

Deputy High Court 2018 - Skills and Abilities

The role

High Court work is fundamentally important to parties and to society. After a period of preparation, those who sit in the High Court deal with the most complex and high-profile cases. These require skilled management of matters of important legal principle and of issues of wide significance at the cutting edge of the law.

Skills and abilities

The skills and abilities of a Deputy High Court Judge are grouped into three areas:

Legal and judicial skills

- Exceptional intellect.
- Analysis of complex issues, reaching clear reasoned decisions.
- Expertise in one or more areas of law, and, if unfamiliar, mastering it fast.
- Grasp of what underpins a fair hearing.

Personal qualities

- Integrity and independence of mind.
- Resilience and calm under pressure.
- Attentive listener, clear communicator.
- Courteously authoritative in court even in complex and demanding situations.
- Understanding and treating fairly, different communities.

Working Effectively

- A team player, seeking and offering candid advice when needed.
- Efficiently despatching business, including by supporting staff.
- Supporting change throughout the judiciary.
- Aware of the role of the judge in twenty-first century society.