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## Sommario/riassunto

Every lawyer knows of Woolmington v. Director of Public Prosecutions, the ruling which established the 'golden thread of English law' whereby the burden of proof lies with the prosecutor in a criminal trial, even in the case of murder. But who was 'Woolmington' and how many people know that he escaped the death penalty at the eleventh hour, or that he was twice tried for murder? 'Lords give man back his life' as the Western Gazette put it. Likewise, in the civil law, how and why did a Mrs. Donoghue come to be drinking a bottle of ginger beer containing the remnants of a snail, an event which would ultimately determine - at the highest level - that 'the categories of negligence are never closed'? And how did the tranquil market town of Wednesbury come to be legal shorthand for 'unreasonableness'. In Famous Cases: Nine Trials that Changed the Law the authors have painstakingly assembled the background to a selection of leading cases in English law. From the Mareva case (synonymous with a type of injunction) to Lord Denning's classic ruling in the High Trees House case (the turning point for equitable estoppel) to that of the former Chilean head of state General Pinochet (in which the House of Lords heard the facts a second time) the authors offer a refreshing perspective to whet the appetite of every law student, general reader or seasoned practitioner interested in how English law evolves. The book has an authoritative introduction describing 'The Origins of the Common Law' and is enhanced by key extracts from the law reports reproduced courtesy of the Incorporated Council of Law Reporting for England and Wales and the Butterworths Division of Reed Elsevier (UK) Ltd - making it not just an absorbing read but an important work of reference for every legal library and collection.

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