



## 04 – A FEMALE APPEAL COURT JUDGE



**Interviewer:** I'm very pleased today to be interviewing Lady Justice Anne Rafferty who's had a long and distinguished career in the legal profession. She's currently one of the very few female appeal court judges. Tell me what you enjoy most about your job?

**Anne Rafferty:** What I enjoy most about the job is very simple to express, it's the being with other people, it's being part of the team and it's having other people's input into my conclusion. So if I'm unsure I'll have people to talk to. If it's complicated, and generally it is, I've got other minds and we'll come together to reach a conclusion. And also I particularly like having people with me who **help me along** to a conclusion by quite often thinking completely differently from me. And I very much like that and I like learning from it.

**Interviewer:** Tell me is there anything about what you do that you don't enjoy particularly?

**Anne Rafferty:** I could do with worrying less but I would worry, I think, whatever I did so I don't think that's particular to the job. There's nothing I don't enjoy about it, it's an honour to have it and it's a privilege of which I'm very conscious, so there's nothing about it that I don't enjoy. It's just that it is very hard and sometimes the gravity of what I'm doing and the volume and the extent of it can have quite a compressing effect upon me.

**Interviewer:** And why did you go into the legal profession in the first place?

**Anne Rafferty:** Ah, **cos** my mother told me to! I come from a family of head teachers, they're always confident they know what's best and rather irritatingly they generally do and they certainly did. So when I finished what would now be **GCSEs** and were then GCEs, she said helpfully, "Well I think it's time to choose. You could **read medicine** or you could **read law** but I think those are the choices." So as I was about to think between the two she said "And if I may give you a tip I think you're arts are slightly stronger than your sciences so I would **suggest you read law** and **go to the Bar**." Fine, and that's what I did.