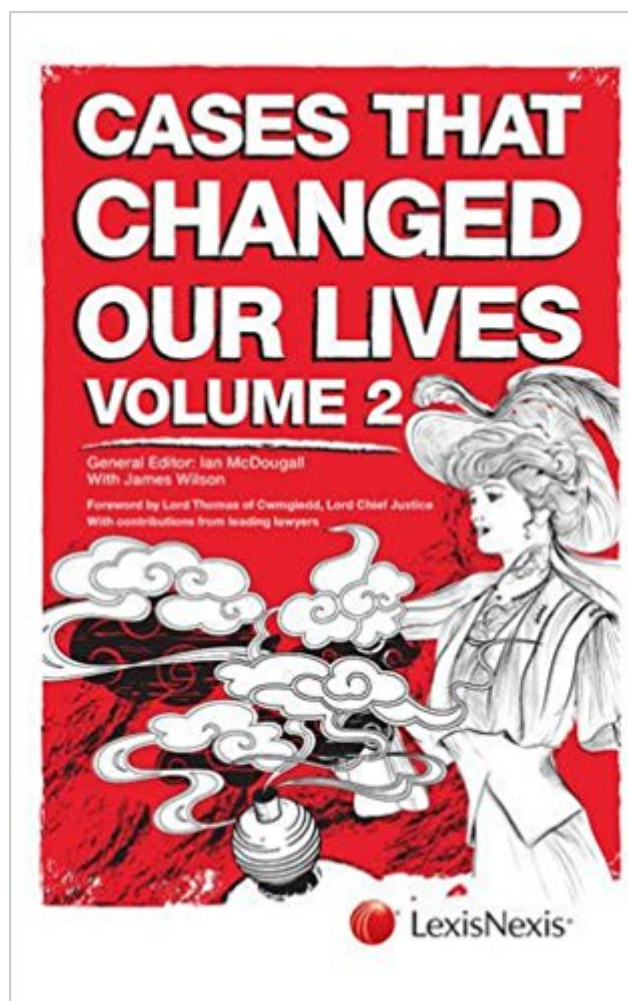


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Cases That Changed Our Lives volume 2



Synopsis

Following the international success of Volume 1 in 2010, Volume 2 presents a brand new selection of cases that have changed our lives. This collection of essays examines key cases (both UK and international) that have changed or created the rules and procedures which govern our lives and which we abide by. It takes a retrospective look at the circumstances behind the results of these great cases, examining the facts and the lasting legacies, as well as revealing a human side to the events that is not always apparent from the law reports. The themes addressed by the book demonstrate the rule of law, showing that through something as abstract as judicial reasoning, we create a set of rules and procedures which govern our lives. In support of the rule of law and the causes championed by LexisNexis, a sum of GBP1 from every copy of the book sold will be donated to Stop the Traffik, a global movement of activists around the world who passionately give their time and energy to build resilient communities and prevent human trafficking.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“BE YOU EVER SO HIGH, THE LAW IS ABOVE YOU”
HERE’S A MOST WELCOME NEW COLLECTION OF CASES WHICH HAVE CREATED OUR COMMON LAW OF TODAY
An appreciation by Phillip Taylor MBE and Elizabeth Taylor of Richmond Green Chambers
It’s always worthwhile quoting Denning’s most famous utterance in *Gouriet*’s case in 1977 that “be you ever so high, the law is above you”, and the sentiments which go back such a long way to the trial of Charles I in 1649 and its aftermath as the centuries which followed created modern English common law which we then gave to the

world. This excellent new book by Ian McDougall and James Wilson and their team of contributors gives a wonderful insight into how we have arrived at today's jurisprudence. We were particularly touched by the motivation of the authors and publisher to donate some money to "Stop the Traffik" - the prevention of human trafficking - from sales of this volume which we can confirm will be well received (again) so the editor and colleagues need not fret. The story of the cases that changed what we do would never, in our view, be complete without the splendid Louisa Carlill of Smoke Ball fame whose delightful cartoon image appears on the front cover. For very many law students, we suspect that Mrs Carlill's little adventure will remain of special significance (it does to us) as one of the first big cases we study as law students so do read chapter 18 on page 181 if you do not do anything else! Lord Thomas, LCJ, rightly says that one can only touch on some of the decisions and issues raised in this collection and the chapters do repay careful reading. Why? Well, when you teach law it is always useful to have both the historic context and the general dates of when decisions are made. It is because, as we have said in other reviews, today's dissenting judgment is tomorrow's good law (well, sometimes, anyway!) so the diligent student can dissect the case law and see how leading authorities really do change our lives because of the precedents they create. As McDougall says, these volumes have the deliberate intention of not being merely case reports solely of interest to lawyers and they are not! The team bring in a focus on the people involved and consequences which, as any student of tort will know, makes that human element all the more enriching as we are dealing with real people such as those we cross examine in court which is probably the most interesting and exhilarating part of any trial. From the feedback received with the first volume, this new collection enhances the reason why we have the rule of law in England and it also illustrates why it is the soundest legal system we can have - and why it has been exported so widely around the world. The final word goes to Lord Thomas who notes that the cases deal with "seminal issues that go to the heart of the relationship between the citizen and the state, between the branches of the state (or government) and between citizens". Thomas concludes that taken together the issues "provide a coherent insight into the balance that has to be struck within these relationships in order for society and the individuals who form it and are formed by it to flourish". Yes, these cases that changed our lives have made us flourish and have made the rule of law the envy of the world.

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