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Perspective -- Deborah Rhode -- 2. The Effect of Lawyer Gender on Client Perceptions of Lawyer Behaviour -- William Felstiner et al -- 3. Gender in Context: Women in Family Law -- Lynn Mather -- 4. Barriers to Gender Equality in the Canadian Legal Establishment -- Fiona M Kay and Joan Brockman -- 5. Engendering the Legal Profession: The Education Strategy -- Mary Jane Mossman -- 6. Women in the Legal Profession: The Australian Profile -- Rosemary Hunter -- 7. Women Barristers and Gender Difference in Australia -- Rosemary Hunter -- 8. New Zealand Women Lawyers at the End of the Twentieth Century --Georgina Murray -- 9. The Status of Women Lawyers in the United Kingdom -- Clare MS McGlynn -- 10. Strategies for Reforming the English Solicitors' Profession: An Analysis of the Business Case for Sex Equality -- Clare MS McGlynn -- 11. Prospects for Parity: The Position of Women in the Judiciary in England and Wales -- Kate Malleson -- 12. Can Women Lawyer Differently? A Perspective from the UK -- Hilary Sommerlad -- 13. The Remains of the Day: The Women Law Professors Project -- Celia Wells -- 14. Lawyers in the Courtroom: Gender, Trials and Professional Performance in Israel -- Bryna Bogoch -- PART 2.

WOMEN LAWYERS IN THE CIVIL LAW WORLD -- 15. The Status of Women Lawyers in Germany -- Ulrike Schultz -- 16. Women Lawyers in Germany: Perception and Construction of Femininity -- Ulrike Schultz -- 17. Women Lawyers in the New Federal States of Germany: From Quantity to Quality? -- Gisela Shaw -- 18. Women in the Dutch Legal Profession (1950-2000) -- Leny E de Groot-van Leuwen -- 19. Choices in Context: Life Histories of Women Lawyers in the Netherlands --Heleen FP letswaart -- 20. Women Lawyers in Poland under the Impact of Post-1989 Transformation -- Ma?gorzata Fuszara -- 21. Women Jurists in Finland at the Turn of the Century: Breakthrough or Intermezzo? -- Harriet Silius -- 22. Male Strategies in the Face of the Feminisation of a Profession: The Case of the French Judiciary -- Anne Boigeol -- 23. Professional Body and Gender Difference in Court: The Case of the First (Failed) Woman Lawyer in Modern Italy -- Vittorio Olgiati -- 24. Women in the Judiciary: A Perspective from Brazil --Eliane Botelho Junqueira -- 25. Lee Tai-Young (1914-1998): The Pioneer Woman Lawyer of South Korea -- Haesook Kim -- 26. Women Lawyers in Japan: Contradictory Factors in Status -- Yuriko Kaminaga and Jorn Westhoff

Sommario/riassunto

Women lawyers, less than a century ago still almost a contradiction in terms, have come to stay. Who are they? Where are they? What impact have they had on the profession that had for so long been a bastion of male domination? These are key questions asked in this first comprehensive study of women in the world's legal professions. Answers are based on both quantitative and qualitative analyses, using a variety of conceptual frameworks. 26 contributions by 25 authors present and evaluate the situation of women in the legal profession in both common and civil law countries in the developed world, 15 countries from four continents are covered: the United States of America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, England, Israel, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, Finland, France, Italy, Brazil, Korea, and Japan. The focus ranges from judges and public prosecutors, to law professors, lawyers (attorneys), notaries and company lawyers. National differences are clearly in evidence, but so are common features cutting across national boundaries. Experience of glass ceilings and revolving doors is as widespread and as real as success stories of women lawyers pursuing their own projects