

# Doctor of Laws, honoris causa

February 22, 2001

*James M. Spence*

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*It is my pleasant duty to present to you the Honourable Mr. Justice James M. Spence, and request that you confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.*

*Possessed of a keen and analytical intellect, following his call to the Bar in 1968 he applied his talents to the intricacies and complexities of corporate and commercial law, particularly in the area of foreign investment, an area in which he served as advisor to the federal government.*

*He has contributed greatly to the profession through his extensive writings, not only in his area of practice, but on wider and more philosophical issues relating to the role of an independent bar and judiciary in a free and democratic society, and the need to maintain professional standards within the profession.*

*His concerns about the governance of the profession and the maintenance of its high standards were given practical expression during his period of service as a Bencher, particularly as Chair of the Legal Education Committee, and Treasurer of this Law Society.*

*Service to the profession has been matched by service to the community, evidenced by his membership on numerous boards, most notably the Ontario College of Art and the Canadian Art Foundation.*

*The Honourable Mr. Justice Spence has exemplified, both as a solicitor and judge, those qualities of service and professionalism which the profession holds in high esteem, and I therefore ask that you confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.*