

Lord Reed, President of the Supreme Court, announces the launch of the recruitment campaign for a new Supreme Court Justice, October 2020:

The Supreme Court Appointments Commission is today launching its recruitment campaign for a new Supreme Court Justice. The vacancy has arisen because Lady Black of Derwent is retiring in January of next year.

The cases dealt with by the Supreme Court and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council involve difficult points of law of general public importance. They demand an exceptional level of legal knowledge and understanding, combined with high intellectual capacity, and an understanding of the social contexts in which these issues arise, and of the communities which the court is there to serve.

Candidates will also need to demonstrate an understanding of the constitutional role of the Supreme Court, and its relationship with the other branches of government, as well as with the Governments and legislatures in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The selection commission is looking for candidates who can demonstrate all those qualities, as well as an ability to contribute to the collegiate decision-making of the court.

We are hoping for applications from the widest range of applicants who are eligible to apply, and particularly from those who would increase the diversity of the Court, not only in such obvious respects as gender and ethnicity, but also in such matters as professional background and experience. We welcome applications from people who are not currently full-time judges, provided they have significant judicial experience, or analogous experience, for example as an arbitrator. We also support part-time and flexible working, subject to the needs of the Court. The appointment will be made on the basis of merit.

If you believe you meet the criteria for this role, I encourage you to apply. The deadline for applications is midday on 20 November. The successful candidate will be expected to take up the appointment in the spring of next year.

For those who are interested in the role and would like to find out more, we will be providing information and support in a number of ways.

- Potential candidates can arrange a familiarisation visit, to find out from one of the current justices what the role of the court and the work of a justice involve.
- We will host a pre-application webinar for applicants in mid-November, when speakers will explain how the selection process works.
- A series of short podcasts, featuring interviews with serving Justices, will be published in November. Justices will speak about their career path and share insights into what the selection process felt like and what advice they would give someone who was thinking of applying.

To find out more, please visit the Supreme Court website: www.supremecourt.uk