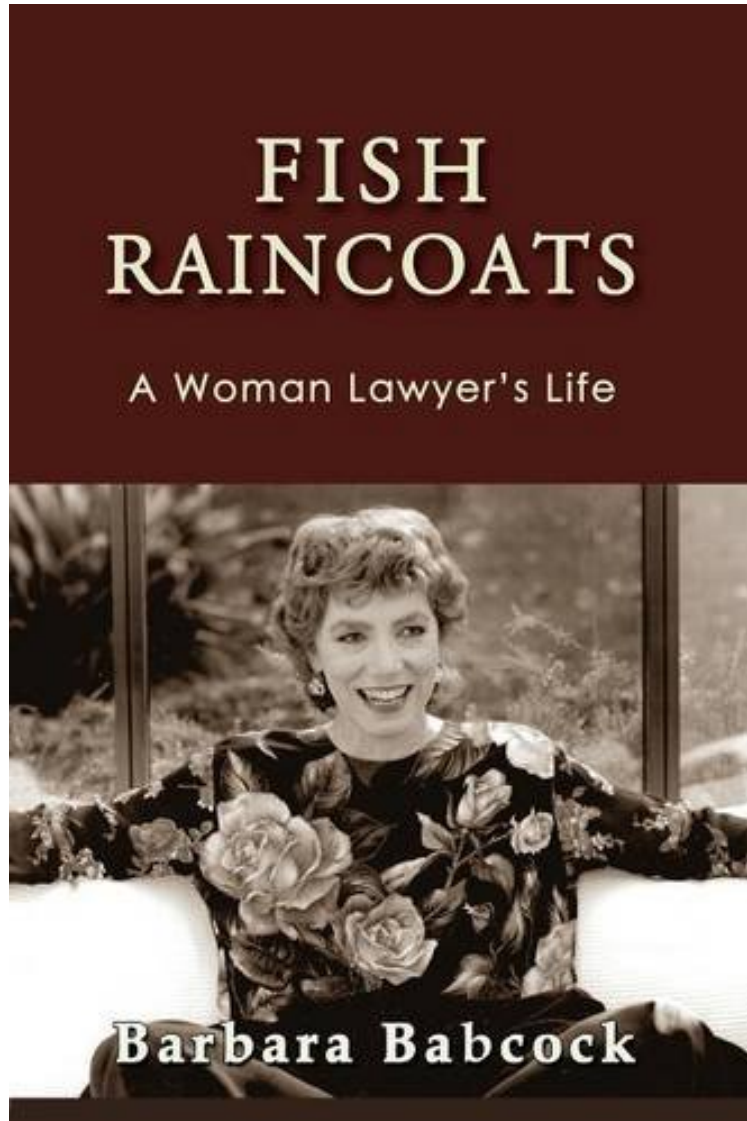


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## Fish Raincoats: A Woman Lawyer's Life (Journeys Memoirs)

*Barbara Babcock*

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**Barbara Babcock : Fish Raincoats: A Woman Lawyer's Life (Journeys Memoirs)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fish Raincoats: A Woman Lawyer's Life (Journeys Memoirs):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Tale of Grit and Talent of an Uncommon LawyerBy Janice CooperLike its quirky title, this memoir is chock full of wit and good will, mixed throughout the inspiring story of a heretofore unsung hero of the womens movement and the difficult quest for a more just legal system.Stanford Law School Professor Barbara Babcocks life has been rich with varied experiences. Born to an endearing and talented small

town lawyer whose alcoholism plagued his life, she followed his path into the law and made it her own. She combined brilliance with charisma, persuading reluctant top law firms and the best law schools to hire her, their first woman, and skeptical juries to hold prosecutors feet to the fire. When she tried cases, the courtroom seats were full. Her winning combination was not theatrical fireworks, but hard work and empathy for her clients, which was infectious. She created the best public defender service in the country and inspired a generation of young lawyers to do outstanding work. As the head of the Civil Division in the U.S. Justice Department under President Jimmy Carter, she worked to make justice, rather than victory, the goal. As a law professor, she has been a role model for hundreds of young men and women who are now making history of their own. For anyone contemplating a career in law or concerned about where to start in reforming our legal system, Babcock's honest tale is a good place to start. It is also just a good read, rich in detail that gives the reader insight not only into a life in the law, but life itself. Janice Cooper, Yarmouth, Maine

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. You'll love this memoir from a master lawyer, teacher, and storyteller. Like all great storytellers, Barbara Babcock keeps her readers enthralled as her stories unfurl, each leaving us with a valuable lesson (or two) wrapped in a memorable tale. The story that gives the book its title (based on the answer she gave on an elementary school radio quiz show to the question what did American Indians do with fish besides eat them?) has a double punchline one in which she gently pokes fun at the errors of her overconfident, youthful self and a second, years later, when it turns out that she was right after all. Professor Babcock holds readers in her palm as she did jurors when she was the first director of the renowned D.C. Public Defenders Service convincing us that every defendant deserves a vigorous defense and that a career fighting for justice and forging the way for women in the law is a path worth following. A fun and inspiring read, it's the perfect gift for graduates this spring. I'm looking forward to giving a copy to my daughter, who plans to attend law school in the fall.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great memoir by a real trailblazer! By S. Wolfe This is a very well-written and thoughtful memoir by one of the first women ever "permitted" to rise to the top in her legal field. We get a real in-the-trenches account of Babcock's love of work and passion for justice that kept her going, and allowed her to succeed, in the face of entrenched, casual, blatant sexism. Young people should read it to learn about the contribution Babcock and others of her generation made to the professional opportunities women take for granted today. All of us should read it to learn about an exceptional woman's life.

The life and times of a trailblazing feminist in American law. The first female Stanford law professor was also first director of the District of Columbia Public Defender Service, one of the first women to be an Assistant Attorney General of the United States, and the biographer of California's first woman lawyer, Clara Foltz. Survivor, pioneer, leader, and fervent defender of the powerless and colorful mobsters alike, Barbara Babcock led by example and by the written word and recounts her part of history in this candid and personal memoir. For woman lawyers, Barbara Babcock has led the way. How? By being smarter and tougher than the men; also, more empathetic and self-aware. Funny, shrewd, and telling, her memoir *Fish Raincoats* is a joy to read. Evan Thomas, author of *Being Nixon: A Man Divided* will afford you no better sherpa on the extraordinary journey women have taken in the legal profession than Barbara Babcock. This book should be required reading for anyone who isn't certain that they have a place at the lawyers table. Babcock's amazing life has made a space for so many of us. Her story will do the same. Dahlia Lithwick, Senior Editor, Slate

An immensely engaging, articulate and detail-rich memoir from a pioneer who helped forge the path for women in the legal profession. Barbara Babcock taught, mentored and inspired generations of law students to look beyond the billable hour; she has chronicled her times the modern Women's Movement, the challenges and characters she met along the way with insight, humility and grace. Thelton E. Henderson, Senior U.S. District Judge, San Francisco

But men are writing the history! Barbara Babcock thought to herself in response to a sexist comment about women in the law years ago. Not anymore. Babcock spins her formidable legal career into insightful stories about how she made her way and made her field her own. The best kind of personal history. Emily Bazelon, author of *Sticks and Stones: Defeating the Culture of Bullying and Rediscovering the Power of Character and Empathy* A compelling new addition to the Journeys Memoirs Series from Quid Pro Books.

About the Author Barbara Babcock, the Judge John Crown Professor of Law, Emerita, at Stanford University, is the first woman appointed to the regular faculty of Stanford Law School. She served as an Assistant Attorney General, heading the Civil Division, and was the first Director of the Public Defender Service in Washington, D.C. Babcock is the author of *'Woman Lawyer: The Trials of Clara Foltz'* (Stanford University Press, 2011).