

**Information  
Booklet**



**Barrister Member of the Court of Judicature Rules  
Committee**

**Expression of Interest Forms  
must be returned to the  
Department of Justice no later  
than 5:00pm (UK time) on  
18 June 2019**

## INFORMATION ON THE COURT OF JUDICATURE RULES COMMITTEE

### ROLE PROFILE

1. Under section 54(1)(c) of the Judicature (Northern Ireland) Act 1978, the Department of Justice nominates **a practising member of the Bar of Northern Ireland** to be a member of the Court of Judicature Rules Committee (“the Committee”). A copy of the relevant extract of the legislation concerning the Committee can be found at the **Annex**.
2. The Committee makes rules of court with respect to the pleading, practice and procedure in, and the forms used in connection with, any proceedings before the High Court and Court of Appeal in Northern Ireland. The principal Rules are the Rules of the Court of Judicature (Northern Ireland) 1980, which are amended from time to time by the Committee and allowed by the Department of Justice (or the Lord Chancellor if the rules relate to excepted matters).
3. The Committee meets in Belfast as and when business dictates (generally no more than once or twice a year) but may also deal with business by way of correspondence if the Chairman considers appropriate. If a meeting is scheduled you will normally be given four weeks’ notice of the date and the Secretariat will usually circulate papers one week in advance. A summary of the minutes of Committee meetings may be published on the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service section of the Department of Justice web site.
4. No remuneration will be payable for this position, although members may be reimbursed for travelling and out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with Committee business.
5. Work of the Committee members includes:
  - considering rules drafted to implement new legislation;
  - suggesting areas of the current rules that need amendment;
  - constructively challenging rules drafted;
  - endorsing the final agreed rules;
  - being available to sign instruments when required.
6. The appointment to the Committee will be for a period of three years. Subject to the Chairman’s assessment that there has been satisfactory attendance at meetings and participation in the work of the Committee, the appointee may be reappointed.
7. The current Committee consists of the following members:
  - The Lord Chief Justice – Chairman
  - Four judges of the High Court or Court of Appeal nominated by the Lord Chief Justice
  - A practising member of the Bar nominated by the Department of Justice
  - A practising member of the Bar nominated by the Bar Council

- The President of the Law Society or a member of the Council thereof nominated by him
  - A practising solicitor nominated by that Council, and
  - The Attorney General for Northern Ireland or a practising member of the Bar of Northern Ireland or a practising solicitor nominated by the Attorney General for Northern Ireland.
8. Management of the Committee's agenda and its programme of work are undertaken by the Secretariat with the approval of the Chairman.
9. The Secretariat is provided jointly by the Department of Justice and the Principal Secretary to the Lord Chief Justice.

### **PERSON SPECIFICATION**

10. In completing your form you should provide details of how your knowledge, skills and experience make you suitable for this position. The qualities and abilities to be brought to the Committee by an individual are to include:

#### **Eligibility criterion:**

11. To be eligible for this position an applicant must, by the closing date for applications:
- be a practising member of the Bar in Northern Ireland.

#### **Essential criteria:**

12. Applicants must, by the closing date for applications be able to demonstrate:
- Current knowledge and experience of practice and procedure in the civil jurisdiction of the High Court;
  - Understanding of the needs of users of the High Court and Court of Appeal and users of the Court of Judicature Rules; and
  - Ability to work in a committee (or similar) setting and take an active and influential part in debate.

#### **Desirable criterion:**

13. Applicants should ideally be able to demonstrate at least seven years' experience of applying practice and procedure in the High Court's civil jurisdiction.

### **SELECTION PROCESS**

14. The expression of interest form is designed to ensure the provision of the necessary information to identify the most suitable candidate.
15. A selection panel will assess candidates' forms against the specified criteria. Candidates are not expected to be called to interview unless absolutely necessary. The selection panel will identify those suitable for appointment and list them in order of merit with the highest ranked applicant first.

16. The final decision for the appointment rests with the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Justice in the continuing absence of a Minister.

For further information on the process or the work of the Committee please contact:

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**Civil Justice Policy Division**  
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**THE JUDICATURE (NORTHERN IRELAND) ACT 1978***The Court of Judicature Rules Committee***54. - Court of Judicature Rules Committee**

(1) There shall be a committee known as the Northern Ireland Court of Judicature Rules Committee (in this Act referred to as the Rules Committee) which, subject to subsection (2), shall consist of-

- (a) the Lord Chief Justice who shall be chairman;
- (b) four judges of the High Court or the Court of Appeal nominated time to time by the Lord Chief Justice;
- (c) a practising member of the Bar of Northern Ireland nominated by the Department of Justice;
- (d) a practising member of the Bar of Northern Ireland nominated by the Council thereof;
- (e) the president of the Incorporated Law Society of Northern Ireland or a member of the Council thereof nominated by him;
- (f) a practising solicitor nominated by that Council, and
- (g) the Attorney General for Northern Ireland or a practising member of the Bar of Northern Ireland or a practising solicitor nominated by the Attorney General for Northern Ireland,

and shall have the functions conferred on it in relation to the making of rules of court by section 55.

(2) Where any member of the Rules Committee is unable to act, the Lord Chief Justice or, in the case of a member nominated by any other authority or body, that authority or body may nominate another qualified person to act temporarily in his place.

(3) Rules of court may be made and other powers of the Rules Committee exercised at a meeting of the Rules Committee by a majority consisting of not less than four members of whom the chairman of the meeting shall be one.

(4) In the absence of the Lord Chief Justice, the senior judge present shall be chairman of the meeting.

(5) The joint secretaries to the Rules Committee shall be such persons as the Department of Justice, after consultation with the Lord Chief Justice, may from time to time designate and one of the persons so designated shall be either the Principal Secretary to the Lord Chief Justice or another officer serving in the Court of Judicature.

(6) Any expenses incurred by the Rules Committee shall be paid by the Department of Justice.