

Contact:

Richard Sotnick

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About Richard Sotnick

Richard Sotnick was senior partner of a family law firm in Portsmouth, Fareham and Southampton from 1970 to 1984.

In the late 1960s he became involved in local politics in Portsmouth, becoming the city's political leader in 1973 and Lord Mayor in 1978 to 1979. From 1979 to 1987 he was Chairman of the Portsmouth Cultural Festival and a Director and Trustee of the Mary Rose Trust, and in 1985 he was elected an Honorary Alderman of the city.

His passion for music, and his role in founding the London String Quartet Foundation, led to him being awarded the Walter Wilson Cobbett Gold Medal by the Company of Musicians and to honorary fellowships from The Guildhall School of Music and Drama and Portsmouth University.

Richard's first book was *The Coburg Conspiracy: Royal Plots and Manoeuvres*, the story of how Queen Victoria's uncle worked behind the scenes to ensure the Coburgs dominated monarchies throughout Europe.

He lives in North London with his wife, Ruth, with whom he has three daughters: Juliet, Lisa and Karen.

Praise for *The Coburg Conspiracy*

'An important addition to Victorian studies and a fascinating book. Deploying new material from the Coburg archives, *The Coburg Conspiracy* illuminates the darker side of Prince Albert's impoverished and ambitious family – which Queen Victoria regarded as her own – with the tragic tale of his rejected mother and the sexual intrigues of the Coburg court. He also convincingly explores the evidence for and against Albert's illegitimacy.' – **Sarah Bradford**, bestselling author of *Diana and Elizabeth*

'A fascinating, riveting tale based on ground-breaking research.' – **Majesty** magazine