

Distinguished Alumni Citation

Diane Campbell (BA '72)

The Honourable Diane Campbell, from Summerside PEI, graduated from the University of Prince Edward Island in 1972 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree and proceeded to the University of New Brunswick on full scholarship to complete her Law Degree in 1975, and her Master of Law Degree the following year from the prestigious Harvard Law School.

As the first woman called to the Bar in PEI with a Masters of Law from Harvard, Diane spent almost 25 years as a sole practitioner in Prince County, PEI, focusing her general legal practice on business, commercial, estates, and real estate law. She is trained in Mediation and conflict resolution and was a member of the Discipline Committee of the Law Society of Prince Edward Island.

In 1998 she was accorded the honour for Queen's Council recognizing her ability and dedication to the field. In 2000 she was appointed to the Federal Tax Court of Canada as one of 20 judges, and the first female from Prince Edward Island to hold this honour. Her decisions have been upheld by the Federal Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada.

Diane is a well respected Canadian jurist, she regularly attends international meetings as a representative of the Canadian branch of the International Association of Women Judges, she won the University of New Brunswick corporate law award, and she is listed in the Who's Who in Canadian Women.

Diane Campbell was extensively involved in the community while a resident of Prince Edward Island. In addition to her active involvement in the Prince Edward Island Law Society, she was a member of a number of community organizations including the Literacy Council, the Chamber of Commerce, the Boys and Girls Club, the Heart and Stroke Foundation, the Cancer Society, the Humane Society, and Women in Business. In each of these organizations, she took an active role, often at the leadership level.

Diane's hard work and community mindedness has earned her the respect and confidence of her former clients and members of the broader legal community.

Students need strong role models who inspire them to reach further and aim higher. Diane Campbell's impressive career in law is a shining example of what can be achieved. This is particularly important because of her gender, as she was among the few women in the mid-1970s who entered the legal profession. The scholarships she received during all of her university years demonstrate the rewards of hard work and dedication, values to which all students can aspire.

UPEI is very proud to recognize one of its most distinguished alumni and honour her life and career with a 2017 Distinguished Alumni Award.