The dawn of the Tudor regime is one of most recognisable periods of English history. Yet the focus on its monarchs’ private lives and ministers’ constitutional reforms creates the impression that this age’s major developments were isolated to halls of power, far removed from the wider populace. This book presents a more holistic vision of politics and society in late medieval and early modern England. Delving into the rich but little-studied archive of the royal Court of Requests, it reconstructs collaborations between sovereigns and subjects on the formulation of an important governmental ideal: justice. Examining the institutional and social dimensions of this point of contact, this study places ordinary people, their knowledge, and their demands at the heart of a judicial revolution unfolding within the governments of Henry VII and Henry VIII. Yet it also demonstrates that directing extraordinary royal justice into ordinary procedures created as many problems as it solved.

Laura Flannigan is a researcher at the University of Oxford. She has published several articles in Law and History Review and Historical Research, and was awarded the Sir John Neale Essay Prize in 2020. ‘Her calendar of the early Court of Requests archive was published with the List and Index Society in 2023.’
This is a series of monographs and studies covering many aspects of the history of the British Isles between the late fifteenth century and the early eighteenth century. It includes the work of established scholars and pioneering work by a new generation of scholars. It includes both reviews and revisions of major topics and books which open up new historical terrain or which reveal startling new perspectives on familiar subjects. All the volumes set detailed research within broader perspectives, and the books are intended for the use of students as well as of their teachers.

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ROYAL JUSTICE AND THE
MAKING OF THE TUDOR
COMMONWEALTH, 1485–1547

LAURA FLANNIGAN

University of Oxford
For Harry
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Note on the Text

Original spelling, punctuation, and capitalisation have been retained in transcriptions from primary source material. Exceptions include changing ‘u’ to ‘v’ and ‘i’ to ‘j’, and modernising ‘y’ (where it is used in a manner equivalent to þ, thorn) to ‘th’ for the sake of clarity. Abbreviations have been expanded in square brackets, text in superscript retained, and inter-lineations marked at beginning and end with ^. Dates are given in the Old Style, with the year taken to have started on 1 January.
Abbreviations

BL  British Library, London
Bodl.  The Bodleian Library, Oxford
CPR  Calendar of the Patent Rolls
EHR  English Historical Review
HL  Huntington Library, San Marino, California
HMSO  Her Majesty’s Stationery Office
JBS  Journal of British Studies
JHC  Journals of the House of Commons, 1547–1699
JHL  Journals of the House of Lords, 1509–1793
LMA  London Metropolitan Archives
P&P  Past & Present
REQ  TNA REQ: Records of the Court of Requests
List of Abbreviations

SP  TNA SP: State Papers
TNA  The National Archives, Kew
TRHS  Transactions of the Royal Historical Society

References to items in the miscellaneous part of the Court of Requests archive, TNA REQ3, are cited by box, part (where a box is split in half), and by the parties’ names (e.g. REQ3/1/1 Dible v Kirkham). This reflects the listing of the first thirty boxes of this archive completed in 2022. Folio numbers for the REQ1 order books normally follow those printed in the top corners in black ink by the Public Record Office. Fragmentary order books filed as REQ1/104 and REQ1/105 and pages scattered in REQ3/14, 3/22, 3/29, and 3/30 have no modern foliation, and so the given numbers refer to the original brown ink figures written in the corners by Sir Julius Caesar.