RESOLVED, that Brooklyn College award Deborah Poritz, ’58 the degree of Doctor of Arts and Letters, and Howard Brandston, ’58 the degree of Doctor of Fine Arts, both honoris causa, at the college’s annual commencement ceremony on June 2, 2016.

EXPLANATION: Honorable Deborah Poritz was the attorney general in the state of New Jersey from 1994 to 1996. She is also a former New Jersey Supreme Court Justice who served on the court from 1996 to 2006. Judge Poritz currently works for the private law firm Drinker, Biddle & Reath. After earning a Bachelor of Arts in English at Brooklyn College in 1958, she received a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1977. While serving as attorney general, she defended Megan’s Law in both state and federal courts. As chief justice on the New Jersey Supreme Court, Judge Poritz presided over milestone cases and wrote a landmark decision declaring that the Boy Scouts of American could not ban gays from membership in New Jersey, likening homophobia to sexism and racial discrimination.

Howard Brandston is renowned lighting designer who has had an outstanding career in commercial and artistic lighting design. He established a firm in 1965 and since then, his company has completed nearly 3,000 architectural lighting projects in 60 countries around the globe. He has illuminated the Statue of Liberty, Battery Park City, London Bridge, the Petronas Towers, and the US Pavilion at the World Expo in 1970, among other structures. He has also collaborated with well-known artists such as Roy Lichtenstein, Alexander Calder and Isamu Noguchi. Mr. Brandston’s lighting expertise has also had applications in the field of medicine: he helped develop the use of ultra violet light applications to control the spread of diseases such as tuberculosis. Mr. Brandston has received more than 100 awards in his field and has published articles in over 70 trade publications.
Deborah T. Poritz ’58

Deborah T. Poritz ’58, a former chief justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court, has had a distinguished career in public service as an attorney and a jurist and is the first woman to serve as chief justice in New Jersey.

Judge Poritz received her bachelor’s degree in English from Brooklyn College in 1958, graduating magna cum laude and as a member of Phi Beta Kappa. She was a Woodrow Wilson Fellow in American and English literature at Columbia University, and she continued her graduate studies at Brandeis University. Judge Poritz taught composition and literature at Ursinus College in Pennsylvania from 1967 to 1970, and then left to enter law school.

In 1977 Judge Poritz earned a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania and joined the office of the New Jersey Attorney General as a deputy attorney general. She quickly advanced, becoming assistant chief of the Environmental Protection Section in 1981; chief of the Banking, Insurance, and Public Securities Section in 1984; and two years later, director of the Division of Law, supervising more than 300 state attorneys.

Judge Poritz was appointed as chief counsel to Governor Thomas H. Kean in 1989, serving as his principal adviser on legal and legislative matters. After she left office, Judge Poritz became a partner at the Princeton law firm of Jameison, Moore, Peskin & Spicer. There, she represented clients in environmental, transportation, and insurance regulatory matters. In 1994 Judge Poritz was appointed New Jersey’s first female attorney general by Governor Christine Todd Whitman. She was responsible for successfully defending, in state and federal courts, Megan’s Law, which requires law enforcement authorities to make public information regarding registered sex offenders. She also chaired a task force that implemented the reorganization of the juvenile justice system in New Jersey.

Judge Poritz was sworn in as chief justice of the Supreme Court of New Jersey in 1996; she was the first woman to hold that position in the state. For the next decade she would lead the judiciary during a period of statewide unification that followed legislation transferring the responsibility for court funding from the counties to the state. Poritz retired from the bench in 2006, and in 2008 she became counsel to the Princeton office of Drinker, Biddle & Reath.

Judge Poritz’s professional affiliations are notable. As the state attorney general, she was a member of the Senior Environmental Forum, a national discussion group established to coordinate environmental enforcement and compliance. She has had leadership positions with the National Association of Attorneys General and been a member of the Conference of Chief Justices since 1996.

Among her awards and honors, Judge Poritz received the Alumna Award of Merit from the University of Pennsylvania Law School and the Alumna of the Year award from the Brooklyn College Alumni Association. She has been presented with the National Association of Women Judges’ Lifetime Achievement Award, as well as the Civic Leadership Award from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities. Judge Poritz has received honorary degrees from Rutgers
University School of Law—where she has taught since 2011 as a resident professor—Seton Hall University of Law, Drew University, Montclair University, Monmouth University, and Thomas Edison State College.

For her distinguished career as an Attorney General and Supreme Court Justice of the state of New Jersey, during which time she helped create lasting reform to the juvenile justice system, Brooklyn College seeks to honor Deborah Poritz with the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.

Howard Brandston ‘58

Howard Brandston ’58 is a lighting designer whose outstanding 50-year career in commercial and artistic lighting design has earned him national and international distinction.

The Brooklyn College theater major secured his first job when he boldly contacted Stanley McCandless, considered the father of modern lighting design, to consult him about lighting a cyclorama to create the illusion of sky in Gershwin Hall, now the site of the Leonard and Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts. McCandless told Brandston that no such equipment existed, which prompted the student to design what he hired him. The encouragement the college senior received from working with the man he called “the god of lighting” led him to what would become a distinguished career.

In 1965 Brandston founded his firm, Brandston Partnership Inc. (BPI). Under his direction the company has designed the lighting for nearly 3,000 commercial, residential, and government projects in more than 60 countries. Among his most notable and prestigious projects are the lighting of: the Statue of Liberty; Central Park; London Bridge City; The University of Pennsylvania; the Decorative Arts Gallery at the Getty Museum in Los Angeles; the Ring of Fire Aquarium in Osaka, Japan; and the Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Most recently, he designed the lighting for the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Park on Roosevelt Island in New York City. During the course of his career, Brandston has worked with world-renowned artists such as Alexander Calder, Roy Lichenstein, Maya Lin, and Isamu Noguchi.

Along with a long-term appointment at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and the Feltman Chair in Lighting at The Cooper Union, Brandston has taught and lectured at several schools during the past 50 years, including Hofstra University; Ohio University, Temple University, Washington University, and the City College of the City University of New York.

In addition to serving as a contributing editor for *Architectural Lighting*, Brandston has published articles in more than 70 publications. He has been recognized with more than 100 awards, including the International Association of Lighting Designers Lifetime Achievement Award and the American Institute of Architects Institute Honors award. Brandston is the only lighting designer to be inducted into the Interior Design Hall of Fame, and one of only four individuals to have received every major award given by the Illuminating Engineering Society.
(IES). In 2014 he received the United States Institute of Theater Technology Distinguished Achievement Award.

Brandston set the standards for lighting consumption during 1970s, which that were used by the U.S. government to determine mandated lighting consumption during the energy crisis. In 2011, he argued before the U.S. Senate that restricting incandescent lamp usage in favor of compact fluorescent bulbs would have a significant, negative impact on Americans, including the loss of lamp manufacturing to China, exposure to the mercury in compact fluorescent bulbs, and the expense of retrofitting.

Brandston continues to promote his belief in the fundamental value of light through work with researchers from Harvard University and Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York City on a unique ultraviolet projector that would kill airborne germs. He plans to distribute the projector in the developing world, particularly in Africa, in order to lower the death rate among HIV-infected people who are at risk of contracting tuberculosis, which can be fatal to the immune-suppressed.

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the field of lighting design, his commitment to the protection of the environment, and the advancement of medical technology through his lighting innovations, Brooklyn College seeks to honor Howard Brandston with the honorary degree of Doctor of Fine Arts, *honoris causa.*