

### **Citation for Wadad Kadi**

Wadad Kadi is an extraordinary scholar of Islamic thought and civilization who is recognized throughout the world of Arabic language and literature. Her writing and research are ground-breaking, and probe the influence of the Qur'an on Arabic prose, the use of the Qur'an in literature, Islamic theology and sectarianism, early Islamic administrative history, Islamic political thought, and Islamic papyrology. Professor Kadi was the Avalon Foundation Distinguished Service Professor of the University of Chicago, now professor emerita. She is the winner of the King Faisal International Prize for Arabic Literature, a prize considered by some to be in Arabic literature the equivalent of the Nobel Prize.

Wadad Kadi is celebrated for her skill at communicating her deep knowledge to students, whom she mentored passionately. At the University of Chicago she won the Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching, in part for her conviction that “full scholarly life begins in earnest in the classroom.” As a teacher and scholar, she demanded the same high standards from her students as from her colleagues in the field. Now retired, Professor Kadi continues to advise graduate students and share her accumulated wisdom.

Acclaimed for her erudition and for her direct engagement of both colleagues and students, Professor Kadi has taught at Harvard, Columbia, Yale, the University of Stockholm, the University of Rome, and the American University in Cairo, and has been visiting scholar at Oxford University. She has published eleven books in English and Arabic, and has served as editor of numerous journals, book series, and encyclopedias.

I am particularly pleased to be welcoming Wadad Kadi back home. Born in Beirut, she pursued all her higher education at AUB—BA, MA, and PhD—and her first teaching post was in the Islamic section of the University's Department of Religious Studies. Not one to rest on her laurels, she continues her research and writing on Umayyad society from retirement.