

## Leading Cases in Song: Book, CD and Online



In 2014 the New Zealand branch of Thomson Reuters published *Leading Cases in Song*. The book takes the facts of a number of decisions of the common law courts, many of them famous but a few quite obscure, and celebrates them by presenting them in songs and music, with every one set to a different tune taken from the Gilbert and Sullivan operas. The 29 songs are all based on decisions which are comical, or bizarre, or diverting, or which in one way or another raise interesting and memorable issues for the law to resolve. Some of the decisions are presented as short operettas, some stand on their own.

Judges, lawyers and law students will find entirely new ways of appreciating *Donoghue v Stevenson*, *Carlill v Carbolic Smoke Ball Co*, *R v Brown* and many others; Gilbert and Sullivan fans will discover familiar favourites in new settings; and anyone who wants to hear about some of the more entertaining disputes that can arise before the courts will enjoy this contribution to legal learning.

The songs are all illustrated by colourful and beautifully drawn cartoons, and the musical score for every song is provided at the back of the book. In addition, 19 of the songs have been recorded by singers from the Canterbury Opera Club, and these are available both as a CD and online.

The songs were written by Stephen Todd, who is a Professor of Law at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand and at the University of Nottingham in England. Murray Nicol did the drawings (and one of Murray's judges, holding a carbolic smoke ball, is illustrated above). John Pattinson, a retired senior lecturer from Canterbury, is the musical director and the pianist.

To find out more about the book and the recordings, please go to [www.leadingcasesinsong.com](http://www.leadingcasesinsong.com). The website includes a short interview with Stephen, videos of two of the songs being recorded, and links for anyone who would like to buy the book or CD or online recording. The book and CD make excellent gifts for friends, relations and colleagues.

Please forward this flyer to anyone you think may be interested in receiving it!