

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910966651003321
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Titolo	The Court of Appeal / Gavin Drewry, Louis Blom-Cooper, Charles Blake ; with the assistance of Suzanne Fullbrook
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Oxford ; Portland, Oregon, : Hart Publishing, 2007
ISBN	9786611082598 9781472560063 147256006X 9781281082596 1281082597 9781847313591 1847313590
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (216 p.)
Disciplina	347.4203
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (pages [187]-190) and index
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Sommario/riassunto

Civil justice has been undergoing a massive transformation. There have been big changes in the management of judicial business; the Human Rights Act 1988 has had a pervasive impact; the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 has effected many changes - notably, the prospective transfer of the appellate jurisdiction of the House of Lords to a new Supreme Court. Against this backdrop of radical change, this book looks at the recent history and the present-day operation of the civil division of the Court of Appeal - a court that, despite its pivotal position, has attracted surprisingly little scholarly attention. It examines the impact of the permission to appeal requirements, and the way in which applications - particularly those by litigants in person - are handled; it looks at the working methods of the Lords Justices and at the leadership of the Court by recent Masters of the Rolls; it considers the relationship between the Court and the House of Lords - looking at high-profile cases in which the Court has been reversed by the Lords. Notwithstanding the impending arrival of the Supreme Court, it concludes that 'the Court of Appeal will remain firmly in place, occupying its crucial position as, to all intents and purposes, the court of last resort-indeed, a supreme court-for most civil appellants.'