

Waterside Press, Hampshire

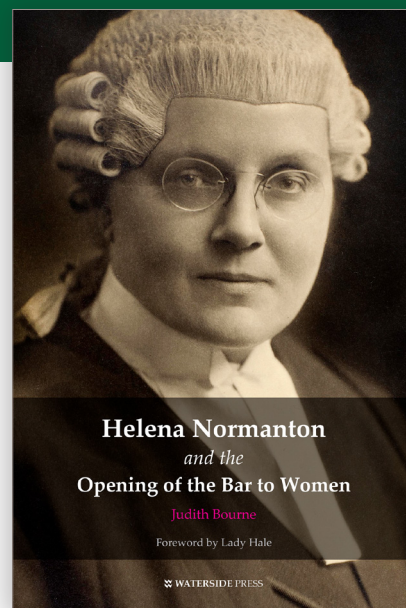
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## Advance Information

<b>Title</b>	<b>Helena Normanton and the Opening of the Bar to Women</b>
<b>Author</b>	Judith Bourne
<b>Publisher</b>	Waterside Press
<b>Format</b>	Paperback 234x156mm, 272 pages
<b>ISBN</b>	978-1-909976-32-0
<b>Price</b>	£22.95 <b>Rights Worldwide</b>
<b>Publication</b>	21 Sept 2016 <b>Edition 1st</b>
<b>Category</b>	Legal History, Biography, Crime and Punishment, Social History.
<b>Subjects</b>	LAZ=Legal history; BGA=Autobiography: general.
<b>Who will buy it?</b>	Lawyers, social historians, students, women's groups, feminists.



This book looks at the life and work of England's first woman practising barrister. Set in the early-20th-century, it describes how a childhood dream to join an Inn of Court — forged when visiting a solicitor with her perplexed mother — led to Helena Normanton's determination to open the then exclusively male Bar of England and Wales to women. It tells how — largely lost to history — the press were quick to pigeon-hole, harass and publish stories about her, leading to disciplinary proceedings concerning the barrister's cardinal sin of self-publicising.

Once qualified and enmeshed in a world of men, Helena Normanton faced a constant struggle to establish herself against a backdrop of prejudice, misogyny and discrimination. With male solicitors fearful of the unknown and reluctant to instruct her, she spent much of her long career taking-on poor person's cases, dock briefs and those 'deemed suitable for a woman' (i.e. in the family courts).

But Helena Normanton was unusually talented and a prolific writer for national magazines, a leading feminist in an era of profound change and a speaker who would entrance audiences at home and abroad (she toured the USA). Every step of her progress seems to have courted controversy yet — as the book shows — she also found supporters and admirers amongst the grandest names of the day. Akin in its power and messages of unbridled persistence to the

Waterside Press publication (and accompanying TV series) *Sir William Garrow*.

### Key Selling Points

- **The first account of Normanton's historic fight to join the Bar and for it to be opened up to women.**
- **Will appeal to women's groups, feminists and those concerned with women's place in the world.**
- **Set in the early-20th century at the key time in women's emancipation.**
- **Shows how the media made her 'public property'.**
- **Raises issues that still resonate.**

### Author

**Judith Bourne** is an academic at St. Mary's University, Twickenham and Co-Director of the Centre for Law and Culture. She founded and chairs the 'First Women Lawyers in Great Britain and the Empire Symposia'. With a doctorate from King's College, London, Judith formerly practised as a barrister. Her research focuses on Feminist Perspectives on Law, Land Law and Equity and Trusts Law.

Waterside Press hopes shortly to announce a Foreword by a leading legal figure.



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