

Judging Your Future – Issue 3 – September 2006

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

Continued thanks to all who have taken the time to provide us with feedback on our first two editions. Of course, we continue to welcome further comments and suggestions, so please do email us at judgingyourfuture@jac.gsi.gov.uk

Do pass on details of Judging Your Future to your colleagues. They can access it via our website at www.judicialappointments.gov.uk/289.htm, 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. We advise that you look at this page regularly for information.

Applications for the following selection exercises are now open. Please do check the eligibility criteria for each role on our website –

Circuit Judges

Closing date – 26 September 2006

Locations – across England and Wales

Number of vacancies – 32 (the JAC will also seek to select an additional pool of candidates who may subsequently be considered for future vacancies)

Employment Tribunal – salaried chairman

Closing date – 26 September 2006

Locations – across England and Wales

Number of vacancies – 15

Criminal Injuries Compensation Appeals Panel – fee paid legal members

Closing date – 4 October 2006

Locations – across England, Wales and Scotland

Number of vacancies – 20

Appeals Tribunal Social Security and Child Support – medically qualified panel members

Closing date – 21 September 2006

Locations – across England, Wales and Scotland

Number of vacancies – 118

Still open for application –

Gambling Appeals Tribunal – President and Legal Members

Closing date for applications – 14 September

Forthcoming selection exercises

One other selection exercise is due to commence in September –

Deputy District Judges

Opening date for applications – 26 September 2006

Closing date – 19 October 2006

Locations – across England and Wales

Number of vacancies – 70

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 in the forthcoming selection exercise section on our website at – 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. These outreach events will be aimed at those thinking about stepping up to a judicial career, or indeed those wishing to further their judicial career. They will provide potential candidates with the opportunity to hear about judicial office and the judicial appointments process.

The JAC will be aiming to host three series of events a year – in Spring, Summer and Autumn. Each series will include at least one event in each circuit. The first round of events will take place in November and December.

To attend these events you will have to register. Places will be reserved on a first-come first-served basis. We will be sending out instructions on how to register either in the next issue of Judging Your Future or by sending a separate email to this mailing list. We would also advise you keep an eye on our website's news page at – www.judicialappointments.gov.uk/203.htm

Other events

The JAC will be also be present at a number of events in the coming months –

Bar Council Annual Conference – Saturday 4 November

The JAC will have both an interactive lunchtime session and an exhibition stand. We look forward to meeting delegates and answer their questions on this important occasion.

The JAC also hopes to be present at –

Law Society's Annual Conference – Friday 13 October

The JAC hopes to have an exhibition stand.

Please keep an eye on our website for further information at –

www.judicialappointments.gov.uk/info_events/info_events.htm

Visiting the circuits

JAC Chairman, Baroness Usha Prashar, recently went on a two-day visit to South Wales to meet judges and other members of the legal professions. The visits to Cardiff and Swansea gave her the chance to meet with a wide range of people from the field and gain their insight and feedback on issues relating to judicial appointments. Baroness Prashar plans to visit other circuits in the next few months.

Myth of the month

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

Myth - Court appointments are more highly ranked in the hierarchy of judicial office than tribunal appointments

Fact - There is no hierarchy between courts and tribunals, they are just different kinds of appointments and branches of the judiciary. Some of the ablest members of the judiciary are tribunal members. Tribunals handle more cases each year than the ordinary civil courts, many involving the most vulnerable people in our society.

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

judgingyourfuture@jac.qsi.gov.uk