

## **Deputy District Judges (Magistrates' Court) Selection Exercise 2008**

### **Qualifying Test**

All applicants will be invited to a written qualifying test, provisionally set for 22 September.

The qualifying test will be the sole method used to shortlist applicants for selection days for this selection exercise. Shortlisting is a competitive process, so the test is designed to be challenging, with time pressure. It will be sat under examination conditions at venues around the country, with up to 25 applicants sitting the test together in each session. Applicants are invited to indicate a preferred choice of venue in the Application Form. They will subsequently be contacted and invited to express a preference for which session in the day to sit the test, including in the evening. Applicants will want to think seriously about whether to sit the test after a day's work.

The test will consist of questions designed primarily to test judicial aptitude, and a case study requiring applicants to analyse the information provided, identify issues and apply the law. It will test the following qualities and abilities:

- **Intellectual capacity** (ability quickly to absorb and analyse information)
- **Personal Qualities** (integrity and independence of mind; sound judgement; objectivity)
- **Authority and Communication Skills** (ability to explain the procedure and any decisions reached clearly and succinctly to all those concerned)
- **Efficiency** (ability to work at speed and under pressure; ability to organise time effectively and produce clear reasoned judgments expeditiously)

The test has been devised by judges and is designed to be accessible to applicants from all backgrounds although candidates are reminded that these vacancies are in the criminal jurisdiction. It comprises of two parts, a short answer technical paper which will focus on jurisdiction specific questions and a longer answer paper that will test broader judicial aptitude. Some questions will have no single right answer, but are designed to test applicants' ability to consider and evaluate a number of alternatives, and their general approach to a judicial issue. The test raises human rights issues but does not require specialist knowledge of human rights legislation.

All the relevant statutes and case law are provided. You will be required to read and assimilate a small number of papers and apply – as appropriate - the information contained in them. **The time allowed for the test will be two hours.** You will have the choice of writing your answers by hand or using a word processing package (MS Word) on a laptop supplied by the JAC.