

# Doctor of Laws, honoris causa

February 23, 2001 *Rosie Silberman Abella*

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*Treasurer,*

*It is my pleasant duty to present to you and to this Convocation the Honourable Justice Rosalie Silberman Abella and request that you confer upon her the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.*

*Her career in the law since her call to the Bar in 1972 has been eclectic: practising lawyer, judge of the Provincial Court Family Division, Commissioner of the Ontario Human Rights Commission, Chair, Study on Access to Legal Services by the Disabled, Sole Commissioner on Equality in Employment, Chair, Ontario Labour Relations Board, Chair, Ontario Law Reform Commission, and Justice of the Court of Appeal for Ontario.*

*From her appointment as a judge of the Provincial Court Family Division in 1976, an appointment notable for being the youngest judge to be appointed, the first Jewish woman to be appointed, and the first pregnant woman to be appointed, through her career of successive high profile appointments, she was a role model for women at a time when the number of women entering the profession was rapidly increasing, and she has continued to play an active part in advancing the role of women in the legal profession.*

*A main constant in her career has been her energetic and passionate devotion to the use of the law to achieve social justice and the protection of the disadvantaged in our society, a cause she has advanced both with the force of her intellectual rigour and with her infectious enthusiasm and sense of humour, a potent combination which has disarmed many an opponent.*

*Treasurer, Justice Abella's record of service to the profession and to the public is in the highest tradition of our profession, and I ask therefore that you confer upon her the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.*