Contents

	Acknowledgements	V
	Portraits of Women Lawyers	ix
Intı	oduction The First Women Lawyers	I
	Prologue: Contemporary Questions about Women as Lawyers	I
	Rethinking the First Women Lawyers: Themes of Gender, Professionalism and Women's Lives	5
	Toward a Comparative History: Introducing the First Women Lawyers	16
I	American Pioneers: The First Women Lawyers	23
	A Century of Struggle	23
	The Context for the First Women Lawyers. New Ideas about Women's	
	Equality and Legal Professionalism	29
	Constitutionalising (In)Equality for Women Lawyers	40
	Women's Rights and Professional Identities	54
2	Women Lawyers in Canada: Becoming Lawyers 'On the Same	
	Terms as Men'	67
	Women as 'Fellow Lawyers'	67
	The Context for the First Women Lawyers in Canada: Reformist Ideas about Professionalism and Women's Roles	73
	'Persons,' Pronouns, and Policy Choices: Judicial Reasoning in French	
	and Langstaff	89
	Contested Ideas: New Women and Legal Professionalism	99
3	'Sound Women' and Legal Work: The First Women in Law	
	in Britain	113
	Women's Access to the Legal Professions in Britain	113
	Eliza Orme: Challenging 'Woman's Sphere' and a 'Gentleman's	
	Profession'	121
	A Woman in Law in the Public Sphere	137
	Eliza Orme and the Gender Issue	148

viii Contents

4	Colonies of the British Empire: The First Woman Lawyer in New Zealand	155
	Women Lawyers in the Colonies	155
	Ethel Benjamin	160
	A 'Rebel [Extending] the Boundary of the Right'?	187
5	The Empire and British India: The First Indian Woman 'In Law'	191
	A Woman Pleading in a British Court in India: 1896	191
	Becoming a Woman in Law in India	196
	Cornelia Sorabji: 'No Peer Among the Women of India'	232
6	European Connections: Women in Law and the Role of Louis Frank	239
	La Femme-Avocat and European Women Lawyers	239
	Lydia Poët, Marie Popelin and Jeanne Chauvin: Jouls Frank's Support for Women in Law	246
	The Context of L'Affaire Chauvin	269
Coı	nclusion Reflecting on the First Women Lawyers	277
	Bibliography	291
	Index	319