
A native of Montréal, Arbour is a Companion of the Order of Canada (2007) and a Grande Officière de l’Ordre national du Quebec (2009). Earlier in her legal career, she served on the Supreme Court of Ontario, followed by the Court of Appeal for Ontario, and then was appointed President of a Commission of Inquiry into the Kingston Prison for Women.

Arbour is affiliated with several distinguished groups including the Global Commission on Elections, Democracy and Security; the Global Commission on Drug Policy; and the Global Commission against the Death Penalty. Along with some 40 honorary degrees, Arbour has received numerous decorations & awards including the French Legion of Honour, the Council of Europe’s North South Prize and the Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Freedom from Fear Award.