

# John L. J. Edwards Lecture

## "The Omnibus Criminal [In] Justice Agenda: Whither Parliament, the Courts and the Charter"

Presented by The Honourable Professor Irwin Cotler, P.C., O.C., M.P.  
Former Minister of Justice & Attorney General of Canada,  
and an international human rights lawyer

Thursday  
March 26, 2015  
5:00 - 7:30 pm  
Reception to follow  
Music Room  
2nd Floor, Hart House  
7 Hart House Circle  
Toronto, ON M5S 3H3  
University of Toronto



Named after the founder of the Centre for Criminology and Sociolegal Studies, John L. J. Edwards, this is an annual public lecture on issues related to criminal law, crime, policing, punishment, and security. The long list of distinguished scholars who have presented the lecture includes Natalie Davis, Tony Doob, David Garland, Federico Varese, Loic Wacquant and Lucia Zedner.



Irwin Cotler is a Member of the Canadian Parliament and Emeritus Professor of Law at McGill University. A constitutional and comparative law scholar, Prof. Cotler intervened in landmark *Charter of Rights* cases in the areas of free speech, freedom of religion, minority rights, peace law and war crimes justice. As Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Irwin Cotler initiated the first-ever comprehensive reform of the Supreme Court appointment process and helped make it the most gender-representative Supreme Court in the world; appointed the first-ever aboriginal and visible minority justices to the Ontario Court of Appeal; initiated the first-ever law on human trafficking; crafted the *Civil Marriage Act*, the first-ever legislation to grant marriage equality to gays and lesbians; issued Canada's first National Justice Initiative Against Racism and Hate; quashed more wrongful convictions in a single year than any prior Minister, and made the pursuit of international justice a government priority. A leading Parliamentarian on the global stage, he is Chair of the Inter-Parliamentary Group for Human Rights in Iran; Chair

of the Inter-Parliamentary Group of Justice for Sergei Magnitsky; and Chair of the All-Party Save Darfur Parliamentary Coalition. Professor Cotler has served as Counsel to prisoners of conscience including Andrei Sakharov & Nathan Sharansky (former Soviet Union), Nelson Mandela (South Africa), Jacobo Timmerman (Latin America), Prof Saad Eddin Ibrahim (Egypt) and he was Chair of the International Commission of Inquiry into the Fate and Whereabouts of Raoul Wallenberg. He is a Member of the International Legal Team of Chinese Nobel Peace Laureate Liu Xiaobo, and more recently became international legal counsel to imprisoned Saudi blogger Raif Badawi, Venezuelan political prisoner Leopoldo López, and Shi'ite Cleric Ayatollah Boroujerdi in Iran.

Sponsored by the Centre for Criminology & Sociolegal Studies, Faculty of Law, and Woodsworth College

Event contact and RSVP: Lori Wells • 416-978-3722 x226 or email [crim.events@utoronto.ca](mailto:crim.events@utoronto.ca)

If you are a person with a disability and require accommodation please contact Lori Wells to make appropriate arrangements.

