

# Judging Your Future

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



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Welcome to the June edition of the Judging Your Future e-newsletter.

This month we feature an event that offers you the chance to spend an evening with the JAC in Cambridge and details of a recent radio appearance for the organisation. There is also an interview with Lord Justice Robin Auld, the fourth judicial Commissioner at the JAC to be placed under the spotlight.

The newsletter offers a final opportunity to book a place at the JAC candidate roadshows to be held in Nottingham and Exeter in July. Also featured are details of current and forthcoming selection exercises.

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)

## 0.1 Current selection exercises

Applications for the following selection exercise are currently being accepted:

### **Specialist Senior Circuit Judge – Technology and Construction Court**

Closing date: 19 June 2007

Location: Manchester

**Vacancies / 1**

## **District Judges (Magistrates Court)**

Closing date: 22 June 2007

Location: across England and Wales

Vacancies / 21

**Please ensure that you check the eligibility criteria for this role on our website.**

Further information about the selection exercises can be found at -  
<http://www.judicialappointments.gov.uk/current/current.htm>

## **0.2 Forthcoming selection exercises**

We are committed to providing as much information as we can about selection exercises that are scheduled to commence.

However, 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 vacancies detailed below have had an official vacancy request and are due to commence in the next couple of months.

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

### **Financially Qualified Panel Members – Social Security and Child Support Appeal Tribunals**

Provisional launch date: July 2007

Location: South East England, South West England and Scotland

Vacancies / 3

### **President – Charity Tribunal**

Provisional launch date: July 2007

Location: The administrative centre of this new Tribunal is likely to be outside of London though the location is still to be agreed. It is intended that hearings will take place at Tribunals Service locations across England and Wales

Vacancies / 1

### **Legally Qualified Members – Charity Tribunal**

Provisional launch date: July 2007

Location: Hearings will take place at Tribunals Service locations across England and Wales

Vacancies / 5

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

### 0.3 JAC Candidate Roadshows

Places are still available at forthcoming JAC candidate roadshows in Nottingham and Exeter. To register your place send an email to [outreachevents@jac.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:outreachevents@jac.gsi.gov.uk) or call 020 7210 0173. If registering by email please include your postal address and telephone number, and the event that you would like a place at.

The second London event taking place on 11 July is now fully booked, however we will be hosting a new series of roadshows in the autumn. If you would like to receive updates on details of these events, please send an email to [outreachevents@jac.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:outreachevents@jac.gsi.gov.uk) or phone 020 7210 0173 providing your contact details.

Date	Location	Address
3 July	Nottingham	Strathdon Hotel Nottingham, NG1 5FT
10 July	Exeter	Exeter Combined Court Exeter, EX1 1UH

### 0.4 Myth of the Month

The JAC is committed to dispelling myths about the world of judicial appointments. This month's example is:

**Myth** – In order to be considered for a position in the judiciary I will need to demonstrate strong courtroom advocacy skills and have a flamboyant oratory style.

**Fact** – Experience in courtroom advocacy is helpful, but not a pre-requisite for appointment. A good judge demonstrates keen listening skills and the ability to make sound judgements amongst many qualities and abilities. Delivering long, flamboyant speeches is not in a judge's remit! The JAC's full list of qualities and abilities can be found on our website at - [www.judicialappointments.gov.uk/select/qualities.htm](http://www.judicialappointments.gov.uk/select/qualities.htm)

### 0.5 An evening with the JAC in Cambridge

The JAC is hosting an evening event on Thursday 28 June 2007 at the Faculty of Law, 10 West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DZ. Speakers include the JAC Chairman Baroness Usha Prashar, other JAC Commissioners and senior members of the judiciary.

The event will provide you with an opportunity to hear about the role of the JAC, its work so far and challenges moving forward. You will also hear first hand about the judicial appointments process, the kind of judicial posts that are available and how you might apply for one.

It will also offer the opportunity to meet with members of the legal community of the northern area of the South Eastern Circuit and with legal academics working in the area.

The first half of the event will feature short speeches, information sharing and a question and answer session. This will be followed by the opportunity to meet with other guests over light refreshments. The evening commences at 17.30 and will conclude at 19.30.

Places at the event are limited and reservations must be made. If you would like to attend please contact Ruth Knill by Thursday 14 June. Contact Ruth by email at [Ruth.Knill@jac.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Ruth.Knill@jac.gsi.gov.uk), or by telephone on 020 7210 0166.

## 0.6 Profile of a Judge

This month's interview is with Lord Justice Robin Auld. Robin is a Lord Justice of Appeal and has been a JAC Commissioner and Vice-Chairman of the Commission since January 2006.

He was called to the Bar in 1959 and became a QC in 1975. He was a Recorder of the Crown Court from 1977 to 1987, a Judge of the High Court of Justice, Queen's Bench Division, from 1987 to 1995, a member of the Judicial Studies Board from 1989 to 1991 and a Presiding Judge of the Western Circuit from 1991 to 1994.

Following his appointment to the Court of Appeal in 1995, he was the Senior Presiding Judge for England and Wales until 1998. In 1999-2001 he conducted the Review of the Criminal Courts of England and Wales.

### 1) Why did you decide to choose a judicial career?

I did not decide to choose a judicial career. I chose to be an advocate and found it so rewarding personally and financially that I rarely thought of life beyond it.

At the age of 47 the Lord Chancellor of the day invited me to accept appointment as a High Court Judge, an invitation that I eventually accepted two and half years later at the age of 50 and after some 28 years at the Bar.

Although I had enjoyed my time enormously as an advocate - and still sometimes miss it - I felt honoured to be offered what seemed - and still seems - to me to be a great privilege and a bit of an adventure.

### 2) What are the best aspects of your role?

The variety and great interest of the work, the companionship and support of my judicial colleagues and the court staffs, and the camaraderie of the Bar and Solicitors, at work and at play, particularly when I was a Presiding Judge of the Western Circuit and Senior Presiding Judge.

The great joy of the role that has never faded is in not having to worry any more who is going to win, and in the surprising discovery on appointment that, in the main, I could enjoy others' advocacy. At the Bar I was often so disturbed by my opponent's powerful and beguiling oratory that - sometimes to my cost - I could not bear to listen to it.

### 3) What are the worst aspects of your role?

The drudgery of the job, despite its great variety and interest, in particular, the long hours in the week and lost weekends and periods of vacation writing reserved judgments.

### 4) What advice would you give to someone considering a judicial career?

Don't think of becoming a judge as a judicial career in the sense of something to strive for right from the start.

Develop legal knowledge and skills in some other rewarding occupation that might serve in part as an apprenticeship for eventual judicial office; and when the time comes try it first on a part-time basis to see how you and the job might take to each other.

## 0.7 Unreliable Evidence

The JAC recently took part in BBC Radio 4's flagship law programme Unreliable Evidence, in a panel discussion on the topic of judicial appointments.

Baroness Usha Prashar, JAC Commissioner Lady Justice Hallett, Lord Falconer - Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, and Professor Robert Hazell, Director of the Constitution Unit, University College London all participated in the 45-minute studio discussion, chaired by comedian and ex-barrister Clive Anderson.

The discussion covered many themes and talking points around judicial appointments, from how the JAC was formed and its achievements over the past 12 months, to the criteria of what makes a good judge and the JAC's work with its partners on increasing diversity.

It makes for a lively and interesting discussion, providing good insight into the work of the JAC and its objectives. If you are interested in listening to the programme online, it is available in the Unreliable Evidence online archives at [www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/unreliableevidence/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/unreliableevidence/) - broadcast date June 6th 2007.

## 0.8 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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