

Women in the Criminal Justice System

INTRODUCTION - Elisabeth McDonald	1
Rationale and objectives	1
The increased number of women offenders	2
The recognition of the extent and effects of abuse of women	2
The changing position of women and the changing face of the woman defendant	2
Recent research and policy initiatives	2
Content	3
<i>Chapter One: Counsel and the female defendant</i>	3
<i>Chapter Two: Trial tactics</i>	4
<i>Chapter Three: Bail and sentencing issues</i>	4
<i>Chapter Four: Domestic violence: Issues and processes</i>	5
<i>Chapter Five: Criminal defences for women</i>	5
<i>Chapter Six: Resources and research</i>	6
CHAPTER 1. COUNSEL AND THE FEMALE DEFENDANT - Judith Ablett Kerr QC	8
Introduction	8
Initial stages	8
The discretion to prosecute	9
Diversion	10
Dealing with agencies on behalf of the woman	10
<i>The Police</i>	10
<i>The Department for Courts</i>	11
<i>The Media</i>	11
CHAPTER 2. TRIAL TACTICS	13
Preparation	13
Fighting the myths about women	13
The Courtroom Credibility of the Female	14
Image	15
Further prejudices likely to be encountered	15
Jury Selection	16
Practical difficulties with battered women's syndrome	17
CHAPTER 3. BAIL AND SENTENCING ISSUES - Chief District Court Judge Ron Young	19
BAIL ISSUES	19
Bail Principles	19
Gender and Bail	19
SENTENCING ISSUES	21
Introduction	21

Statistics	21
Rehabilitative Sentences	22
Some Sentencing Factors of Particular Relevance to Women	22
<i>Section 16 of the Criminal Justice Act 1985</i>	22
<i>Women as Caregivers</i>	22
<i>Young Children & Pregnancy</i>	23
<i>Section 5 Criminal Justice Act</i>	24
<i>Suspended Prison Sentences</i>	24
<i>Name Suppression</i>	25
<i>Fines</i>	25
<i>Section 38 Criminal Justice Act</i>	26
Sentencing In Other Commonwealth Jurisdictions: Battered Women’s Syndrome and Reduced Sentences	26
<i>The United Kingdom</i>	26
<i>Australia</i>	27
<i>Canada</i>	27
General Reduction of Sentences in New Zealand	28
<i>R v Teinatoa (1993) 10 CRNZ 288</i>	28
<i>R v Tawha (High Court, New Plymouth, 10/94, Cartwright J)</i>	28
<i>R v Paki (High Court, Whangarei, 6/93, Blanchard J)</i>	28
<i>R v Reti (High Court, Auckland, 71/96, Salmon J)</i>	28
<i>R v Sheppard (High Court, Auckland, 284/95, Blanchard J)</i>	29
<i>R v Dodd (High Court, Christchurch, 157/94, Williamson J)</i>	29
<i>R v Gibbins (Court of Appeal, CA 263/85, 25 February 1986)</i>	29
<i>Singh v ARCIC (Auckland, High Court, JP 66/95, Morris J)</i>	29
<i>R v Ataria (Napier, High Court, S21/95, Greig J)</i>	29
<i>R v Kingi (Auckland, High Court, T 20/96, Salmon J)</i>	29
<i>R v Howells (CA 213/95)</i>	29
<i>Re Gordon (Parole Board, 13 March 1997)</i>	30
<i>Re O (Parole Board, 5 July 1995)</i>	30
<i>Prison statistics and women</i>	30
References	31
CHAPTER 4. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: ISSUES AND PROCESSES	32
Introduction	32
Fast Track Procedure	32
<i>Introduction</i>	32
<i>Police Policy</i>	33
<i>Fast Track Court Process</i>	34
<i>Bill of Rights</i>	35
<i>Programmes For Offenders</i>	35
Miscellaneous Matters In Domestic Violence	36
<i>Criminal Justice Act 1985 s 5</i>	36

<i>Evidence Act 1908 s 5</i>	37
<i>Crimes Act 1961 s 352</i>	37
<i>The Law Commission's View</i>	38
CHAPTER 5. CRIMINAL DEFENCES FOR WOMEN - Elisabeth McDonald	39
Introduction	39
Why women offend	40
Women who kill	41
<i>Killing their abusers: timing is everything</i>	41
<i>Battered women's syndrome and expert evidence</i>	42
<i>Self defence</i>	46
<i>Provocation</i>	49
<i>(Sane) automatism caused by post traumatic stress disorder</i>	53
<i>Self preservation: a proposal</i>	54
Killing and abuse of children: depressions and omissions	56
<i>Infanticide and postpartum depression</i>	56
<i>Breach of parental duties: duress and necessity</i>	59
Other offences	62
<i>Women on their own</i>	62
<i>Parties to male offending</i>	65
Conclusion	69
6. RESOURCES AND RESEARCH	71
Relevant psychological and sociological material and its application in criminal cases	71
<i>General</i>	71
<i>Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder</i>	71
<i>Battered women's syndrome</i>	72
<i>Depression and stress</i>	72
Use of expert evidence: cases and discussion	73
<i>General</i>	73
<i>Battered Women's Syndrome</i>	73
<i>Duress/compulsion/necessity</i>	74
<i>Self-defence</i>	74
Improving advocacy skills	75
<i>General: representing women</i>	75
<i>Addressing credibility issues</i>	76
<i>Sentencing trends and mitigating factors</i>	76