

Brenda Hale taught law at Manchester University from 1966 to 1984, when she was given leave of absence to serve as a Law Commissioner and never went back into academe. While in Manchester, she qualified as a barrister and practised part time for a while, and in 1982 was one of a small group of academic lawyers with practical experience and outlook to be appointed assistant recorders. During her nine and a half



years at the Commission she was promoted to Recorder and also took silk (in the category of employed barristers). Then in January 1994 I was appointed to the High Court bench in the Family Division, promoted to the Court of Appeal in October 1999, and became the first ever woman Lord of Appeal in Ordinary in January 2004.

Her full title is the **Rt Hon the Baroness Hale of Richmond DBE** (the DBE comes from being a High Court judge as the equivalent of a knighthood; the Rt Hon comes from being a Privy Councillor, which all Court of Appeal judges become; the 'of Richmond' has to be part of her title because no two peerages can have the same name and there was once a Lord Hale!).