



WOMAN LAWYER

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Babcock, Woman Lawyer cloth \$45 **\$31.50** ISBN 0804743584

Clara Foltz, the first woman admitted to the California Bar, was famous in her time as a jury lawyer, public intellectual, leader of the women's movement, inventor of the role of public defender, and legal reformer. Babcock recreates her eventful life and casts new light on the turbulent history and politics of the late nineteenth century and the many links binding the women's rights movement with other reform movements. She "conjures and brings to life a nearly-forgotten feminist hero. This account of Clara Foltz's rise from an under-educated farmer's wife to an icon of the California women's movement and a national public intellectual is both riveting and strangely familiar. That a single mother of five could have exploded into the hurly-burly world of California in the 1870s and—through mastery of the media, manipulation of her public image, and dogged hard work—become a national force for early progressive jurisprudence is astonishing. That women in 2011 could have no collective memory of Foltz is tragic. Babcock brings Foltz back to us with great tenderness and subtlety, reclaiming a place in American legal history for a working mother and national thinker who has much to teach us still." (Dahlia Lithwick, Senior Editor, *Slate*)