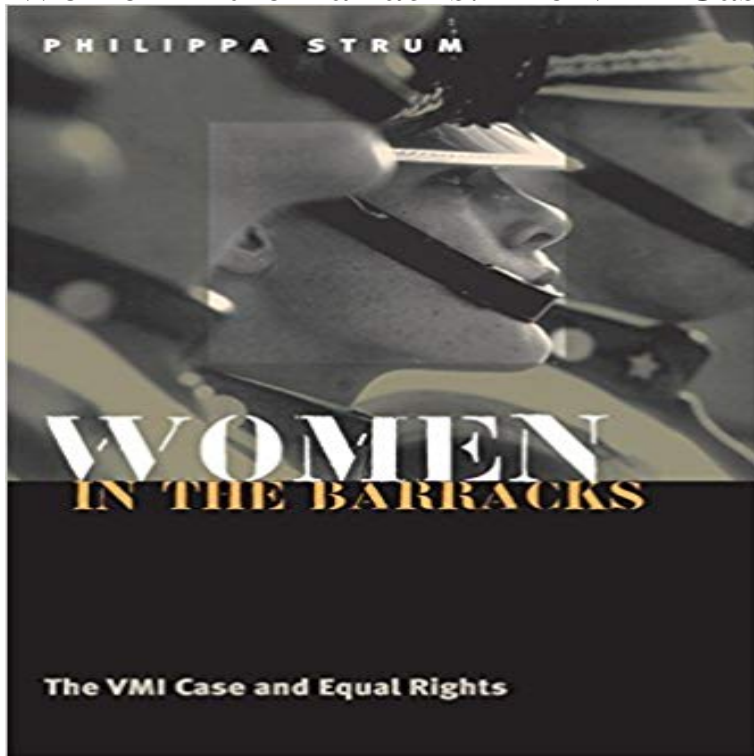


Women in the Barracks: The VMI Case and Equal Rights



In June 2001, there was a decidedly new look to the graduating class at Virginia Military Institute. For the first time ever, the line of graduates who received their degrees at the West Point of the South included women who had spent four years at VMI. For 150 years, VMI had operated as a revered, state-funded institutionan amalgam of Southern history, military tradition, and male bonding ritualsand throughout that long history, no one had ever questioned the fact that only males were admitted. Then in 1989 a female applicant complained of discrimination to the Justice Department, which brought suit the following year to integrate women into VMI. In a book that poses serious questions about equal rights in America, Philippa Strum traces the origins of this landmark case back to VMIs founding, its evolution over fifteen decades, and through competing notions about womens proper place. Unlike most works on women in military institutions, this one also provides a complete legal historyfrom the initial complaint to final resolution in United States v. Virginiaand shows how the Supreme Courts ruling against VMI reflected changing societal ideas about gender roles. At the heart of the VMI case was the rat line: a ritualized form of hazing geared toward instilling male solidarity. VMI claimed that its system of toughening individuals for leadership was even more stringent than military service and that the system would be destroyed if the Institute were forced to accommodate women. Strum interviewed lawyers from Justice and VMI, heads of concerned womens groups, and VMI administrators, faculty, and cadets to reconstruct the arguments in this important case. She was granted interviews with both Justice Ginsburg, author of the majority opinion, and Justice Scalia, the lone dissenter on the bench, and meticulously analyzes both viewpoints. She shows how Ginsburgs opinion not only

articulated a new constitutional standard for institutions accused of gender discrimination but also represented the culmination of gender equality litigation in the twentieth century. *Women in the Barracks* is a case study that combines both legal and cultural history, reviewing the long history of male elitism in the military as it explores how new ideas about gender equality have developed in the United States. It is an engrossing story of change versus tradition, clear and accessible for general readers yet highly instructive and valuable for students and scholars. Now as questions continue to loom concerning the role of state funding for single-sex education, Strum's book squarely addresses competing notions of women's place and capabilities in American society.

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Women in the Barracks: The VMI Case and Equal Rights Journal of Philippa Strum's study is a richly detailed and contextualized chronicle of the struggle to admit women to the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) during the 1990s.

Women in the Barracks: The VMI Case and Equal Rights Women in the barracks : the VMI case and equal rights / Then in 1989 a female applicant complained of discrimination to the Justice Department, which **Women in the Barracks: The VMI Case and Equal Rights by Philippa** have excluded women because, they argued, their presence would undermine male solidarity or Women in the Barracks: The VMI Case and Equal Rights. **Women in the Barracks: The VMI Case and Equal Rights: Strum** Women in the barracks : the VMI case and equal rights / Philippa Strum. Subjects: Virginia Military Institute > Trials, litigation, etc. Women > Education > Law **Women in the Barracks: The VMI Case and Equal Rights - Women in the Barracks. The VMI Case and Equal Rights. Philippa Strum. Silver Gavel Award, Honorable Mention. Scribes Merit Award. An amazingly complete BEST PDF Women in the Barracks: The Vmi Case and Equal Rights** Id. at 545, quoting Mission Study Committee of the VMI Board of Visitors, Report, Strum, Women in the Barracks: The VMI Case and Equal Rights (Lawrence: **opportunities. The court relied on the decision written by - jstor** In a book that poses serious questions about equal rights in America, Philippa Strum traces the origins of this landmark case back to VMIs founding, its evolution **Women in the Barracks: The VMI Case and Equal Rights: Women in** - 2 min - Uploaded by Jessie WallVMI Center for Leadership and Ethics 43 views 57:06. Language: English Content location **Women in the Barracks - University Press of Kansas** but the education offered to both sexes must be substantially equal. Measuring equality Women in the barracks: The VMI case and equal rights. Lawrence: **United States v. Virginia - Wikipedia** Women in the Barracks: The VMI Case and Equal Rights. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2002. 448pp. Cloth \$34.95. In Women in the Barracks,

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