

2014 Bright International Jurist-in-Residence

Public Lecture

Bending the Moral Arc: Giving Voice to National and International Rights in the Ongoing Quest for Justice

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

4:30 p.m.

Chambers, Supreme Court of Hawai'i
Ali'iolani Hale



Justice Rosalie Silberman Abella
Supreme Court of Canada

Justice Abella was appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada in 2004. She is the first Jewish woman appointed to the Court.

She attended the University of Toronto, where she earned a B.A. in 1967 and an LL.B. in 1970. In 1964 she graduated from the Royal Conservatory of Music in classical piano. She was called to the Ontario Bar in 1972 and practiced civil and criminal litigation until 1976 when she was appointed to the Ontario Family Court. She was appointed to the Ontario Court of Appeal in 1992.

She was the sole Commissioner of the 1984 federal Royal Commission on Equality in Employment, creating the term and concept of "employment equity."

She has written over 80 articles and written or co-edited four books. She was the Boulton Visiting Professor at the Faculty of Law of McGill University and was the Mackenzie

King Distinguished Visiting Professor at Harvard.

Justice Abella was awarded the Distinguished Alumnus Award of the University of Toronto Faculty of Law; the Distinguished Service Award of the Canadian Bar Association (Ontario); the Human Relations Award of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews; and 32 honorary degrees.

She was born in a Displaced Person's Camp in Stuttgart, Germany on July 1, 1946. Her family came to Canada as refugees in 1950. She is the daughter of Jacob and Fanny Silberman. She married Canadian historian Irving Abella on December 8, 1968. They have two sons: Jacob and Zachary, both lawyers.



WILLIAM S. RICHARDSON

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