Multi-party litigation is a world-wide legal process, and the class action device is one of its best-known manifestations. As a means of providing access to justice and achieving judicial economies, the class action is gaining increasing endorsement—particularly given the prevalence of mass consumerism of goods and services, and the extent to which the activities and decisions of corporations and government bodies can affect large numbers of people. The primary purpose of this book is to compare and contrast the class action models that apply under the federal regimes of Australia and the United States and the provincial regimes of Ontario and British Columbia in Canada.

The book is written to have practical utility for a wide range of legal practitioners and professionals, such as: academics and students of comparative civil procedure and multi-party litigation; litigation lawyers who may use the reference materials cited to the benefit of their own class action clients; and those charged with law reform who look to adopt the most workable (and avoid the unworkable) features in class action models elsewhere.

**Reviews**

...a very interesting book... It is useful to have a comparison as to the way in which class actions have operated in Ontario and in Australia, to see the pluses and minuses gained from the law and the people in the last 12 years. I strongly commend it.

**Justice PW Young** writing in Australian Law Journal, 2005

... In addition to its impeccable editing, a major virtue lies in its skilful marshalling and critical analysis of a prodigious volume of ‘black letter law’ data from multiple sources... Mulheron’s study is essential reading and deserves a wide international audience.

**Dr Susan Gibbons** writing in Law Quarterly Review, 2006

[I]t is difficult to fault Mulheron’s scholarship, which is both detailed and deep, a fact that makes the user-friendly arrangement of the text all the more remarkable. ... The text is confident and mature, to the point where it reads, in most parts, like a numbered edition of a trusted reference work such as Chitty’s or Waddam’s... she has created what is the most comprehensive and useful single volume on the class action available.

**Professor Craig Jones** writing in Canadian Class Action Review, 2005

By any standards of evaluation, the text is a scholarly work. It is both of high academic merit and practical use. Whilst clearly there are complexities in class action proceedings, these complexities do not follow through into the author’s explanations.

**Professor Warren Pengilley** writing in Newcastle Law Review, 2006

...a noteworthy and timely endeavor...aimed not only at professionals needing an up-to-date overview of several regimes, but also at comparative law and civil procedure scholars, who will applaud the attempt to disperse the fog and prejudices still attached to this type of litigation... this is an important book, which lays out the current law concerning three “grown up” class action regimes...essential reading...

**Dr Carla Crifo** writing in Civil Justice Quarterly, 2005
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