

## CONTENTS

1. THE NATURE AND SCOPE OF THE LAW OF EVIDENCE.....	1
2. SOURCES OF THE LAW OF EVIDENCE IN SRI LANKA .....	8
3. THE EVIDENCE ORDINANCE OF SRI LANKA .....	19
i. The Scope of the Ordinance.....	19
ii. The Repeal of Pre-Existing Laws .....	21
iii. The Interpretation Section.....	23
4. THE RULE AGAINST HEARSAY.....	46
i. The Rule against Hearsay in English Law .....	46
ii. The Rule against Hearsay in Sri Lanka .....	47
5. RELEVANCY .....	53
i. The Concept of Relevancy .....	53
ii. Categories of Relevant Facts .....	56
6. ADMISSIONS AND CONFESSIONS .....	130
i. Admissions .....	130
ii. Confessions.....	161
7. STATEMENTS BY PERSONS WHO CANNOT BE CALLED AS WITNESSES.....	241
i. Dying Declarations.....	242
ii. Statements made in the course of Business .....	263

iii.	Statements contrary to the interest of the maker .....	270
iv.	Opinion as to a Public right or custom.....	274
v.	Statements relating to the existence of a Relationship .....	275
vi.	Statements in a Will or Deed relating to Family Affairs .....	279
vii.	Statements in Documents contemplated by Section 13(a).....	280
viii.	Expression of Feelings or impressions by several persons.....	281
8.	OTHER CATEGORIES OF RELEVANT EVIDENCE.....	282
i.	Evidence in a former judicial proceeding .....	282
ii.	Statements made under special circumstances.....	293
iii.	Judgments of Courts of Justice .....	301
iv.	Opinions of Third Persons.....	311
v.	Evidence of Character and Disposition .....	333
9.	FACTS WHICH NEED NOT BE PROVED .....	347
(i)	The Doctrine of Judicial Notice .....	347
(ii)	Formal Admissions.....	362
10.	ORAL EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE	366
i.	Oral Evidence .....	366
ii.	Documentary Evidence.....	371
iii.	Public Documents.....	394
iv.	Presumptions as to Documents .....	405
v.	Special Provisions in Regard to Bankers' Books .....	418
vi.	The Exclusion of Oral by Documentary Evidence....	421
	Provision to Section 92 .....	452

11. THE BURDEN OF PROOF .....	469
i. The Overall Burden of Proof.....	469
ii. The Burden of Proof as to any particular fact.....	478
iii. The Burden of Proof in Specific Contexts .....	482
iv. The Legal Burden and the Evidential Burden.....	533
v. 'Shifting' of the Burden of Proof.....	535
vi. Other Features of the Burden of Proof. ....	538
vii. The Quantum of Proof .....	540
12. PRESUMPTIONS .....	547
i. The Presumption of Legitimacy .....	547
ii. The Presumption that a Boy under twelve cannot commit rape .....	567
iii. Other Presumptions .....	567
A Note on Presumptions.....	604
13. ESTOPPEL .....	606
i. The General Doctrine of Estoppel.....	606
ii. Special Applications of the Doctrine of Estoppel.....	620
14. WITNESSES.....	629
i. The General Criterion governing capacity to testify .....	629
ii. Child as a Competent Witness – Evidence (Special Provisions) Act, No. 32 of 1999.....	631
iii. Decisory Oaths.....	637
iv. The Competency of The Spouse of A party or An accused .....	639
v. Competency of the Accused to Testify .....	642
vi. Statements from the Dock .....	643
vii. Judges And Magistrates .....	646

viii.	Privilege .....	646
ix.	Production of Title Deeds.....	655
x.	Incriminating Answers .....	656
xi.	Other Provisions .....	657
15.	THE EXAMINATION OF WITNESSES .....	660
i.	Order of Production and Examination of Witnesses.....	660
ii.	The Judge's Responsibility as to Admission of Evidence .....	660
iii.	The Examination of Witnesses.....	661
16.	ELECTRONIC EVIDENCE .....	684
i.	Evidence (Special Provisions) Act, No. 14 of 1995 .....	684
ii.	The Electronic Transactions Act (ETA), No. 19 of 2006 .....	691
	TABLE OF CASES .....	697
	GENERAL INDEX .....	723