum, Q.C. Scholarship Third Prize for the student attaining the third highest grade in Estate Planning

SUZANNE MELISSA KAUFFMAN

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

CHERYL ANNE STACEY

CALL TO THE BAR

Ms. Nora Angeles, Mr. Donald Lamont, Mr. Gavin MacKenzie and Mr. Gerald Swaye presented to the Treasurer 187 candidates for the Call to the Bar as follows:

FORTIETH BAR ADMISSION COURSE 1998 - 1999

187 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.

The Treasurer introduced Mr. Jimmy Dick, a Cree from Moose-Cree on James Bay who performed an original Cree Honour Song using the "Eagle Heart Drum".

CONVOCATION ADJOURNED

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Following Convocation a Special Sitting of the Court of Appeal for Ontario and the Ontario Court of Justice (General Division) convened, with The Honourable Associate Chief Justice John W. Morden, Court of Appeal for Ontario presiding.

The candidates were presented to Chief Justice Morden 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.

Associate Chief Justice Morden 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, Associate Chief Justice John W. Morden, Madam Justice Heather J. Smith, Madam Justice Louise Arbour, Justice Stephen Goudge, Justice John Laskin, Justice Douglas H. Lissaman, Frances Lissaman, Thomas Lissaman, Edward L. Greenspan, Q.C., Suzy Greenspan, Julianna Greenspan, Igor Ellyn, James Howie, Mary Grosso, Huguette Malyon, Alexander Greer, Simon Fodden, Cathy Strosberg and Marie Finkelstein