

Sexy secrets of real-life Erin Brockovich

By Bob Smith

JULIA Roberts is shocking audiences in her new film with her eye-popping outfits and in-your-face attitude — but she's not nearly as wild as the real-life Erin Brockovich.

The feisty legal investigator who inspired the new hit movie *Erin Brockovich* has a life that's even crazier than the sexy star who plays her.

Erin, a tough-talking, ex-beauty queen and single mother of three, even made Julia blush with her trademark cleavage-baring outfits. "The day I got there, I was like, 'That's a shirt,'" recalls Julia about her first meeting with the blond bombshell.

Erin was a low-wage employee at a small law firm before she took on a billion-dollar corporation. Even as she dug up evidence for the lawsuit, she never once toned down her wardrobe or stopped her cursing.

But her skimpy outfits sometimes got her in trouble. In fact, on one occasion, some of the women in her office measured Erin's miniskirt to prove it violated a company memo about short skirts and demanded that she be fired.

"Some of the women in the office were really aggravated," she says. "Just because I dress this way doesn't mean I'm trashy or anything else. I'm not. It's just who I am. That's the way I like to dress."

"For years, I would come in on holidays and everybody's office would be decorated but mine. Sometimes, I would cry. They made me feel very, very bad. I wasn't born a

'Just because I dress this way doesn't mean I'm trashy'

bitch. I learned to become one."

Erin has had three husbands — including Steve Brown and Steve Brockovich, neither of whom, she claims, ever paid child support — and is now wed to a professional dancer, Eric Ellis.

Her ex-mother-in-law still complains because Erin still uses her son's name, but Erin just laughs it off in her no-nonsense style. "She didn't like me then and she doesn't like me now. Get over the ego! You think I want to spend the rest of my life with the name Brockovich?"

Erin adds she would have changed her name, but "it would have cost me 725 bucks and I said, 'Forget it. It's just a name.'"

Erin played a major part in helping the people of the small Californian desert town of Hinckley win a judgement of \$333 million against a giant utility company for poi-



Erin Brockovich (above) shocked Julia Roberts with her sexy outfit when they first met.

soning them and their water supply with cancer-causing chemicals.

The plucky investigator even fell victim to the highly-toxic chromium pollution herself because of the many trips she made to Hinckley.

"I would develop these nosebleeds and get a strange rash on my arms and chest. For a while, they thought I had a weird form of viral meningitis. Now I have a benign tumor in my nose and a suppressed immune system. I dismissed it at first but, frankly, it scares me."

"I was in and out of wells. I was in and out of pools. I really picked up dead frogs.



They would get in the swimming pools and they would die."

Despite getting sick, the twice-divorced Brockovich is at it again.

She's already getting ready for the sequel — this time a lawsuit involving the town of Kettleman, Calif.

Erin claims it was polluted

by the same \$30 billion utility, Pacific Gas and Electric. The trial is expected to start in November.

Kansas-born Erin netted a \$2 million bonus from her grateful employer for her role in the lawsuit and now lives in a luxury \$900,000 home in Agoura Hills, Calif. with her children.