

# Judging Your Future

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



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Welcome to the first edition of the Judging Your Future e-newsletter for 2008.

This month we include details of the current and forthcoming selection exercises as well as a short round up of our activity since the New Year. We've been busy!

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

Applications for the following selection exercises are currently being accepted:

### **Senior Circuit Judge - Birmingham**

Closing date: 26 February 2008

Location: Birmingham

Vacancies / 3

## **High Court – Chancery and Queens Bench Divisions**

Closing date: 4 March 2008

Location: London

Vacancies / 21

**Please ensure that you check the eligibility criteria for these roles on our website.**

## **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 shortly.

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

### **Tribunal Chamber President**

Provisional launch date: 19 February

Location: some London-based work but successful applicants can choose where they are based

Vacancies / 2

### **Social Security and Child Support Appeals Tribunal – Regional Chairman**

Provisional launch date: February / March 2008

Location: 1 in Nottingham and 1 in Leeds

Vacancies / 2

### **Employment Tribunal Legal Chairman**

Provisional launch date: March 2008

Location: across England and Wales

Vacancies / 19

## Queen's Bench Master

Provisional launch date: March 2008

Location: London

Vacancies / 3

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

During January, we held candidate roadshows in Leeds, Newcastle, Liverpool, Manchester and Cardiff. In total over 270 people attended these five events. All were well attended and the feedback continues to be positive: most attendees tell us that they appreciate the opportunity to speak to JAC staff about the selection process.

We are now in the process of planning the next series. We expect that these will begin after Easter and run through April.

As soon as we have confirmed dates and locations, we will publicise them on the JAC website and in this e-newsletter.

## 4. Visits

Our Chairman Baroness Prashar will be in the Manchester this month. She is visiting the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal and meeting with Northern Circuit representatives, the Law Society, and the Bar Council, and the Institute of Legal Executives, many of whose members will shortly become eligible for some judicial appointments for the first time.

## 5. JAC out and about

Look out for the JAC conference stand at Law London on 12-13 March at Olympia 2. We will be on the ground floor opposite the coffee area, so why not grab a latte and come and speak to us? We will have staff on hand to answer any questions you have about judicial appointments and current selection exercises.

Last week we exhibited at the UK Association of Women Judges AGM and Conference which was held at the Manchester Civil Justice Centre on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February. This was the first time the JAC had attended this event and we were able to speak to over 70 judicial office holders from all across the country. JAC Commissioner, Her Honour Judge Frances Kirkham addressed the conference speaking about the new selection exercise process.

## 6. In the news

Our vice-Chairman, Heather Hallett, was interviewed by Joshua Rozenberg for a piece which appeared in *the Daily Telegraph* on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February, which focused on diversity and the recently launched High Court selection exercise.

Away from the national broadsheets, *The Lawyer* interviewed JAC Commissioner Edward Nally. He will be the Chairman of the next High Court Selection Panel and spoke to the magazine about his desire to widen the range of applicants for this and other competitions.

The year started with the Recorders Exercise launch and the Law Society Gazette coverage on the news featured comments from both JAC Commissioner John Goldring and our Chief Executive Clare Pelham. We have been asked to select 76 people for appointment on the Northern, North Eastern and Wales circuits. The deadline for applications has now passed and candidates will shortly be sitting their qualifying tests in centres across the country.

The JAC response to the Ministry of Justice consultation paper; *The Governance of Britain: Judicial Appointments*, is now on the JAC website. You can download the response from the *news and information* page. The Commission welcomed the opportunity to set out its views on the important issues of independence, responsibility and accountability raised by the Consultation Paper and on ways in which both legislative and management changes would enable it to provide a better service without compromising the quality of its selection processes.

## 7. Tip of the Month

When assessing candidates for judicial appointments, JAC panels put great weight on the examples they provide in their application forms of occasions when they have shown the competencies needed for the post. Competency examples don't necessarily have to come from your professional life. If you have strong examples from other aspects of your experience then consider using them. For example, if you have done or are planning to do some work for charities, neighbourhood groups, or the reserve forces, for example, then consider using that. Or they may be examples from your professional experience which go beyond your main employment, such as any work done for the Judicial Studies Board. The important point is that the example you use highlights your particular competency strength.

## 8. Distribution List

Almost 4000 people now receive *Judging Your Future*. We are now at the stage where we need to ensure the integrity and accuracy of the data held on the list. We hope to be able to include a short questionnaire in one of the next few editions for you to fill in. It should only take a few moments of your time but we would very much like to ensure our mailing list is as up to date and accurate as possible. At the same time we may also ask a few questions regarding your views on *Judging Your Future* to help us improve the service we offer.

## 9. 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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