Unwritten Verities

The Making of England’s Vernacular Legal Culture, 1463–1549

Sebastian Sobecki

University of Notre Dame Press

Notre Dame, Indiana
## Contents

*Acknowledgments*  ix

**Introduction: Vernacular Legal Culture**  1

### I. FOUNDATIONS

**ONE**  Reading and Writing in a Spoken World  25

**TWO**  Between Vernaculars: The Vagaries of Law French  43

**THREE**  John Fortescue and Lancastrian Conciliarism  70

### II. TRANSFORMATIONS

**FOUR**  The Unwritten Verities of the Common Law  105

**FIVE**  Pleading for English: John Rastell's Politics of Access  128

**SIX**  States of Exception  153

**Afterword: The Reformation of Legal Culture**  181

*Notes*  189

*Bibliography*  222

*Index*  247