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Information Pack:

00356: Senior Circuit Judges in Birmingham

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INTRODUCTION

The Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC) is now inviting applications for three posts of Senior Circuit Judge in Birmingham. The JAC has been asked to recommend one candidate for each of the following vacancies: a Designated Civil Judge, a Technology and Construction Court Judge and a Chancery Judge, all based at Birmingham Civil Justice Centre. The closing date for applications is **26 February 2008**.

You should indicate on your application form (page 16) whether you are applying for more than one vacancy.

This pack contains the information that you need about the appointments. It includes eligibility criteria and the job descriptions. It also describes the selection process that the JAC will follow, with relevant dates and advice on how to prepare for the various stages of this process.

Before you can be considered for appointment, there are eligibility requirements that you must meet. The JAC is also required to assess your character. Before applying you should read these requirements and the guidelines that the JAC uses to assess character. These can be found on our website (www.judicialappointments.gov.uk) along with outline terms and conditions of service and terms of appointment for these posts.

The independent JAC selects candidates for judicial office. It does so on merit, through fair and open competition, from the widest range of eligible candidates.

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

To be eligible for appointment to any of these posts you must meet the following requirements.

Statutory requirement

Under s16(3) of the Courts Act 1971, as amended by Schedule 10 of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990, no person shall be qualified to be appointed as a Circuit Judge unless he or she —

(a) has a 10 year Crown Court or 10 year county court qualification within the meaning of section 71 of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990;

(b) is a Recorder; or

(c) has held as a full-time appointment for at least 3 years one of the offices listed in Part 1A of Schedule 2 to the Courts Act 1971 (as inserted by Schedule 10, paragraph 31, of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990).

The Ministry of Justice has advised the JAC that in order to meet the statutory qualifications for appointment, persons who wish to rely upon their qualifications as solicitors, including those holding salaried judicial office, must appear on the Roll of Solicitors.

Previous service in a judicial office

The Lord Chancellor expects applicants normally to have served in judicial office in a fee paid capacity for at least two years, or to have completed 30 sitting days before the closing date for applications. For the Designated Civil Judge post all applicants are required to have judicial experience at the level of Crown Court or equivalent. This includes all salaried judicial office holders in pay Group 6.1 or above and fee paid judicial office holders at the equivalent level, including Deputy High Court Judges, Recorders and certain senior tribunal office holders. You will also need to demonstrate the qualities and abilities required for this office.

You will be required to demonstrate your suitability for authorisation, on appointment, to deal with Chancery, Mercantile, Queens Bench and Technology & Construction Court work under section 9(1) of the Supreme Court Act 1981.

Age

There is no upper or lower age limit for candidates for judicial appointments apart from the statutory retirement age of 70.

However, a Circuit Judge who immediately prior to his appointment held another salaried judicial office to which he had been appointed prior to the commencement of the Judicial Pensions and Retirement Act 1993 (31 March 1995) will retain the compulsory retirement date applicable to him in the former office.

Additionally, the age at which someone is appointed to this post must allow for a reasonable length of service before retirement, usually about five years.

Nationality

You must complete a declaration of your nationality in the Application Form. In order to qualify for this post, you must be a citizen of:

- the United Kingdom; or
- another Commonwealth country; or
- the Republic of Ireland.

Character

The JAC is required by statute to appoint only persons of good character. In order to make these assessments we have developed Good Character Guidance which you can find on our website at www.judicialappointments.gov.uk. You can also write to us to request a copy (see the 'Contacts and Further Information' section of this Information Pack for our contact details).

The Good Character Guidance gives you some indication as to whether anything in your past conduct or present circumstances might affect your application for judicial appointment. You should read it carefully before completing the Application Form.

Good character questions and declarations

You are required to answer a number of questions related to good character in the Application Form and must make appropriate declarations as requested.

Applicants for judicial appointments are not protected by sections 4(2) and 4(3) of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. Any convictions which would normally be regarded as having expired under that Act should therefore be declared in writing (Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exemptions) Order 1975). You must provide details of all offences for which you have been convicted or cautioned. Details should include the nature of each offence, date of conviction or caution and the penalty imposed.

Where proceedings of any kind are pending, you should give details of the offence with which you have been charged or the disciplinary process you are subject to and, if known, the date when the case or action may be heard. It is important that you inform us of the outcome of any case or action concluded while your application is under consideration. Similarly, if you are charged with any offence or any action is brought against you after submitting your application you should inform us immediately (see the 'Contacts and Further Information' section of this Information Pack).

In all cases, please provide as much detail as you can and indicate if there are any mitigating factors that you think the JAC should take into account in assessing your good character.

Good character checks

The JAC will also carry out checks on all candidates whom it intends to recommend for appointment. Further information about these checks will be provided separately to relevant candidates.

Failure to have declared any matters that come to light from these checks may prejudice the outcome of your application.

Disqualification

You should note that the House of Commons Disqualification Act 1975 applies to this office.

REASONABLE ADJUSTMENTS

The JAC is committed to considering any reasonable adjustments needed to ensure that you can participate in the selection process fairly. The Application Form asks you to identify any arrangements and adjustments you may require. Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis and the information given will not be used in selection decisions.

If you are recommended for appointment, reasonable adjustments will be considered if you have a disability under the meaning of the Disability Discrimination Act, as they are for serving judges who develop an impairment or long-term health condition. Any reasonable adjustments to enable you to take up appointment will be discussed separately with you by the Ministry of Justice after the JAC has made its recommendation.

JOB DESCRIPTIONS

The job descriptions for each post are attached at Annex A. This information has been provided by the Ministry of Justice:

Further Information

A separate note entitled "Senior Circuit Judge – Outline Terms and Conditions of Service 2008" is available on the JAC website: www.judicialappointments.gov.uk.

THE SELECTION PROCESS

Application form

Details of the qualities and abilities against which you will be assessed are set out in the Application Form. You can draw on your full range of work and personal experience to demonstrate these qualities and abilities including, for example, voluntary work or any publication to which you have contributed. Please be specific in giving information.

Timetable

Closing date for applications	26 February 2008
Provisional dates for interview	14 and 15 April 2008

Shortlisting

If you are shortlisted, you will be invited to interview. Further details will be sent with your invitation to attend.

References

We may seek information from people who are well placed to comment on how you meet the qualities and abilities. Referees are usually approached before the sift takes place and will be

encouraged to draw on appraisal material if it is available. The material provided by referees will usually inform decisions at shortlisting, selection day and final selection decisions by Commissioners.

Candidate nominated

You are invited to nominate up to **three** referees who know you well either personally or professionally.

JAC nominated

The JAC may also request references from those identified in the section of this pack titled 'JAC nominated referees'.

Please provide the name, title, position and address of your relevant judicial and professional referees. You may also tell us if you do not wish us to approach the relevant professional referee now, but you must give reasons.

Conflict of interest

The Judicial Appointments Commissioners are listed at the back of this pack. You should not nominate a Commissioner as a referee. You should also state in the Application Form if you are in any way related to, or known to, any of the Commissioners and give details.

Outcome of the selection exercise

Separate lists will be drawn up for each vacancy and recommendations for appointment will be made on merit drawing on those separate lists.

You will be advised of the outcome of your application in writing.

If you are unsuccessful, you can request a written explanation. You should make this request within six weeks of the date of the letter informing you that you have not been successful. We will aim to respond to your request within four working weeks.

Medical examination

You may be asked to undergo a medical examination before taking up appointment.

Complaints procedure

If you are dissatisfied with any aspect of the way your application has been handled, please refer to the JAC's published complaints procedure, which is available from our website, or in writing on request.

CONTACTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Obtaining an application form

All the information about applying for this selection exercise is available at www.judicialappointments.gov.uk (current selection exercises).

The Application Form for this selection exercise can be obtained electronically by downloading it from the website.

Please contact the Judicial Appointments Applications Service (JAAS) team at the JAC if you wish to request a hard copy of the Application Form or Information Pack, or if you have any questions about eligibility or about submitting your application.

JAC NOMINATED REFEREES

The JAC may request references from those categories listed below.

Judicial referees

If you hold a judicial office not in this list, please contact the JAC so that we can consider who should be nominated as your judicial referee.

If you sit on a Tribunal, the Tribunal President or equivalent.

If you are a Recorder, the Resident Judge, the Designated Civil Judge or the Designated Family Judge in the court(s) where you sit most often.

If you are a Circuit Judge, the relevant Senior Presiding Judge.

If you are a Deputy High Court Judge, the relevant Head of Division.

If you are a Master or Registrar of the High Court, or a Deputy Master or Registrar, the relevant Senior Master or Registrar.

If you are a District Judge or Deputy District Judge, the local Designated Civil Judge.

Professional referee

If you are a solicitor, your managing partner or relevant equity partner.

If you are a barrister, your Head of Chambers.

If you are employed, your line manager or equivalent.

JAC COMMISSIONERS

Chairman of the JAC

Baroness Usha Prashar CBE

Members

Dame Lorna Boreland-Kelly DBE

Professor Dame Hazel Genn DBE QC

Mr Justice John Goldring

Lady Justice Heather Hallett DBE

Her Honour Judge Frances Kirkham

Sir Geoffrey Inkin OBE

Mr Edward Nally

Ms Sara Nathan

District Judge Charles Newman

His Honour Judge David Pearl

Mr Francis Plowden

Ms Harriet Spicer

Mr Jonathan Sumption OBE QC

Lord Justice Roger Toulson

JOB DESCRIPTIONS

SPECIALIST SENIOR CIRCUIT JUDGE CHANCERY

This information has been provided by the Ministry of Justice.

PURPOSE OF OFFICE

1. The purpose of judicial office is to administer justice in accordance with the laws of England and Wales.
2. Circuit Judges swear the judicial oath (or affirm) that they "will well and truly serve our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth the Second in the Office of a Circuit Judge and do right to all manner of people after the laws and usages of this Realm without fear or favour, affection or ill will".
3. Senior Circuit Judges (Circuit Judges in Pay Band 5) are expected to carry out the full duties of a Circuit Judge together with additional leadership and administrative duties. They are also expected to hear particularly demanding or specialist cases.
4. Appointment to the office of Specialist Senior Circuit Judge carries a designation of the appointee as a Chancery Judge and the successful candidate will be appointed to act as a Judge of the High Court under section 9 of the Supreme Court Act 1981.
5. In this role the main work will be Chancery disputes (including insolvency). However if insufficient chancery work is available the appointee will also be expected to undertake Mercantile and other appropriate civil work. (The appointee may be required to sit in the Chancery Division in London).
6. When they have the authorisation under section 9(1) of the Supreme Court Act 1981, and the work of the Chancery Division allows, the judge will be expected to assist from time to time with the work of other Divisions of the High Court, including Mercantile, Technology & Construction and Queens Bench.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

7. The main activities of a Chancery Judge are as follows:
 - A. **Preparing for trial and case management**
 - Conducting interlocutory hearings and pre-trial case management conferences and giving necessary directions to prepare cases for trial in order that the issues between the parties are identified and relevant documents and witness evidence disclosed.
 - Reading and assimilating papers in detail before hearing applications.
 - Granting interim relief where appropriate.
 - Overseeing, in liaison with court staff, the progress of cases towards trial and disposal so as to secure the most efficient dispatch of business compatible with the interests of justice.

- Studying the papers prepared for an impending trial.

B. Presiding over court proceedings

- Controlling (in accordance with the relevant law and practice) the manner in which cases are conducted.
- Ensuring that parties, whether represented or not, are enabled to have their cases presented, and have them considered, as fully and fairly as possible.
- Promoting in each case the most expeditious dispatch of business compatible with the interests of justice.
- Maintaining the authority and dignity of the Court.
- Deciding issues of law and procedure which may arise during a case.

C. Judgment

- Deciding actions by finding facts, applying the relevant law to them and giving a reasoned judgment.
- Determining contested applications and other issues by consideration of the papers and evidence presented at any hearing and making findings of fact, applying the relevant law and, where appropriate, giving a reasoned judgment.
- Assessing and awarding damages and costs, deciding the amount and manner of payment and punishing for contempt or breach of court orders.
- Supervising the wording of the judgments and orders of the Court.
- Determining applications to continue, vary or discharge injunctions or undertakings after trial.

D. Other work

Other duties include, for example:

- Determining applications, including applications for permission to appeal, and appeals from arbitrators.
- Determining applications relating to decisions of adjudicators and other matters arising from adjudication.
- Conducting "views" of the subject-matter of the action (before or during trial as appropriate).

OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

E. Keeping abreast of legal developments

- Chancery Judges need to keep abreast of legal developments in their particular field. This entails a substantial amount of reading not directly connected with the cases which they are trying.

- In common with other Circuit Judges, Chancery Judges attend Judicial Studies Board training seminars.

F. Other judicial and public duties and activities

- The work of a Chancery Judge involves some administrative work
- It is important to publicise and encourage the work of the Chancery Court; ensuring that it contributes to retaining confidence of the local business community and in particular the local commercial solicitors and members of the specialist bar. Accordingly key responsibilities of the Chancery Judge will be to develop the business of the Court further, to ensure that it meets the needs of the business community and to establish and maintain good relations with practitioners using the Court.
- Chancery Judges when authorised to do so, sit from time to time in other Divisions of the High Court.

JURISDICTION

Specialist Circuit Judges act as Judges of the High Court under Section 9(1) of the Supreme Court Act 1981. The Chancery Circuit Judge has full jurisdiction to deal with all types of Chancery actions and applications (with exception of patent and revenue actions).

SPECIALIST SENIOR CIRCUIT JUDGE TECHNOLOGY AND CONSTRUCTION COURT

PURPOSE OF OFFICE

1. The purpose of judicial office is to administer justice in accordance with the laws of England and Wales.
2. Circuit Judges swear the judicial oath (or affirm) that they "will well and truly serve our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth the Second in the Office of a Circuit Judge and do right to all manner of people after the laws and usages of this Realm without fear or favour, affection or ill will".
3. Senior Circuit Judges (Circuit Judges in Pay Band 5) are expected to carry out the full duties of a Circuit Judge together with additional leadership and administrative duties. They are also expected to hear particularly demanding or specialist cases.
4. A number of Circuit Judges are nominated by the Lord Chief Justice, after consulting the Lord Chancellor, to deal with business of the Technology and Construction Court under section 68(1) of the Supreme Court Act 1981. A number are also authorised by the Lord Chief Justice, with the concurrence of the Judicial Appointments Commission and after consulting the Lord Chancellor, to sit in the High Court under section 9(1) of the Supreme Court Act 1981.
5. The office holder will also play an important part in the management of the Technology and Construction Court. He/she will be required to sit on the Technology and Construction Court Users Committee and take a full part in the development of the work of this specialist court.
6. When they have the authorisation under section 9(1) of the Supreme Court Act 1981 to allow them to do so, and the work of the Technology and Construction Court allows, the judge will be expected to assist from time to time with the work of other Divisions of the High Court, including Chancery, Mercantile and Queen's Bench.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

7. The main activities of a Judge of the Technology and Construction Court are as follows:
 - A. **Preparing for trial and case management**
 - Conducting interlocutory hearings and pre-trial case management conferences and giving necessary directions to prepare cases for trial in order that the issues between the parties are identified and relevant documents and witness evidence disclosed.
 - Reading and assimilating papers in detail before hearing applications.
 - Granting interim relief where appropriate.
 - Overseeing, in liaison with court staff, the progress of cases towards trial and disposal so as to secure the most efficient dispatch of business compatible with the interests of justice.

- Studying the papers prepared for an impending trial.

B. Presiding over court proceedings

- Controlling (in accordance with the relevant law and practice) the manner in which cases are conducted.
- Ensuring that parties, whether represented or not, are enabled to have their cases presented, and have them considered, as fully and fairly as possible.
- Promoting in each case the most expeditious dispatch of business compatible with the interests of justice.
- Maintaining the authority and dignity of the Court.
- Deciding issues of law and procedure which may arise during a case.

C. Judgment

- Deciding actions by finding facts, applying the relevant law to them and giving a reasoned judgment.
- Determining contested applications and other issues by consideration of the papers and evidence presented at any hearing and making findings of fact, applying the relevant law and, where appropriate, giving a reasoned judgment.
- Assessing and awarding damages and costs, deciding the amount and manner of payment and punishing for contempt or breach of court orders.
- Supervising the wording of the judgments and orders of the Court.
- Determining applications to continue, vary or discharge injunctions or undertakings after trial.

D. Other work

Other duties include, for example:

- Determining applications for permission to appeal.
- Determining applications, including applications for permission to appeal, and appeals from arbitrators.
- Determining applications relating to decisions of adjudicators and other matters arising from adjudication.
- Conducting "views" of the subject-matter of the action (before or during trial as appropriate).

OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

E. Keeping abreast of legal developments

- Judges of the Technology and Construction Court need to keep abreast of legal developments in their particular field. This entails a substantial amount of reading not directly connected with the cases which they are trying.

- In common with other Circuit Judges, Judges of the Technology and Construction Court attend Judicial Studies Board training seminars.

F. Other judicial and public duties and activities

- Judges of the Technology and Construction Court sit on the Technology and Construction Court Users Committee (chaired by the senior Judge).
- Judges of the Technology and Construction Court when authorised to do so, sit from time to time in other Divisions of the High Court.

JURISDICTION

The jurisdiction of a Judge of the Technology and Construction Court is summarised below. Judges of the Technology and Construction Court may, when dealing with the business of the Court, exercise all the powers of a judge of the Chancery Division or of a judge of the Queen's Bench Division.

Notes on the jurisdiction exercised by the Judge of the Technology and Construction Court.

1. According to Part 60.1(3) paragraph 1.2 of the Practice Direction which supplements part 49 of the Civil Procedure Rules (CPR), a Technology and Construction Court claim is a claim which involves issues or questions which are technically complex or for which a trial by a judge of the Technology and Construction Court is for any other reason desirable
2. The main types of cases dealt with are listed in paragraph 2.1 of the Practice Direction in the current edition of The White Book. Most common are construction and civil and mechanical engineering disputes. The Court also deals with claims relating to goods, work and materials; disputes between neighbours over damage to property caused by removal of support, vibration and escape of noxious substances; fire claims; valuation disputes; and landlord and tenant disputes, particularly those concerning breaches of covenants to repair or service charges. Increasingly the court is also dealing with claims relating to computer hardware and software, and the environment.
3. The sums involved range from about £50,000 to many millions of pounds. Many disputes involve three or more parties and most intricate questions of fact and law which sometimes give rise to long hearings.
4. The Technology and Construction Court has jurisdiction to deal with Arbitration Claims, including applications and appeals under the 1996 Act, pursuant to CPR 62. Generally speaking, such claims will arise out of arbitration proceedings in construction and technical disputes.
5. Under s.93 of the Arbitration Act 1996, a judge of the Technology and Construction Court may sit as an arbitrator if he or she agrees to do so and subject to the agreement of the Lord Chief Justice.
6. Actions may be commenced in the Technology and Construction Court registry or may be transferred to it from other courts. Each case is allocated by rota to a named Judge, who deals with all the interlocutory proceedings in it and, if available, conducts the trial.

SENIOR CIRCUIT JUDGE

DESIGNATED CIVIL JUDGE

PURPOSE OF OFFICE

1. The purpose of judicial office is to administer justice in accordance with the laws of England and Wales.
2. Circuit Judges swear the judicial oath (or affirm) that they "will well and truly serve our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth the Second in the Office of a Circuit Judge and do right to all manner of people after the laws and usages of this Realm without fear or favour, affection or ill will".
3. Senior Circuit Judges (Circuit Judges in Pay Band 5) are expected to carry out the full duties of a Circuit Judge together with additional leadership and administrative duties. They are also expected to hear particularly demanding or specialist cases.
4. When they have the authorisation under section 9(1) of the Supreme Court Act 1981 to allow them to do so, the judge will be expected to assist from time to time with the work of other Divisions of the High Court, including Chancery, Mercantile, Technology & Construction and Queens Bench. Whilst the Designated Civil Judge (DCJ) may, subject to the approval of the Presiding Judges, sit from time to time in another jurisdiction (e.g. crime), he or she will be expected to devote the vast majority, if not all, of their sitting time to civil work at the Birmingham Civil Justice Centre (BCJC).
5. Judicial colleagues at the BCJC, when the court is up to full complement, will include five Specialist Civil Judges hearing cases in the Chancery, Mercantile and TCC lists, all with permanent S9 authorisations to sit in the High Court; and the Designated Family Judge, who is responsible for Circuit and District Judges exercising the Family jurisdiction, as well as magistrates sitting in Family Proceedings Courts at the BCJC. The DCJ will be expected to liaise, in partnership with the Specialist Judges and the Designated Family Judge, as well as HMCS, on matters of judicial deployment, judicial and administrative resources and other matters of mutual interest.
6. The DCJ will exercise a leadership role in relation to all other judges who hear civil work at the BCJC. These include a number of judges who are authorised to hear High Court civil work, other Circuit Judges and Recorders. They also include District Judges, who are divided into specialist teams, and Deputy District Judges. There are High Court Judge civil sittings at the BCJC, during which the DCJ will liaise with the visiting High Court Judge and usually sit "back-to-back" with him or her to dispose of heavy QB work (other than work in the Specialist lists, in which the High Court Judge may nevertheless be asked to sit from time to time).
7. The sittings for which the DCJ is responsible almost all take place within the BCJC (Priory Courts). Some sittings may however be outhoused when the business demands it, e.g. when a secure court is needed. In addition to the hearings already mentioned, the BCJC is a busy appeal centre; the DCJ is responsible for managing and co-ordinating civil appeals. The court has recently acquired a Court of Protection jurisdiction, in relation to which a number of Circuit and District Judges have been authorised. There are plans within the near future to phase in a locally based office of the Administrative Court, to enable suitable claims to be issued and heard at the BCJC. The DCJ should be of the quality to merit authorisation to conduct released Administrative Court claims.

8. The BCJC currently contains 20 courtrooms plus 5 Magistrates' courtrooms used by the Family Proceedings Court, which forms part of the Birmingham Family Courts. There are normally approximately 17 Circuit Judges and 17 District Judges sitting in the county court and 1 District Judge in the FPC. These figures include both civil and family jurisdictions.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

The main administrative responsibilities of a DCJ are as follows:

- Under the guidance of the Presiding Judges, to take responsibility for the overall strategy for civil justice within a group of courts. Accordingly he should always sit for the greater part of his time in civil work, afford that work absolute priority in his deployment and sitting time, and visit regularly each of the courts within his group.
- To oversee the allocation of business within his group of courts, ensuring that there are arrangements in place for the proper dispatch of all civil business.
- To promote the application of case management principles in line with the spirit of the civil justice reforms and the overriding objective.
- To promote consistency of approach by judges within his group of courts and eliminate local practices that do not conform to the Civil Procedure Rules.
- To hear major procedural appeals from the district judges within the group, to disseminate among the circuit and district judges judgments given on such appeals, and to nominate judges to hear appeals not dealt with by him.
- To ensure that appropriate policies are in place for the allocation of work between District Judges and Circuit Judges, both at specific courts and between courts within the group, and that appropriate arrangements are in place for the allocation of work between District Judges at specific courts and between all District Judges within the group.
- To set policies with court managers, diary managers and listing officers at the local courts in general, and specifically in relation to the case management and trial of fast-track and multi-track cases, in order to ensure consistency in listing, in particular with regard to back-to-back listing arrangements (where appropriate and where resources permit).
- To work closely with the Circuit/Regional Director or Area Director and diary manager to maximise judicial resources to meet the respective demands of cases allocated to the fast-track, multi-track and small claims track.
- To take overall responsibility for the dispatch of the business of the courts in the group including: monitoring the progress of and hearing appeals from District Judges or delegating the hearing to judges specifically nominated for that purpose; visiting and sitting at the local courts at least once a year, and on occasion attending local court-user meetings; acting in close liaison with the Presiding Judges to ensure that the needs of civil work are given equal priority with those of family work and crime; in conjunction with the District Judges and practitioners, and in accordance with national guidance, setting applicable hourly rates each year liaising with the Presiding Judges to ensure that there are no undue delays in the delivery of reserved judgments; ensuring co-ordination of and co-operation in listing, and other necessary arrangements, with any specialist Mercantile, TCC or Chancery Judges within his group of courts and facilitating appropriate arrangements for Alternative Dispute Resolution.

- To deal with a wide range of more serious procedural applications, including: applications for Group Representation Orders; applications for Freezing Orders and Search Orders under arrangements agreed with the Presiding Judges; appeals from District Judges in civil matters in the High Court, under arrangements agreed with the Presiding Judges.
- In conjunction with the Specialist Judges, to liaise with local legal practitioners and other groups and organisations concerned with the administration of civil justice with a view to promoting civil justice and facilitating the efficient dispatch of civil business.

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF DESIGNATED JUDGES

Leadership

- The general responsibility of a DCJ is to provide, under the overall responsibility of the Presiding Judges, leadership to the Judiciary, full or part time, within the court centre or group of courts for which he is responsible, in particular in respect of the judicial work of that centre or group.

Allocation and dispatch of the business of the court

- DCJ's have the general responsibility, subject to the guidance of the Presiding Judges, within the court centre or group of courts for the allocation of civil judicial work to ensure the just and efficient dispatch of the business of the court or group of courts.

The judicial team

- There is a general responsibility for the judicial team

Deployment of judges to the Court

- The DCJ is responsible for the deployment of judges to the Court.

The court administrative staff

- The DCJ will have a number of duties in relation to the management of court administrative staff.

Presiding Judges

- The DCJ has the responsibility for liaising with the Presiding Judges regularly on the business of the court or group and informing them of any concerns or problems which cannot be dealt with locally.

Liaison work

- The manner of coordination of representation, liaison and similar responsibilities as between the judges within each Area will be determined by the Presiding Judges.