

in profile: DR. KATHLEEN MAHONEY

Dr. Kathleen Mahoney

Passion for human rights fuels law professor's distinguished career

Kathleen Mahoney has been a professor of law at the U of C for 18 years. Her law degrees are from the University of British Columbia and Cambridge University, and she has a diploma from the Institute of Comparative Human Rights Law in Strasbourg, France.

During her career, Dr. Mahoney has held many international lectureships and fellowships, including the Sir Allan Sewell Visiting Fellowship at the Faculty of Law, Griffiths University, Brisbane, and the Distinguished Visiting Scholar Fellowship at the University of Adelaide. She taught law as a visiting professor at the University of Chicago in the fall of 1994.

In addition to lecturing nationally and internationally. Dr. Mahoney has successfully appeared as counsel for several cases in the Supreme Court of Canada, most notably the two leading Canadian cases for the legal regulation of hate propaganda and pomography. Since July of 1993, she has been counsel and advocate on a team of International lawyers representing Bosnia and Herzegovina in their genocide action against Serbia and Montenegro in the International Court of Justice, focusing primarily on the issue of systematic rape as a crime of genocide.

Dr. Mahoney regularly attends the Council of Europe as an independent expert and North American representative, and is a consultant to the Family Law Court of Australia, and to the Chief Justice of Western Australia on judicial education programs on gender and race issues. She has organized and participates in a variety of collaborative human rights projects in Canada. Geneva. Australia. New Zealand, South Africa, Spain, Israel, China. and the United Nations.

Closer to home. Dr. Mahoney chairs the U of C Group for Research and Education in Human Rights, and is the director of a project on social context, Judicial Education for South Africa. She publishes extensively on human rights, constitutional law, and women's rights, as well as on judicial education and the social context. Her most recent book is Human Rights in the Twenty-first Century: A Global Challenge, which she co-edited.

Dr. Mahoney is the 1997 recipient of the Law Society of Alberta and Canadian Bar Association Distinguished Service Award for Legal Scholarship. and the Scroptomist Club of Canada Woman of Distinction Award. In 1997, she was elected to the Royal Society of Canada for her academic achievements, one of Canada's highest academic honours.