

# Judging Your Future

The monthly e-newsletter from the  
Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC)



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Welcome to the last edition of the Judging Your Future e-newsletter for 2007.

This month we include details of the January round of candidate roadshows and the first selection exercise of 2008.

If you have any queries or would like to receive further information about anything featured in this newsletter, please email us at [judgingyourfuture@jac.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:judgingyourfuture@jac.gsi.gov.uk)

## 1. Current selection exercises

There are no exercises currently being run.

## 2. Forthcoming selection exercises

We aim to provide as much information as we can about forthcoming selection exercises, but we can only announce selection exercises when we have received an official vacancy request from our customers at Her Majesty's Court Service (HMCS) and the Tribunals Service, or the Ministry of Justice.

The selection exercises detailed below have had an official vacancy request and are due to begin early in the New Year.



Please be aware that scheduled start dates are provisional and subject to change.

## **SALARIED LEGAL MEMBER**

### **MENTAL HEALTH REVIEW TRIBUNAL**

**Number of vacancies:** 11

**Salary:** £98,900 (& £4,000 London weighting where applicable)

This exercise is expected to launch in early January. As soon as the competition launches the full information pack will be available from the JAC website.

This post will be advertised as a salaried position for the first time.

There are a number of immediate vacancies in both the Northern and Southern regions as well as further vacancies to be filled in those areas in the near future.

## **RECORDERS**

We are launching a recruitment exercise on the Northern, North Eastern and Wales Circuits early in January. You are likely to be eligible to apply for one of these part-time posts if you have been qualified as a solicitor or barrister for at least 10 years. The advertisement will appear in the Times Law Supplement as well as the Law Society Gazette and other publications. The information pack and application form will be available from the JAC website at that time, but not before.

If you are interested in applying for one of these important posts why not sign up to one of our outreach events to find out more, details are below!

**Please ensure that you check the eligibility criteria for these roles on our website when the selection exercises are open for application.**

## **3. Candidate Roadshows**

Initial feedback from our Autumn series of roadshows tells us these events remain popular and that you find them informative. In all, over 240 people attended the 8 roadshows we held. Many of you find them an accessible way of getting information about the selection process and appreciate the opportunity to speak to JAC staff face to face.

This is welcome news for us and we are taking all your comments into account as we plan our Spring campaign.

We have just finalised our programme of activity for January. We will be holding five roadshows during the second half of the month in various locations around the country.

To book a place email [outreachevents@jac.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:outreachevents@jac.gsi.gov.uk) or call 020 7210 0193. If registering by email please include your postal address and telephone number and the event that you would like to attend.

Places are limited so we would encourage you to book now to avoid disappointment.



The one and a quarter hour programme aims to give participants an opportunity to hear first-hand about the application and selection processes and gives you the opportunity to discuss issues with JAC staff.

Further candidate roadshows will be held in other areas in February and March. As soon as we have dates and venues confirmed we will advertise them in this newsletter and on the JAC website.

Details of the January events are below:

**All events begin at 6pm with registration from 5.45pm.**

| Date                   | Location   | Address  |
|------------------------|------------|--|
| Monday 14 January 2008 | Leeds      | The Queens Hotel, City Square, Leeds LS1 1PL                                     |
| Tuesday 15 January     | Newcastle  | Copthorne Hotel, The Close, Quayside, Newcastle                                  |
| Wednesday 16 January   | Liverpool  | Crowne Plaza Hotel, St Nicholas Place, Princes Dock, Pier Head, Liverpool L3 1QW |
| Thursday 17 January    | Manchester | Malmaison Hotel, Piccadilly, Manchester M1 3AQ                                   |
| Monday 21 January      | Cardiff    | Park Plaza Hotel, Greyfriars Road, Cardiff CF10 3AL                              |

## 4. Visits

A Spanish judicial delegation visited the JAC at the beginning of December as part of the European Exchange Programme for Judicial Authorities. The programme aims to reinforce mutual trust and knowledge between the European Judicial systems. They met with representatives from all areas of the JAC and were given a comprehensive overview of our work.

JAC also played host to Mr Kalainis, Chairman of the Siauliu Regional Court in Lithuania. He spent a morning in Steel House and was given an overview of what the JAC does, our roles and objectives and how we interact with other Government Departments and the Judiciary.

## 5. JAC out and about

Our Chairman, Baroness Prashar gave the Bar Council's Annual Race Relations Lecture entitled "Diversity in the Judiciary" at Lincoln's Inn on 20<sup>th</sup> November. Baroness Prashar argued that a new and more strategic approach to diversity in the legal profession was needed. A summary is available on the JAC website.

Her Honour Judge Frances Kirkham, a JAC Commissioner, attended the "2007 conference on Judges professionalization" held in Liuyang, Hunan province, China, on 30 November and 1 December this year. The conference sought to enable judges from Hunan province and Beijing to discuss the progress already made in their reform of the judicial system. Mr Jiang



Bixin, a People's Supreme Court judge and President of the Hunan High People's Court, has overseen a project to enhance the overall quality of judges. The reforms are intended to raise the quality and status of judges in China, to strengthen the public's confidence in the judiciary and make the profession more attractive to law students.

The role of the English contributors was to inform Chinese delegates about some aspects of the judicial system in England and Wales. Her Honour Judge Frances Kirkham spoke about the role and remit of the JAC and the importance of a transparent, fair judicial selection process.

The conference was attended by judges and academics from Beijing and from Hunan province, and also from those involved with the administration of the courts.

The project continues, and we hope that English judges will be invited to return in 2008 to assist further.

## 6. In the news

The report of the Entry to the Bar Working Party chaired by Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury was published on 28 November. This is an important report and the JAC welcomes its proposals. We hope these will have a positive impact not only on widening the range of people in the Bar but also, in the longer term, in the judiciary.

## 7. Any questions?

As always we welcome your questions and comments. Please send them in to [\*\*judgingyourfuture@jac.gsi.gov.uk\*\*](mailto:judgingyourfuture@jac.gsi.gov.uk)

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