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## HIGH COURT – RECORD NUMBER OF WOMEN JUDGES

Five of the 22 High Court judges recommended for appointment by the JAC this year are women, which will raise the number of women High Court judges to 17, the highest number ever, statistics published by the Judicial Appointments Commission today show.

Two of the new appointments, Sonia Proudman, QC and Elizabeth Slade, QC, will be sworn in this month and the three other women will join the bench over the next year.

Eleven women and 118 men applied for the 22 posts.

Six months ago there were only 11 women among the 110 High Court Judges, and five years ago there were just five.

Baroness Prashar, Chairman of the JAC said: "I am delighted that we are making progress and that our strenuous efforts are beginning to show results.

"We expect the composition of the senior judges will gradually come to reflect society more closely."

The Commission works with the Law Society and Bar Council and under-represented groups to help and encourage more strong candidates to apply for the High Court and for all posts.

The experience necessary to serve in the High Court means that the pool of people currently eligible to apply (from the higher levels of the legal profession) is only 20 per cent women and five per cent from a black or other ethnic minority background, reflecting the proportions entering the legal profession three decades ago.

The JAC has been in operation since April 2006. All judicial posts are openly advertised, and all JAC procedures are rigorously equality proofed. Recommendations are made to the Lord Chancellor solely on merit.

Three women were among 21 recommendations made to the Lord Chancellor in the section 94 selection exercise for the High Court run by the JAC last year.

**For further information contact Stephen Ward, Judicial Appointments Commission Media Relations Manager 020 3334 0329.**

## Editors Notes:

The High Court exercise is one of seven published today. Full details of all seven exercises are on the JAC website <http://www.judicialappointments.gov.uk/annual/annual.htm>

The other six exercises whose data is published today are:

Senior Immigration Judge -8 posts

Residential Property Tribunal (Wales) – 6 posts

Designated Immigration Judge for the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal- 7 posts.

Social Security and Child Support Commissioner – 4 posts

Fee Paid Ordinary Members of the Charity Tribunal – 7 posts

Fee Paid Legal Members of the Charity Tribunal – 10 posts

The tables published today include information on the “eligible pool” of candidates for each post – the number of people who meet the job-specific minimum entry requirements.

For a full list of names of High Court Judges with dates of appointment see the Judicial Office website:

[http://www.judiciary.gov.uk/keyfacts/list\\_judiciary/senior\\_judiciary\\_list.htm](http://www.judiciary.gov.uk/keyfacts/list_judiciary/senior_judiciary_list.htm)

The JAC has a duty under the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 to “have regard to the need to encourage diversity in the range of persons available for selection for appointments”