

Doctor of Laws, honoris causa

July 20, 2006

Clayton Ruby

Treasurer, may I present to you and to this Convocation Clayton Ruby, C.M., and request that you confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.

Clayton Ruby has dedicated his professional career to ensuring that those who are underprivileged and those who face discrimination are given equal access to the legal system of this country. A well-respected and well-known civil and human rights lawyer, he has never been afraid to defend the unpopular, to argue a controversial viewpoint, or to challenge that which has simply been accepted.

He has been an elected Bencher of The Law Society of Upper Canada for twenty-nine years, surpassed by only one other in our history. He has taken his duties as a Bencher seriously, participating regularly on disciplinary panels, chairing both the Finance and Professional Regulation Committees, and providing his leadership as Acting Treasurer when called upon to do so. Underlying his work as a Bencher, however, has always been his determination to challenge his profession and its governing body to evolve and adapt with society.

Mahatma Gandhi wrote that life is a series of attempts to reach the truth. Clayton Ruby has demonstrated that if you persevere you can leave the world a better place than you found it, and for him that is the ultimate truth.

He is most 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.