



Sex Power and Justice: Historical Perspectives on Law in Australia

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This book explores the history of gender bias in the law. It draws on the most recent scholarship in the historical research of law in Australia. The contributors present material of both contemporary and historical relevance as they offer new insights into the significance of the law over two centuries of Australia's history. It analyses the impact of the law on women; on legal constructions of gender and race; and on feminist campaigns to redress grievances.

In the nineteenth century feminists organised campaigns to repeal repressive and discriminatory laws. Twentieth-century feminists joined the legal profession and set out to redirect legal education and practices in new ways. These essays contribute to this critique as they explore areas feminists have identified in women's struggle to achieve justice. Weaving together themes of difference, categorisation and change, in four broad areas - sexuality, family, punishment and citizenship - this book offers an original and unique contribution to current concerns about the gender bias in law.

This book will meet the demands of students and teachers seeking historical material to broaden legal education, and will be a valuable aid to all those interested in the law in Australian history.

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