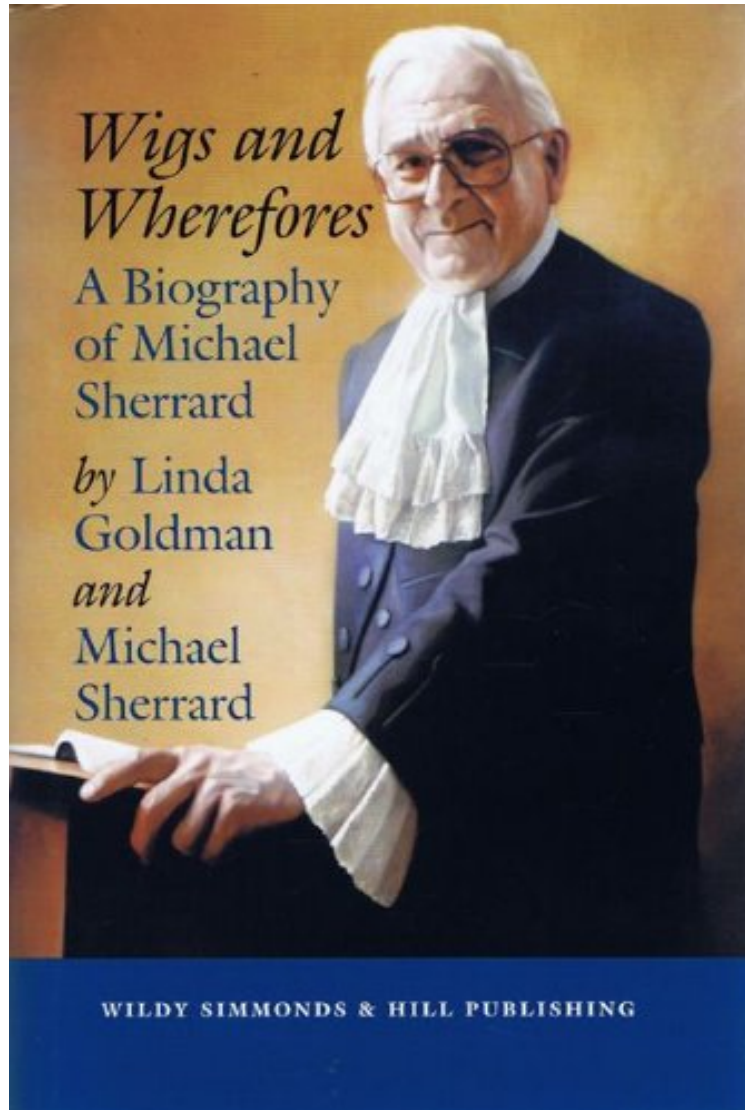


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## Wigs and Wherefores: A Biography of Michael Sherrard QC

*Linda Goldman, Michael Sherrard QC*  
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**Linda Goldman, Michael Sherrard QC : Wigs and Wherefores: A Biography of Michael Sherrard QC** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Wigs and Wherefores: A Biography of Michael Sherrard QC:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. He gained much .. and has given moreBy Phillip Taylor MBE[[VIDEOID:mo17TVOZ5VZL316]]HE'S FIENDISHLY DIFFICULT TO XX!MICHAEL SHERRARD'S MODERN INFLUENCES FOR TODAY'S ADVOCATE EXPLAINEDLinda Goldman has written an interesting variation on the normal structure of a biography with this review of Michael Sherrard's life and cases.I've reviewed

many legal biographies and each are always worthy in their own way because they deal with 'people', and we are in the people business- and it's great for the historical record. Joshua Rosenberg's foreword sums it all up saying that Sherrard "is such a good advocate that it must have been fiendishly difficult for Linda Goldman to cross examine him"! Absolutely right! But Linda has excelled here with some splendid explanations as the 'voice over' Sherrard's commentaries which are very helpful and give some structure to this narrative. There continues to be a growing library of works about 'the people in the law' today - those who have made a lasting presence with their professional influence, and Michael Sherrard deserves the title as one of our 'the best of advocates' - a skill which many aspire to but few actually exhibit, as those elements in the judiciary we fall foul of will often comment on with barbed comment! 'Wigs and Wherefores' is his lasting thesis of modern advocacy. This is a frank and entertaining account of a barrister-at-law who has been a substantial player in the events of the last half century. It is about a man who has mingled with the personalities of the time to give us all a marvellous historic insight into the contemporary times we have just lived through. This part autobiography/part biography illustrates the momentous changes in attitude society has undertaken towards criminals, and those who sail close to the wind, by the recounting of a catalogue of names from the immediate past. It is probably the passion which Sherrard exhibits for his branch of the legal profession which gives this work its intellectual sparkle. Many of us have been privileged to participate in occasions which described are 'milestones' at our point in history...but we always see it rather differently from those who comment and opinion form, such as 'well, I was there, but I don't remember it being quite like that!' This work sets some records straight. This compelling tale gives two views, actually: Michael's view from the coal face (and you can use the index to spot your favourite villain to look up) and Linda's view which gives the perspective and explanations which we all need when reading autobiographies. I am very grateful to include this little book amongst my expanding legal history library of 'contemporaries I have seen or known' because it gives an illuminating insight into a fascinating career. There are lots of hidden tips of how to succeed, as Sherrard has done, and he deserves the title of foremost advocate of his generation- he has come far, as the modern Bar moves on. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Unexpectedly fascinating biography By Desmond F. Bellamy Imagine if you will being invited to a dinner party and finding yourself seated next to a distinguished barrister from the mysterious legal jungles of England. If like me your exposure to the law has been mostly through watching Rumpole of the Bailey or Law and Order, the prospect of sitting through arcane expositions of forgotten cases decided by reference to musty legal tomes is somewhat daunting. Imagine then my delight at finding Michael Sherrard a fascinating and entertaining speaker. I say speaker both because it works with my dinner party metaphor, but also because it seems likely that most of the book is a transcription of his reminiscences and anecdotes of his long and illustrious career defending, prosecuting and judging some of the most controversial cases in Europe and what the English still quaintly call "The Far East" - particularly Hong Kong and Singapore. Thankfully, the book's co-author, barrister and judge Linda Goldman, is there as an intermediary, whispering to us in italics and footnotes explanations of some of the more esoteric legal terms and filling in biographical details of the various colourful characters named. By the time we pour the glasses of port and Sherrard's story moves from his legal career to his "retirement" - working full time to set up a system to train barristers in the art of advocacy (rather than leave them to 'infuriate judges and alarm clients' as was the case in his youth), I was quite sorry to get up from the dinner table and bid farewell to an unlikely new friend. An interesting read, and the cover, a painting of Sherrard after his investiture with the CBE for services to the law, shows in his modest smile the light hearted intelligence with which the book is written. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Linda Goldman is a writer with great insight. By Customer Wigs and Wherefores: A Biography of Michael Sherrard QC I have to say I approached this book with trepidation, thinking it would be another lot of anecdotes lightly joined together. WOW----I could not put it down till I had read it cover to cover. It is a great read, documenting the life and cases of Michael Sherrard with verve and style. The man is a genius. The biographer, Ms Goldman is also a genius for putting it all together for us. As well as the infamous Hanratty case, there are dozens of vignettes of Mr Sherrard's life in court and the colonies. The personal touches are not forgotten, too. This is a humble man who has served British justice with diligence and a great pride in his profession. I do hope Ms Goldman continues to write more legal biographies. She certainly has a gift, it seems. Dr Adrian Rose

There is a generation of lawyers, barristers and solicitors alike, who, together with the many clients that he represented during a long and distinguished career, consider Michael Sherrard to have been one of the great recent influences on the legal profession and the Bar in particular. Lord Denning, before whom he appeared in trials and appeals, said that he regarded him as 'the best of advocates'. Michael Sherrard was involved in numerous high-profile cases in both domestic courts and those of the Far East. This book provides a frank and entertaining account of Michael Sherrard's life in the law. Many of the events and personalities within its pages continue to spark public interest: the defence of James Hanratty; the inquiry into John Stonehouse's activities; encounters with Robert Maxwell; and the anti-apartheid activities of Peter Hain. The book also chronicles his major role in developing modern advocacy worldwide. Wherever the English common law has operated within the last twenty-odd years, the voice of Michael Sherrard speaks through many of the trained advocates. Wigs and Wherefores is ultimately the story of one man's passion for the law, its

intrigues and its traditions. It is a compelling tale told with humour and compassion, providing a fascinating insight into the remarkable career of one of the foremost advocates of his generation.

About the Author Linda Goldman is a barrister and part-time employment judge. She has previously contributed to a range of law publications. Michael Sherrard CBE, QC is now retired from a successful international career in the law spanning nearly half a century. His deadly approach to cross-examination delighted press and public alike and put many of his cases into headline news.