

## Judging Your Future

Welcome to the second edition of Judging Your Future, the monthly e-newsletter from the Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC).

Thank you to all who took the time to provide us with feedback on our first edition last month. Of course, we continue to welcome further comments and suggestions, so please do email us at [judgingyourfuture@jac.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:judgingyourfuture@jac.gsi.gov.uk)

Do pass on details of Judging Your Future to your colleagues. They can access it via our website but to receive it via email they will need to register with us at the address above.

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### **Current judicial selection exercises**

Details about current selection exercises are available on our website at - [www.judicialappointments.gov.uk/competitions/current\\_comps.htm](http://www.judicialappointments.gov.uk/competitions/current_comps.htm). We advise that you look at this page regularly for information.

Selection exercises for Specialist Senior Circuit Judge posts are open for application – until 7 August for Manchester (Mercantile), 18 August for Birmingham and Bristol (Chancery). Further details about these vacancies can be found on our website at the above link.

The application stage for three selection exercises has recently closed. The timetable for the next phase is as follows:

- *District Judge*  
Sifting of applicants commences in November 2006  
Interviews to be held in January/February 2007
- *Chairman - Agricultural Land Tribunal (Part Time)*  
Sifting of applicants commences week commencing 31 July  
Interviews to be held week commencing 11 September

- *Appointed Person - Trade Marks*

Sifting of applicants commences mid August

Interviews to be held week commencing 25 September

### **Forthcoming selection exercises**

One selection exercise is due to commence in August –

#### **Gambling Appeals Tribunal**

One President and 11 legal members

Opening date for applications – 22 August 2006

Closing date – 14 September 2006

Location – hearings will take place across England, Wales and Scotland

Eligibility – the statutory qualification for appointment is:

- a seven year general qualification within the meaning of section 71 of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c.41), or
- an advocate or solicitor of Scotland with at least seven years' standing, or
- a barrister or solicitor in Northern Ireland of at least seven years' standing.

In addition -

- for the post of President, applicants must be a serving Circuit Judge or salaried tribunal chair - pay groups 6.1 and 6.2
- for the Legal Member posts, applicants must be serving District Judges, or District Judges (Magistrates' Courts) or salaried tribunal chairs at pay Group 7 level.

A number of selection exercises are due to be advertised in early September and more information will be available in the next issue of Judging Your Future.

We will continue to provide as much information as we can about selection exercises scheduled to commence throughout 2006. You can view the current timetable on our website at [www.judicialappointments.gov.uk/competitions/current\\_comps.htm](http://www.judicialappointments.gov.uk/competitions/current_comps.htm)

We must stress that this timetable is provisional and may be subject to change. The JAC will not run a selection exercise until a formal request is received from the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Chief Justice. The forward look is therefore speculative until a formal notification is received.

### **Outreach opportunities**

In order to encourage a wide range of candidates to apply for judicial appointment, we will be organising and attending events throughout England and Wales aimed at those thinking about a judicial career. These outreach events will provide potential candidates with the opportunity to hear about judicial office and the judicial appointments process.

We are currently planning forthcoming JAC organised events, to take place in autumn 2006. These will be held in each of the regions and will be advertised shortly. Please keep an eye on our website and the next issue of Judging Your Future which will feature comprehensive details.

### **Judicial diversity strategy: measures of success**

On Friday 28 July, the JAC published the measures against which the progress of the joint strategy to promote diversity in the judiciary will be monitored. The measures were issued following a trilateral meeting between the JAC Chairman, the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Chief Justice. You can view the joint statement at - [www.judicialappointments.gov.uk/docs/Judicial\\_diversity\\_strat\\_succ0706.pdf](http://www.judicialappointments.gov.uk/docs/Judicial_diversity_strat_succ0706.pdf)

For more information about the joint diversity strategy agreed in May 2006, you can visit [www.judicialappointments.gov.uk/docs/Judicial\\_diversity\\_strat\\_0506.pdf](http://www.judicialappointments.gov.uk/docs/Judicial_diversity_strat_0506.pdf)

### **Solicitors Initiative**

On Tuesday 11 July, the JAC took part in an informal event hosted by Simmons and Simmons to encourage more solicitors to apply for judicial office. The evening featured speeches by The Rt. Hon. Harriet Harman QC MP, Minister for Judicial Diversity; Kevin Martin, President of the Law Society and the JAC's Chairman Baroness Usha Prashar. To read Baroness Prashar's speech visit our website at - [www.judicialappointments.gov.uk/docs/Baroness\\_Prashar\\_Solicitors\\_Event\\_speech\\_110706.pdf](http://www.judicialappointments.gov.uk/docs/Baroness_Prashar_Solicitors_Event_speech_110706.pdf)

To find out more about the Judicial Diversity strategy visit - [www.dca.gov.uk/judges/diversity.htm](http://www.dca.gov.uk/judges/diversity.htm)

### **Constitutional Affairs Select Committee**

On Tuesday 18 July three of the JAC's Commissioners – Chairman Baroness Usha Prashar, Vice-Chairman The Rt. Hon. Lord Justice Robin Auld and lay member Sara Nathan – gave evidence to the Constitutional Affairs Select Committee. The preliminary statement provided to the Committee detailing the tasks and priorities of the JAC can be read on our website at - [www.judicialappointments.gov.uk/docs/JAC\\_CASC\\_preliminary\\_statement\\_180706.pdf](http://www.judicialappointments.gov.uk/docs/JAC_CASC_preliminary_statement_180706.pdf)

To view a transcript of the session visit - [www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmselect/cmconst/uc1554-i/uc155402.htm](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmselect/cmconst/uc1554-i/uc155402.htm)

### **Myth of the month**

The JAC is committed to dispelling myths about the world of judicial appointments. Our second example is:

**Myth** - You have to be a lawyer in private practice to be selected for judicial office.

**Fact** - There is no requirement to be in private practice to apply for judicial office. A number of successful candidates – including some to senior appointments – have come from the public sector and academia. The JAC is keen to widen the range of applicants, and would like to encourage even more lawyers outside of private practice, including government lawyers and academics, to apply.

### **Any questions?**

We are keen to hear from you and to answer any questions you have about the JAC or the judicial appointments process. Please send them in and we will be delighted to answer them!

All questions or comments should be sent to us by email to our new email address - [judgingyourfuture@jac.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:judgingyourfuture@jac.gsi.gov.uk)