## CONTENTS

Abbreviations ................................................................. ix
List of Illustrations and Maps ........................................... xi
Kings of Denmark ......................................................... xiii

Introduction ........................................................................ 1

## INTRODUCTION

MEDIEVAL DENMARK—PART OF EUROPE

Chapter One Medieval Denmark ........................................ 11
  Denmark's Political History until c.1300 ......................... 11
  Social Structures in the Time of the Provincial Laws .......... 18
  Developments after 1300 ............................................... 24
  The Geographical Coverage of this Study ....................... 28
  The Administrative Division and Judicial Administration ... 29

Chapter Two The Tradition—and the New Paradigm .......... 37
  The Traditional and the New Paradigm ............................ 46

Chapter Three Learned Law and Secular Legislation ........ 50
  The Universities and Legal Education ............................ 52
  The Announcement of a New Era—Papal and Secular
    Law-giving .................................................................... 55
  Learned Procedural Law at the Beginning of the
    Thirteenth Century .................................................... 60
  Summary .......................................................................... 67

## PART ONE

LEGAL INSTITUTIONS AND PROCEDURES
OF THE PROVINCIAL LAWS

Chapter Four The Danish Provincial Laws ....................... 71
## CONTENTS

### Chapter Five  
The Institutions of Legal Administration  
- The Sentencing Functions ........................................ 85  
- New Directions—The Law of Jylland .............................. 92  
- Executive Functions—The Ombudsman ........................... 118  
- Summary ....................................................................... 126

### Chapter Six  
Legal Procedure in the Provincial Laws  
- The Book on Inheritance and Heinous Crimes ................. 130  
- The Ordinance on Manslaughter 1200 AD ........................ 137  
- The Procedure in the Law of Skåne ................................. 142  
- Valdemar's Law for Sjælland—Following the Tradition ...... 153  
- Towards a New Law of Procedure—Eric's Law for Sjælland  
- Innovative Procedural Law—The Law of Jylland ............. 169  
- Summary ....................................................................... 188

### Conclusion Part One  
Procedural Law in the Thirteenth Century  
- ................................................................. 193

## PART TWO

**LEGAL PROCEDURE AND PRACTICE IN LATE MEDIEVAL DENMARK**

### Chapter Seven  
Learned Tendencies and Practical Considerations ................ 205  
- Centralisation and the Imposition of a Hierarchy ............. 206  
- The Demand for Efficiency—Procedure in the Later Middle Ages ................................................................. 212  
- A Learned Legal Environment in Late-Medieval Denmark? .. 217  
- The Danish Legal System in the Later Middle Ages .......... 220  
- Sources for the Period c.1300 to 1558 ............................ 232

### Chapter Eight  
Practice and Regulation at the *herredsting* ................. 242  
- The Local Court’s Regulation and Organisation .............. 242  
- The Governance of Court—The Official .......................... 253  
- Documenting the Activity of the Court—The Court Scribe .. 266  
- Voting and Decision—The Jurors .................................. 269  
- Procedure as Norm and Practice .................................. 290  
- Summary ....................................................................... 310