

For Immediate Release

Recipient of Scotiabank Ethical Leadership Award 2017: The Honourable Justice Rosalie Silberman Abella

September 14, 2017 (Halifax, NS) – One of Canada’s most influential experts in equality and ethics and a strong judicial advocate for the enforcement of human rights is the recipient of the 2017 Scotiabank Ethical Leadership Award. The award will be presented to the Honourable Madam Justice Rosalie Silberman Abella at the closing gala of the Ethics in Action case competition and conference hosted by Dalhousie’s Faculty of Management on October 28, 2017.

“We are thrilled to host Justice Abella and see her join such a distinguished group of ethical leaders,” says Sylvain Charlebois, Dean, Faculty of Management. “Her accomplishments are an inspiration to our students.”

In 2013, the inaugural award was presented to co-recipients Sir Graham Day and Chief Phil Fontaine. Richard Pound received it in 2014, Irwin Cotler in 2015 and the award was presented to Anna Tudela in 2016.

The first Jewish woman appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada, Justice Abella has been a member of the Court since 2004. As the sole Commissioner of Canada’s 1984 Royal Commission on Equality in Employment, she developed groundbreaking theories of equality and discrimination that today guide legislation and human rights in Canada, New Zealand, Northern Ireland and South Africa. She developed the concept of "employment equity" and coined the term.

Lauren Kolar, President of the Public Administration Student Society and Master of Public Administration candidate, took part in the selection process. “Justice Abella shaped not just policy itself, but the way we approach policy, ensuring that it’s fair to all Canadians,” she says.

Born in a displaced persons camp in Stuttgart, Germany, in 1946 to Holocaust survivors, Justice Abella and her family came to Halifax in 1950 as refugees. She attended the University of Toronto and was admitted to the Ontario Bar in 1972. At the age of 29, she was appointed to the Ontario Family Court, the youngest and first pregnant person appointed to the judiciary in Canada.

Justice Abella has a remarkable record of public service, serving on numerous boards and commissions, and chairing the Study on Access to Legal Services by the Disabled. She has authored more than 90 articles and written or co-edited four books, is a Senior Fellow of Massey College, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She is also active in Canadian judicial education.

Justice Abella has received no fewer than 37 honorary degrees and was recently named Global Jurist of the Year by the Northwestern Pritzker School of Law's Center for International Human Rights in Chicago. She has also received the Distinguished Alumnus Award of the University of Toronto Faculty of Law, the International Justice Prize of the Gruber Foundation, and the Human Relations Award of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews, among many other honours.

"At Scotiabank, investing in our communities has been a focus for 185 years. We are proud to continue our support of the Scotiabank Ethics in Action Ethical Leadership Award for the past five years," says Jacquie Ryan, Vice President, Sponsorship & Philanthropy, Scotiabank. "We recognize and congratulate Justice Abella for the example she sets for young people, as demonstrated through her character, courage and actions."

The Faculty of Management established the student-led Ethics in Action case competition and conference with a \$1.5 million donation from Scotiabank. The program engages business students and the Canadian business community in shaping ethical business leadership, and grew from the success of the Dalhousie Business Ethics Case Competition. The student conference will be held in conjunction with the case competition on October 27-28, 2017, on the Dalhousie campus.

The Scotiabank Ethics in Action Ethical Leadership Award recognizes a Canadian leader from a corporate, non-profit or government organization who has demonstrated and maintained outstanding ethical leadership in the face of challenging situations. The recipient is chosen each year by a panel of student leaders from the Faculty of Management, as well as an ex-officio representative from Scotiabank and Faculty representatives.

Event information:

2017 Ethics in Action Gala Dinner

Saturday, October 28, 2017, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (AST)

Pier 21, 1055 Marginal Rd., Halifax, NS

Tickets: <https://alumni.dal.ca/get-connected/event/2017-ethics-action-gala-dinner/>

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Information:

Nicole Maunsell, Communications Manager,

nicole.maunsell@dal.ca

902-494-3716