



Supreme Court Act 1981

1981 CHAPTER 54

PART I

CONSTITUTION OF SUPREME COURT

Other provisions

10 Appointment of judges of Supreme Court

- (1) Whenever the office of Lord Chief Justice, Master of the Rolls, President of the Family Division or Vice-Chancellor is vacant, Her Majesty may by letters patent appoint a qualified person to that office.
- (2) Subject to the limits on numbers for the time being imposed by sections 2(1) and 4(1), Her Majesty may from time to time by letters patent appoint qualified persons as Lords Justices of Appeal or as puisne judges of the High Court.
- (3) No person shall be qualified for appointment—
 - (a) as Lord Chief Justice, Master of the Rolls, President of the Family Division or Vice-Chancellor, unless he is qualified for appointment as a Lord Justice of Appeal or is a judge of the Court of Appeal;
 - (b) as a Lord Justice of Appeal, unless he is a barrister of at least fifteen years' standing or a judge of the High Court; or
 - (c) as a puisne judge of the High Court, unless he is a barrister of at least ten years' standing.
- (4) Every person appointed to an office mentioned in subsection (1) or as a Lord Justice of Appeal or puisne judge of the High Court shall, as soon as may be after his acceptance of office, take the oath of allegiance and the judicial oath, as set out in the Promissory Oaths Act 1868, in the presence of the Lord Chancellor.