Stephen Cretney has long been regarded as the leading English scholar in the field of family law, as prolific as he is profound. From textbooks that provided guidance to generations of students to the crowning achievement of Family Law in the Twentieth Century: A History, his writing has always been a model of elegance and erudition. Even had the essays in this book not been written in his honour they would inevitably have had to rely heavily on his work. Private ordering, marriage, civil partnership, cohabitation, children, separation, divorce – the entire spectrum of family law covered here – have all benefited from his insightful comments and meticulous scholarship. What also became apparent from the rush of judges and academics (including both established and up-and-coming researchers) wanting to contribute to this work is the equally high personal regard in which Stephen Cretney is held by his – for want of a better word – ‘peers’. This book is a labour of love.

Fifty Years in Family Law
Essays for Stephen Cretney

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