

Syracuse University Ed.D. Citation
May 13, 2007

Syracuse University
Office of the Chancellor

Doctor of Education, Honoris Causa

Thomas K. Gilhool, attorney, public servant, teacher, you stand among the greatest champions of human rights that this nation has produced. As Chief Counsel of the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia, you deftly used the fulcrum of the Constitution to leverage justice for all children with disabilities. In *Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Children v. the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania* you successfully not only established that children with disabilities have a right to a public education, but that inclusive classrooms are the preferred form of schooling for them. You also were lead counsel in *Halderman v. Pennhurst*, a critical case that both initiated and fueled the national movement for the deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities.

You have fashioned monumental shifts in law that have engendered change in the nation conscience, thereby improving the lives of millions of children, their families, and their communities. Your groundbreaking work continues to shine the light of truth into dark corners of our society in which persons with disabilities are still denied their basic human rights.

In this the School of Education centennial year, it is particularly fitting that we recognize you for your outstanding contributions to education and your national leadership as an advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities.

Nancy Cantor
Chancellor and President
May 3, 2007