



# Rose Heilbron

## The Story of England's First Woman Queen's Counsel and Judge

by *Hilary Heilbron*

Rose Heilbron QC, (later Dame Rose Heilbron) was an English barrister, who became a world famous icon of the 1950's and 1960's. She was one of the two first women Queen's Counsel in 1949 and the first woman Judge in England in 1956 when she became Recorder of Burnley. This biography, written by her daughter Hilary, also a barrister and Queen's Counsel, charts her rise to prominence and success against the odds, excelling as an advocate and lawyer and later as a High Court Judge. She broke down many barriers and became a pioneer for women at the English Bar and for women generally. She also championed many women's causes in an era when it was not fashionable to do so, most of which have since become part of the mainstream.

The biography highlights her role as an inspiring and successful advocate in many famous cases. In 1950, when murder still carried the death penalty and aged only 35, she defended the man accused of a brutal murder in what was to become known as the Cameo case. She later defended Devlin and Burns in another famous murder trial. She represented the striking Liverpool Dockers in a case of national importance. She achieved an historic victory in an early anti-discrimination case, representing the world renowned cricketer Learie Constantine who had been the victim of race discrimination, and she defended the notorious London gangster, Jack Spot. But there are many other famous and fascinating trials as well as cases of great legal importance related in this biography.

### The Author

Hilary Heilbron is the only child of the late Rose Heilbron and herself a Barrister and Queen's Counsel. She practices commercial litigation and international arbitration in London and in other jurisdictions and sits as an international arbitrator.

### Book Details

22nd Oct 2012 Hbk 367pp ISBN: 9781849464017 RSP: £20

Also chronicled is her tenure in later life as a High Court Judge where she received plaudits for her compassionate approach to cases involving difficult and emotional family and personal issues as well as for her adept and experienced handling of criminal cases, such skills clearly recognized by her appointment by the government in 1975 to chair an Advisory Committee on Rape.

This book tells the story of her many firsts in the legal profession over a career spanning nearly 50 years and of the wide range of other legal and non-legal activities she undertook as a result of her fame. With the added insights and recollections of her daughter it portrays a multi-dimensional picture of the young and beautiful Rose Heilbron - barrister, working wife and mother and judge - who not only managed to combine these public and private roles in an era when to do so was extremely rare, but who did so with the combination of warmth, flair and determination which was to make her an internationally acclaimed role model for women.

Many people over the years have wanted to write about her: this is the first authorised biography. It will be of interest to lawyers and legal scholars, and will also have a wider general appeal to professional and working women worldwide.

Available from **The Co-op Bookshop Sydney CBD**  
Shop 2, 153 Phillip Street, Sydney NSW 2000  
[www.coop-bookshop.com.au](http://www.coop-bookshop.com.au)

For further information about this title please visit the  
Hart Publishing website [www.hartpub.co.uk](http://www.hartpub.co.uk)

Hart Publishing Ltd is registered in England No. 3307205

