

Book Notes: Adding Feminism to Law: The Contributions of Justice Claire L'Heureux-Dubé, by Elizabeth Sheehy (ed)

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ADDING FEMINISM TO LAW: THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JUSTICE CLAIRE L'HEUREUX-DUBÉ. BY ELIZABETH SHEEHY, ED. TORONTO: IRWIN LAW, 2004. Pp. v + 390.¹

BY NANCY CLARIDGE

When Justice Claire L'Heureux-Dubé stepped down from the Supreme Court of Canada in July 2002, she left behind an enviable legacy of enhancing women's legal and social equality rights in Canada through her decisions in more than six hundred *Charter of Rights* cases. *Adding Feminism to Law* is a collection of twenty papers that celebrates and recounts L'Heureux-Dubé's contributions to the many areas of social justice important to the advancement of women's rights.

As Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin writes in the foreward, "[c]ompassion is at the core of Justice L'Heureux-Dubé's judicial philosophy. She consistently approached the task of judging with consideration for the hardships experienced by others."² These qualities are echoed in the writings of jurists, practitioners, academics, and front-line workers.

Following the introductory materials, which include a tribute to L'Heureux-Dubé, the collection of papers is broken into three sections that focus on themes that stand out in her judgments. The first section, entitled "The Enterprise of Judging," looks at L'Heureux-Dubé's approach to judgment writing, highlighting an intellectual curiosity that is marked by a respect for academic and grassroots contributions to the issues. In the second section, "Shaping Substantive Law," the five authors examine L'Heureux-Dubé's judgments in the area of family, human rights, taxation, immigration, and criminal law, reflecting on the doctrinal shifts that were the result of her judgments. Rounding out the collection is an examination of L'Heureux-Dubé's commitment to invoking substantive equality, not only to women, but to all marginalized groups. As the authors note in the final section, "Committing to Equality," this commitment to substantive over formal equality influenced emerging debates in Canada and equality jurisprudence in other countries.

Among the book's contributors is newly appointed Supreme Court of Canada Justice Rosalie Silberman Abella; Lee Lakeman, a collective member at Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter, and author of the 2003 report *Canada's Promises to Keep: The Charter and Violence Against*

¹ [*Adding Feminism to Law*]

² *Ibid.* at 1.

Women; Professors Mary Jane Mossman, Sheila McIntyre, Christine Boyle, Shelley A.M. Gavigan, and Reg Graycar; and Ena Chadha, senior litigation counsel at ARCH: A Legal Resource Centre for Persons with Disabilities.
