

Doctor of Laws, honoris causa

July 22, 2005

N. Jane Pepino

Treasurer, may I present to you and this Convocation N. Jane Pepino, C.M., Q.C., LL.M. and request that you confer on her the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa. Called to the Bar in 1973, Jane Pepino entered the legal profession at a time when it was still considered a non-traditional career choice for women. Inspired by Charlotte Whitton, she was never daunted by the obstacles and challenges facing her. In 1985, she was appointed Queen's Counsel and, today, she is one of the most successful land administration and development lawyers in this country. A tireless activist and champion of women's rights, Jane Pepino has served as a member of the Human Rights Commission, the Toronto Police Commission, the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, as well as, numerous public task forces and community boards. In 2000, Jane Pepino was appointed to the Order of Canada in recognition of her contributions.

The mother of three, she has been able to achieve an astonishing balance between her professional and personal life. Although admittedly difficult, Jane Pepino has faced this challenge like she has others throughout her life ~ by meeting the issue head on, identifying the obstacles and then systematically working to remove them. At a time when the legal profession is attracting more women but failing to retain them, Jane Pepino serves as a role model and a source of inspiration.

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