



NATIONAL RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATIONAL TRUST FUND

16TH PROUDLY PRO-LIFE
AWARDS DINNER

HONORING
Mary Ann Glendon



The media melee surrounding pro-abortion president Barack Obama's acceptance of the University of Notre Dame's invitation to deliver the commencement address at their 2009 graduation ceremony featured one very positive story: a pro-life individual willing to forgo honors rather than allow herself to be used to help create a national platform which Obama undoubtedly would have abused to spread more pro-abortion rhetoric.

Professor Mary Ann Glendon was that brave individual. She had been selected by Notre Dame to be the recipient of their prestigious Laetare Medal, which is presented annually to an American Catholic layperson in recognition of their outstanding service to the Church and society. The University describes it as "the oldest and most prestigious award for American Catholics." But when Professor Glendon learned that pro-abortion president Barack Obama was to deliver the commencement address the same day, and further that she had been used as a talking point and a counterbalance to justify the University's actions, she respectfully withdrew and as a result Notre Dame presented no award this year.

Professor Mary Ann Glendon is a native of Berkshire County, Massachusetts, where she lives with her husband, Edward R. Lev, in Chestnut Hill. They have three daughters.

Professor Glendon is currently the Learned Hand Professor of Law at Harvard University. She writes and teaches in the fields of human rights, comparative law, constitutional law, and legal theory. Her most recent book, *A World Made New: Eleanor Roosevelt and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, is the story of Mrs. Roosevelt's proudest achievement: the framing of the U.N.'s declaration of rights so basic that they belong to everyone on earth simply by virtue of being human.

In 1988, Glendon won the Scribes Book Award given by the American Society of Writers on Legal Subjects for *Abortion and Divorce in Western Law*, a comparative study that was featured in Bill Moyers' "World of Ideas" series. Another comparative study, *The Transformation of Family Law*, won the Legal

Academy's highest award, the Order of the Coif Triennial Book Award in 1993. In 1991, she was elected president of the UNESCO-sponsored International Association of Legal Science.

In 1994, she was appointed by Pope John Paul II to the newly created Pontifical Academy of Social Science. In 1995, she headed the 22-member delegation of the Holy See to the Fourth U.N. Women's Conference in Beijing. In 1998, she was named by *The National Law Journal* as one of the "Fifty Most Influential Women Lawyers in America." Glendon's books, bringing a comparative approach to a variety of subjects, include *A Nation Under Lawyers* (1996), a portrait of turbulence in the legal profession, analyzing the implications of recent changes in legal culture for a democratic polity that entrusts crucial roles to legally trained men and women; *Seedbeds of Virtue* (co-edited with David Blankenhorn) (1995); *Rights Talk* (1991); *The Transformation of Family Law* (1989); *Abortion and Divorce in Western Law* (1987); *The New Family and the New Property* (1981); and textbooks on comparative legal traditions. She has received honorary doctorates from numerous universities including the Universities of Chicago and Louvain.

Professor Glendon taught at Boston College Law School from 1968 to 1986, and has been a visiting professor at the University of Chicago Law School and the Gregorian University in Rome. She received her Bachelor of Arts, Juris Doctor, and master of comparative law degrees from the University of Chicago. During a two-year post-graduate fellowship for the study of European law, Professor Glendon studied at the Université Libre de Bruxelles and was a legal intern with the European Economic Community. From 1963 to 1968, she practiced law with the Chicago firm of Mayer, Brown & Platt, and served as a volunteer civil rights attorney.

The story of Professor Mary Ann Glendon's bravery was widely publicized in the media as a deliberate pro-life rebuke of the pro-abortion actions of the Obama administration. Through this and all her previous achievements, she has gained for the right-to-life movement new levels of respect, new members, and enriched our understanding of the rights of the unborn in the context of American law and the philosophical tradition. For these and numerous other reasons, we are honored to present Professor Glendon this award.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER SIXTH TWO THOUSAND NINE
THE WALDORF=ASTORIA - NEW YORK, NEW YORK
