Mr. Chancellor, it is my privilege to introduce one of Canada's most distinguished jurists, the Honourable Madam Justice Lynn Smith. Today, we pay tribute to Madam Justice Smith for her profound and lasting influence on issues of historical importance to law and society.

Lynn Smith completed her LLB at the University of British Columbia and subsequently entered practice in Vancouver. An exceptionally able lawyer, she quickly became a partner with Shrum, Liddle & Hebenton. This was but the first step in a series of remarkable transitions in an exemplary career.

In 1981, she joined the Faculty of Law at the University of British Columbia, where she published significant work in fields such as health law and human rights. With the enactment of the Charter of Rights, she co-founded the Women’s Legal Education and Action Fund which provided valuable leadership in the development of women’s equality rights in the Canadian legal system. Upon assuming the Office of Dean in 1991, she provided the impetus to establish a Chair in Feminist Legal Studies and a PhD program in law at the University of British Columbia.

During her tenure there, peers described her as one of the twenty most powerful lawyers in Canada, a creative thinker and talented leader who helped to change the face of law and the legal profession in this country. To women entering what historically had been a male-dominated profession, Lynn Smith was an inspirational role model who nurtured the talent of others.

The high point of her career to date took place with her elevation to the Supreme Court of British Columbia in 1998. To this, our province’s highest bench, she brings not only vast knowledge and astute judgment, but also a deep sense of compassion for people. And although the demands of the bench are great, she continues to play a leading role in legal education, giving generously of her time and expertise to many institutions such as the Vancouver Foundation and the National Judicial Institute.

Our legal system and our society have benefited immeasurably from Lynn Smith’s talent and wisdom. For her service as a practitioner, professor, and judge we are indeed grateful.

Mr. Chancellor, on behalf of the Senate of this University, I ask that you now confer upon the Honourable Madam Justice Lynn Smith the degree Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.