

Doctor of Laws, honoris causa

July 21, 2006 

Treasurer, may I present to you and to this Convocation The Honourable Patrick J. LeSage, Q.C., and request that you confer on him the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.

Patrick LeSage has had a long and distinguished legal career. Known for his intelligence and for his humility, he is a born leader who inspires confidence and loyalty. Called to the Bar in 1963, he originally intended to practise tax law in Eastern Ontario. Instead, he accepted a position as an assistant crown attorney in Toronto, rising in just nine years to the position of Ontario Director of Crown Attorneys.

In 1975, Patrick LeSage was appointed to the County and District Court. His patience, common sense, and ability to listen, quickly earned him the respect of his judicial colleagues. Spanning more than twenty-nine years, his judicial career culminated in his appointment as Chief Justice of what is now the Superior Court of Justice. During those years he presided over some of Canada's most complex and high profile cases.

In 2002 he returned to the practise of law. He chairs commissions of inquiry and sits as a member of the Ontario Securities Commission.

Patrick LeSage genuinely cares about the public he has served for more than forty years. Throughout his career he has treated everyone with dignity and impartiality and has endeavoured to improve access to justice in this country.

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.