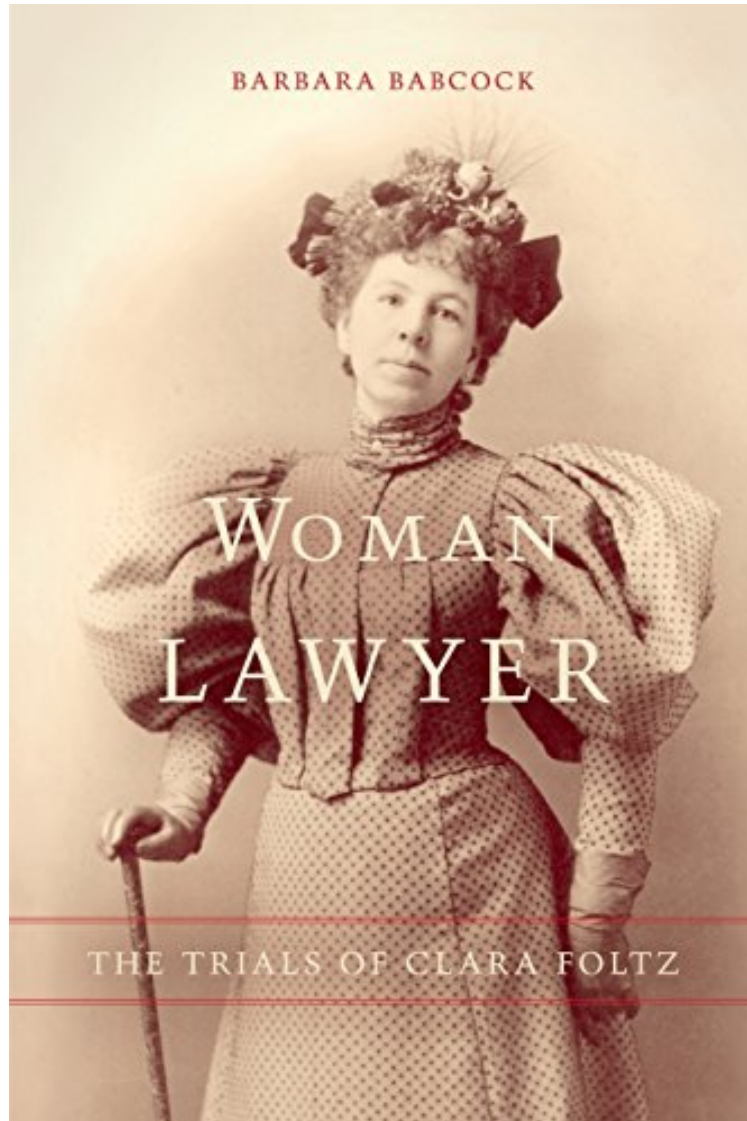


[Free download] Woman Lawyer: The Trials of Clara Foltz

Woman Lawyer: The Trials of Clara Foltz

Barbara Babcock

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Barbara Babcock : Woman Lawyer: The Trials of Clara Foltz before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Woman Lawyer: The Trials of Clara Foltz:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Rescuing the Life of a Lawyer, Activist, and Public Intellectual By Massaro Barbara Babcock has written an elegant, important biography of a nearly lost figure in American legal history. Clara Foltz led an extraordinary life by any measure, in any era. But in the late nineteenth century Foltz led an almost unbelievable life of professional achievements, vision, and ambition. Anyone interested in legal history, in women's rights, or in the dawn of American consciousness about the importance of providing legal representation to the poor

will enjoy this engaging and brilliantly documented account of Foltz's colorful career. Along the way, they also will learn much about California history and the rise of the west coast as a center of intellectual and cultural innovation and growth. A "first woman" herself -- Babcock has been a path-breaker in her own professional career -- the author brings Foltz to life as a complex, compelling human being. Her victories, her disappointments, and her boundless hope all are part of this lovely portrait of an activist who wanted equal rights for all -- including for herself in a profession that saw women's role as hearth and home, not bench and bar. The book also is an excellent account of constitutional and practical arguments for effective assistance of counsel that are as relevant today as they were in the 1870s. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Highly recommended biography of an amazing woman By Leslie I've known a bit about Clara Foltz for many years, since I am a graduate of Hastings College of the Law (which Clara sued to require the admission of women in 1878), and the women law student's group at Hastings is called the Clara Foltz Society. But I didn't realize the full extent of her accomplishments until I read this book. Incredible! And this biography is very well-written and a pleasure to read. If you have any interest in women's history, legal history, or California history, you should enjoy it. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. can't wait to read this + update By tatoland I have not yet read this book, am finally ordering it now. My dad was Truman Toland (1922-2011), great grandson of Clara, and son of William Gridley Toland and Trella (Clara's daughter). I can't wait to read this as I've heard Babcock lecture on Clara and she is spellbinding in her storytelling. I can only imagine that the writing is as eloquent. One story I remember is that Clara was part of the opening ceremonies for the Lincoln Tunnel from Newark to Manhattan. My dad sat in the front of the limousine with the chauffeur and so always claimed to have been the first person through the tunnel (along with the chauffeur of course). (The portrait of Clara that may be hanging in the courthouse in LA was done by my father (BFA, Yale).) UPDATE: This is a must read. As I anticipated, Babcock tells the story with clarity and honesty. Very engaging!

Woman Lawyer tells the story of Clara Foltz, the first woman admitted to the California Bar. Famous in her time as a public intellectual, leader of the women's movement, and legal reformer, Foltz faced terrific prejudice and well-organized opposition to women lawyers as she tried cases in front of all-male juries, raised five children as a single mother, and stumped for political candidates. She was the first to propose the creation of a public defender to balance the public prosecutor. Woman Lawyer uncovers the legal reforms and societal contributions of a woman celebrated in her day, but lost to history until now. It casts new light on the turbulent history and politics of California in a period of phenomenal growth and highlights the interconnection of the suffragists and other movements for civil rights and legal reforms.

"Stanford Law professor Barbara Babcock enriches our knowledge of women and the law in California history with this single volume, *Woman Lawyer: The Trials of Clara Foltz*. . . Chapters devoted to her writings in law reviews and model statutes investigate and reveal Foltz's thinking and her impact on public life. . . [R]eaders will find in them extensive detail and compelling analysis." (Brenda Farrington *Western Legal History*) "Babcock is at her best in *Woman Lawyer* . . . giving just enough information to whet the appetite." (Tracy Thomas *Journal of American History*) "By rescuing Clara Foltz's story from relative obscurity, Babcock has provided a powerful reminder of women's strength in the face of adversity, their will to overcome difficulties, and, together with sympathetic brothers-in-law, to work toward a system of justice accessible and fair to all. *Woman Lawyer* should engage feminists of my era and my children's generation, and history buffs of any age; most of all, the book should amaze and inspire young women and public defenders just embarking on their lives in the law." (Ruth Bader Ginsburg *Stanford Law*) "Barbara Babcock is one of our leading legal historians. *Woman Lawyer* gives voice to Clara Foltz's long and fascinating life, making vivid her important contributions as a reformer, 'first' woman lawyer, and legal thinker. It will establish itself as a classic in legal studies, women's studies, and American biography." (Jill Norgren *City University of New York*) "[T]his is a magnificent book establishing Clara Foltz's foundational work for women's employment rights, female suffrage, and the public defender's office." (Gordon Bakken *H-Net*) "Beautifully written and meticulously researched, *Woman Lawyer* provides a riveting portrait of a remarkable woman and her journey as a mother of five to becoming one of the first women lawyers in United States. Yet even more memorable is this book's evocation of another frontier: California on the brink of its modern identity, forged in the middle of an economic challenge and intense racial and class conflict. Unflinching in its assessment of the temptations of demagoguery to the pioneering Clara Foltz, Barbara Babcock has produced a compelling book of enormous and enduring insight into how even gifted and visionary individuals navigate, shape, and reflect political and social contests." (Martha Minow *Dean of Harvard Law School*) "The book is rich in history, and as entertaining and lively as its subject." (Barbara Kate Repa *California Lawyer*) "Barbara Babcock's wonderful book only reinforces my view that being a public defender has been the most rewarding part of my professional career. Clara Foltz is my hero, and this book chronicles the challenges and achievements of perhaps the greatest public defender ever." (Charles Ogletree *Harvard Law School*) "Barbara Babcock conjures and brings to life a nearly-forgotten feminist hero. This account of Clara Foltz's rise from an under-educated farmer's wife to an icon of the California women's movement and a national public intellectual is both riveting and

strangely familiar. That a single mother of five could have exploded into the hurly-burly world of California in the 1870s and through mastery of the media, manipulation of her public image, and dogged hard work become a national force for early progressive jurisprudence is astonishing. That women in 2011 could have no collective memory of Foltz is tragic. Babcock brings Foltz back to us with great tenderness and subtlety, reclaiming a place in American legal history for a working mother and national thinker who has much to teach us still." (Dahlia Lithwick Senior Editor, Slate)"In her engrossing new book, *Woman Lawyer: The Trials of Clara Foltz*, Barbara Babcock acknowledges that, for her, full detachment from her courageous, charismatic subject California's first woman lawyer is not possible. In fact, full detachment from Clara Foltz is not possible for any of her 'daughters in the law,' and beyond the law. Foltz's struggles to gain a foothold in several all-male worlds, powerfully told, connect to so many of us, across the nation and across the centuries." (Judith S. Kaye Chief Judge of the State of New York)"For Barbara Babcock, a distinguished legal historian who is herself a feminist pioneer . . . this book is clearly a labor of love, but also of identification. Babcock recognizes that the women we write about are not always model heroines; they have flaws, make mistakes, and choose differently from what we might have chosen. She tells Foltz's tale with commendable dispassion, never too close to her subject nor too critical, yet with her own perspective 'as a trial lawyer, a public defender, a first woman, and a feminist' shaping the account in both the selection and treatment of her material." (Rosemary Auchmuty Feminist Legal Studies)About the Author Barbara Babcock, Judge John Crown Professor of Law, Emerita, at Stanford University, is the first woman appointed to the regular faculty at Stanford Law School. She served as an Assistant Attorney General and was the first Director of the Public Defender Service in Washington, D.C.