



**Judicial Appointments  
Commission**

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**Forthcoming Circuit and Senior Circuit Judge selection exercises**

The Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC) will launch 3 exercises in September for Circuit and Senior Circuit Judges. These vacancies include one post, **Circuit Judge/Senior Judge at the Court of Protection**, for applicants who do not have the usual judicial experience.

These are important and interesting roles and the JAC is keen to attract strong fields of applicants. We would be grateful if you could notify your members of these vacancies and encourage those who are ready, and interested in these posts, to apply. Further information about each vacancy is below and on the JAC website: <https://jac.judiciary.gov.uk>

**Circuit Judges at the Central Criminal Court**, London 7 vacancies (pay group 5, £144,172). This exercise will launch on **1 September at 1pm**.

The Central Criminal Court hears the most serious criminal cases, including murder, manslaughter, terrorism and organised crime. The successful candidates will sit exclusively in criminal cases, predominantly at the Old Bailey, although may be required to sit for up to 60 days at other Crown Courts in London or elsewhere on the South Eastern Circuit.

The judges who fill these roles will need to handle often tense and emotionally charged situations in high profile cases with authority, sensitivity and absolute fairness to all parties.

It is expected that the successful candidates will either already be authorised to try cases involving serious sexual offences, murder and attempted murder, or must be willing and able to meet the criteria for such authorisations immediately upon appointment.

Candidates should also be team players who are willing to get involved in the wider activities of the court by participating in initiatives and events, and to help foster positive change.

**Circuit Judge/Senior Judge at the Court of Protection**, London, 1 vacancy (pay group 6.1, £133,506). The selection exercise launches on **6 September at 1pm**.

The Court of Protection makes decisions on financial or welfare matters for people who lack mental capacity. The successful candidate will be the lead judge of the Court of Protection in London and will oversee the court's work throughout England and Wales.

This is a leadership role in the Court of Protection and the successful candidate will be responsible for overseeing the work of this court and for making the necessary administrative decisions to ensure that the court operates efficiently and that the business of the court is managed expeditiously.

The usual eligibility requirement for previous judicial experience has been waived for this selection exercise. This is therefore a unique opportunity for solicitors and barristers with at least 7 years post qualification experience. It is expected that this role will be of particular interest to those looking for a management and leadership role within the judicial system.

The successful candidate will be appointed as a Circuit Judge in the first instance and then immediately upon appointment be assigned by the Lord Chief Justice to the post of Senior Judge at the Court of Protection. The assignment will be full-time for a minimum period of 4 years to be reviewed in negotiation with the senior judiciary with the possibility of a further renewal.

Once the 4 year period is completed, should the judge no longer sit at the Court of Protection, he/she will revert to sitting as a Circuit Judge on the London or South East circuit. This will be discussed with the successful candidate upon appointment.

**Senior Circuit Judge, Designated Civil Judge**, Thames Valley, 1 vacancy (pay group 5, £144,172). This exercise is expected to launch in **September**.

Senior Circuit Judges 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 particular demanding or specialist cases.

The Designated Civil Judge for Thames Valley has overall responsibility for the civil work in 10 County Courts over a wide geographical area that covers the Clusters of Thames Valley, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire. This involves providing leadership to the civil judiciary (including Circuit Judges, District Judges and fee paid judiciary) who sit at the courts in that area and ensuring the efficient discharge of judicial business at those courts.

If you have any queries, the following JAC staff will be happy to assist:

Circuit Judge exercise: Jenny Ballance ([jenny.ballance@jac.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:jenny.ballance@jac.gsi.gov.uk))

Court of Protection exercise: Susie Preston ([susan.preston@jac.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:susan.preston@jac.gsi.gov.uk))

Senior Circuit Judge exercise: Françoise Cave ([francoise.cave@jac.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:francoise.cave@jac.gsi.gov.uk))

Yours sincerely

**HHJ Usha Karu**

**Professor Emily Jackson**

**Katharine Rainsford JP**

**JAC Commissioners**