

# Doctor of Laws, honoris causa

February 22, 2001

*John W. Morden*

Treasurer, it is my pleasant duty to present to you and to this Convocation the Honourable Mr. Justice John W. Morden and request that you confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.

Since his call to the Bar some forty years ago, in 1961, he has been a career distinguished by his dedicated service as a lawyer, as a Justice of the High Court of Justice, & most latterly as a Justice of the Court of Appeal of Ontario.

As a practising lawyer with the Day Wilson Campbell firm, in addition to providing legal advice and counsel to his clients, he was counsel to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Civil Rights. That Commission's final report defined for the first time the rights of individuals affected by decisions of administrative tribunals, and set basic procedural standards for administrative bodies. The work of the Commission shaped the development of administrative law not only in Ontario but throughout Canada.

Appointed to the High Court of Justice in 1973, his demonstrated ability and legal scholarship saw him elevated to the Court of Appeal for Ontario in 1978, and appointment as the Associate Chief Justice of Ontario in 1990, a position he held until 1999. As he had done in private practice, he applied his appreciation for the complexity and subtlety of the litigation process not only to the cases which came before him for determination, but to the examination of the fundamental principles of the process, through his work as first a member, then later Chair, of the Rules Committee. His dedication and leadership while Chair of the Committee has indebted the bar to him and advanced the administration of justice in this Province.

Throughout his career both as a lawyer and a judge, his quiet commitment to public service, both within the law and in the wider community through his involvement in his church and community organizations make him a fitting recipient of the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa. Treasurer, I now ask that you confer that honour upon him.