

Doctor of Laws, honoris causa

July 18, 2005

Dee Coelgel

Treasurer, may I present to you and this Convocation James Lockyer and request that you confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.

James Lockyer is an extraordinary advocate and a legal visionary. He has devoted his career to ensuring access to justice for the wrongly accused in this country. Over the past two decades he has argued many of the leading cases in Canadian criminal law on pro bono and legal aid bases. In doing so, he has pushed the boundaries of the administration of justice, challenging it to ensure the rights of all citizens.

James Lockyer's passion and pioneering work led to the creation of the Association in Defence of the Wrongly Convicted, a national organization dedicated to fighting for those whom justice has failed. Much of this organization's success can be attributed directly to his contributions. He has not only a formidable grasp of the law but also a vision of what the law should be.

James Lockyer is an inspiration to all who know him. His legal skill and tireless devotion to the principle of access to justice have earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues and clients and have created an indelible example to which future generations of lawyers may aspire.

He is deserving of the highest honour this Society can give and I request you, Sir, to confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.