

WITHOUT PREJUDICE

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Events



18th Annual McDonald Lecture The Honourable A. Anne McLellan

"The Challenges of Security in an Open Society"
September 21, 2006

The Honourable A. Anne McLellan is a well-known federal politician. In addition to serving as a Liberal Member of Parliament from 1993 to 2006, McLellan has fulfilled the roles of Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Health, Minister of Justice, as well as Professor (University of Alberta's Faculty of Law).

McLellan, who is now counsel with Bennett Jones LLP in Edmonton, delivered the 18th Annual McDonald Lecture, presented by the Centre for Constitutional Studies on September 21, 2006.

Her discussion topic, "The Challenges of Security in an Open Society", was very timely, as Commissioner Dennis O'Connor had released the controversial Arar Inquiry report only a few days prior to her presentation. Speaking to a packed audience, McLellan began her talk by giving a historical background about Canada's approach to dealing with terrorism. At the time of the world-changing terrorist attacks in September 2001, McLellan was the Attorney General of Canada. She was involved with creating anti-terrorism policies that have recently come under scrutiny.

Stressing that the government's primary goal is to provide for the collective security of its people, she outlined the challenges involved in achieving that goal while still respecting all the components of an open society. She identified several security issues that Canada is facing as a multicultural nation, and suggested that improved communication and relations between ethno cultural groups would reduce fears and strengthen the nation.

 **CENTRE for CONSTITUTIONAL STUDIES**
Centre d'études constitutionnelles



Julian Falconer - Class of 1987

"The Anti-Terrorist Act and the Arar Findings: Democracy Protected or Democracy Eroded?"
September 26, 2006

Julian Falconer, Class of 1987, is a senior partner with Falconer Chamey Macklin Barristers at Law in Toronto. He has built a reputation as a celebrated Canadian lawyer, by challenging major organizations and government institutions, and tackling the most controversial social issues, including civil liberties, human rights, and race relations.

Many of his cases have earned national attention, including his recent representation of Maher Arar in a civil suit against the Canadian government.

Falconer is also a respected lecturer and author, and he has been recognized with numerous awards and honours for his work as a true advocate for justice and his involvement with progression of the law and social change.

On September 26, 2006, Julian Falconer came to the Faculty of Law to deliver a presentation entitled "The Anti-Terrorist Act and the Arar Findings: Democracy Protected or Democracy Eroded?". This presentation focused on the political and social issues that lead to Arar, a Syrian-born Canadian, being detained in the U.S. and sent back to Syria to face an uncertain future, all without protection from his Canadian homeland.

Falconer's thought-provoking discussion touched on the horrors of torture, of which Arar was a victim. He also analyzed the findings from the Arar Inquiry, which was released in September 2006. Falconer suggested that since the tragic events of 9/11, social fear has created an inappropriate expansion of power that now needs to be questioned.

FREEDOM: ONE ISSUE. TWO VIEWPOINTS.