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Press Notice

Lord Hope of Craighead, the Deputy President of The Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, has been appointed a Knight of the Order of the Thistle by Her Majesty The Queen.

The Order of the Thistle honours Scottish men and women who have held public office or have made significant contributions to national life. It is the highest honour in Scotland and is second only in precedence in the UK to the Order of the Garter.

The announcement of those receiving the Order is traditionally made by Buckingham Palace on St Andrew's Day.

Lord Hope of Craighead was appointed Lord of Appeal in Ordinary in 1996, and is one of two Scottish Justices of The Supreme Court. He practised at the Scottish Bar for 24 years.

He was educated at The Edinburgh Academy and Rugby School. After national service with the Seaforth Highlanders he studied at Cambridge University, where he read classics, and at the University of Edinburgh, where he read law. In 1965 he was admitted to the Faculty of Advocates. He became a Queens Counsel in 1978.

After serving as Advocate Depute since 1978, he was in 1986 elected Dean of the Faculty of Advocates. In addition he was Chairman of the Medical Appeal Tribunal and the Pensions Appeal Tribunal from 1985 to 1986. In 1989 he was appointed to the Bench direct from the Bar as Lord Justice General of Scotland and Lord President of the Court of Session, serving for seven years. In 1992 he broke new ground by permitting an experiment in televising trials in Scottish courts for documentary purposes.

He became a Life Peer in 1995 and has been Chancellor of the University of Strathclyde since 1998.

Lord Hope was closely involved in the project to set up the new Supreme Court, on both the refurbishment of the building and the planning for its organisational structure.

Lord Hope said: 'I am extremely honoured to be appointed a Thistle Knight by Her Majesty. I am delighted that my roles within the Scottish legal system have been recognised by this uniquely Scottish distinction.'

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