Almost four decades have passed since Bora Laskin was called to the bar. His training at Osgoode Hall Law School and Harvard University has served him well. He rose from the position of a lecturer at the University of Toronto to the third most honored post in Canada, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

Bora Laskin early proved himself as a distinguished labor arbitrator and conciliator. The innovative decisions he made stamped him as a controversial figure. Through his extensive writings and legal opinions, this rather unusual image of a member of the judiciary has weathered the years well.

As an outstanding legal scholar he contributed to the creation at the University of Toronto of one of the finest law faculties on the North American continent. In 1965 he was appointed to the Ontario Court of Appeal and in 1970 to the Supreme Court of Canada. In 1974 he was sworn in as Chief Justice.

Bora Laskin knew the hardships and heartbreaks of the Depression years. The lessons he learned from those times have influenced him greatly. He is known as a man who believes that law should advance society by respecting minorities, defending individual rights and fighting prejudice. Bora Laskin has evolved, it is said, as the folk hero of the Canadian judicial scene.

Mr. Chancellor, I present to you for the degree of Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa, Bora Laskin.