Social Justice, Law and Equality

Judge Juanita Westmoreland-Traoré

Juanita Westmoreland-Traoré is the first black judge to be appointed in Quebec. She also holds the distinction of being the first black dean of a law school (the University of Windsor Faculty of Law) in Canada's history.

The daughter of Guyanese parents, Westmoreland-Traoré was born in Verdun, Montreal, on March 10th, 1942.

She obtained her law degree from the Université de Montréal and a doctorate from the University of Paris and began practising law in 1970. From 1983 to 1985, she served on the Canadian Human Rights Commission. In 1985, she became the first chair of Quebec's Conseil des communautés culturelles et de l'immigration. From 1991 to 1995, she was Ontario's Employment Equity Commissioner. During that time, she was made an Officer of the National Order of Quebec. She was appointed as a Judge of the Court of Quebec for the District of Montreal in 1999.

Judge Westmoreland-Traoré has received numerous awards for her human rights work, including a medal from the Université de Montréal and the Canadian Jewish Congress' Alan Rose Award, to name a few.

In March 2013, the Université du Québec à Montréal's legal studies department founded the Juanita Westmoreland-Traoré scholarship. This $3000 scholarship is to be awarded annually to a single undergraduate law student who uses their training to promote human rights, social justice and equality.

Today, Judge Westmoreland-Traoré is an inspiration to young black women and all who dedicate their lives to the pursuit of justice for racialized and globalized communities.

CUPW is proud to honour Judge Juanita Westmoreland-Traoré.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juanita_Westmoreland-Traoré

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